

Five things you need to know today



The new Portobello High School

Thresholds an exhibition of work by Toby Paterson

St John's Road supermarket

Vivaldi Gloria

Royal Blind Celebrity Golf Day



The impressive front entranceway

We were given a tour of the new Portobello High School yesterday which is progressing towards the anticipated opening date in August 2016. The new school includes a swimming pool and outdoor pitches which will all be available to local residents. The swimming pool is situated right next to the main reception area, making it as accessible as it can be to locals. The area next to the swimming pool will be used for a fitness suite and we spotted a workman there laying the underfloor heating!

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

Building of the new Portobello High School on Milton Road is now well underway and we were invited along to see the progress for ourselves



The school is being built on three storeys some of which are much lower than the level of Milton Road so that it is not

all visible by house owners across the main thoroughfare. It includes a lot of glass, an art terrace and an outside terrace off the library, and outdoor areas between the buildings which can be used by the pupils during break time. The school building with its playground and car park will take up 2.6 hectares and the two pitches will use 1.6 hectares on the north side of Milton Road.

✖ We spoke to Stuart Danskin of Balfour Beatty the company in charge of the building. Stuart is the Project Manager and said that the day he most looks forward to is when the children get to use the school. He said he was very proud of the new James Gillespie's High School and very much enjoyed the look on the children's faces when they came through the doors.

The pupils at the existing Portobello High School have been very much involved in the design of their new premises in Portobello Park, down to the open plan spaces which will be useful for collaborative learning across several age groups. Billy McIntyre the Head of Resources Children and Families explained that these spaces at James Gillespies have been so popular that 150 pupils came into the school during the holidays to study there.

The school will have capacity for 1400 pupils but there may be a little spare room as the High School last year only had a roll of 1298 pupils.

There are around 140 members of staff employed at the school at present.

When the new school is up and running the old school in Portobello will be demolished to make way for a new primary school with the remainder of the site being turned into a park. Consultation on the new park is expected to begin shortly.



An exhibition opens today at Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop from 6-8pm with an introduction to the exhibition from the Artist & the Curator between 6-6.30pm

Open Monday – Saturday, 11am to 5pm each day

Event Toby Paterson & Judith Winter in conversation Saturday 8 August 3-4pm

Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop in partnership with Maggie's Centres is proud to present Thresholds an exhibition of new work by Toby Paterson curated by Judith Winter.

This exhibition brings together, the series of works that Toby Paterson has made specifically for the seven Maggie's Centres across Scotland. These works are presented alongside memory drawings and models giving the audience an insight into the inspiration, contexts and the process of creation and production involved in their development.

[Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop](#) is at 21 Hawthornvale, EH6 4JT. T 0131 551 4490. Very accessible by bike using the cycle path network!

Elsewhere Friends of the Earth have alerted us that the application to demolish the building which used to be Woolworths on St John's Road is proceeding even if Waitrose have pulled out. The plans are to replace what is there at 181 – 195 St John's Road with a supermarket and car park.

Their main objection to the development is that this road is already congested and the supermarket plans include the 140 vehicle car park.

The site also lies 200 metres away from Corstorphine Primary School.

The planning application has been made under reference [15/02898/FUL](#). There are already 67 comments on the planning

portal and Friends of the Earth would like you to add your voice.

Consultations on proposals by Irish company Realis Estates Ltd have recently concluded and the papers which are online include reports from the Economic Development Department (local councillor Frank Ross is the Economy Convener). The council report states that the new development could provide additional convenience in one of the city's Town Centres and might attract even more investment. The new supermarket might result in 113 new full-time jobs.



On Monday 3 August at 6.00pm at St Cuthbert's Church, Edinburgh

National Youth Choir of Scotland at the Fringe 2015 MacMillan Cantos Sagrados / Vivaldi Gloria

Juxtaposing poetry of political repression against traditional religious texts, MacMillan's Cantos Sagrados protests against the 'disappearances' of the politically inconvenient. The striking dissonance propels us unceremoniously into the violence of Latin America. The National Youth Choir of Scotland makes a return to the Fringe with this savage yet beautiful piece after last year's acclaimed performance, prompting MacMillan himself to say "I have rarely been so impressed by a performance of this work."

Also featuring Vivaldi's celebrated choral masterpiece, Gloria. Opening with a joyous chorus, this triumphant and impassioned work is filled with an array of rich contrasts that will thrill and move.

Tickets: £10 (adult), £8 (concession), £5 (student/child)

Box Office: <https://tickets.edfringe.com> or call 0131 226 0026

A few places are still left for the Royal Blind Celebrity Golf Day on 13 August.

More information on this fundraising event [here](#).

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.

Shadow Scottish Secretary makes first major speech in Morningside



Labour's Shadow Scottish Secretary, Ian Murray MP, called for "a new generation to take the Scottish Labour Party forward" in his first major speech since being appointed to the Shadow Cabinet.

In a speech at Morningside Parish Church in Edinburgh earlier today, Ian Murray said that "The Scottish Labour Party can no longer turn to the 'big beasts'" and that the responsibility for rebuilding the party now has to fall to a new generation of politicians and activists.

He talked about his own experience of building a coalition of voters in Edinburgh South and the lessons from that victory

for the whole of the Scottish Labour Party.

He said: "I was eighteen in 1994, half way through my degree at Edinburgh University. I remember feeling, first, sadness and shock at John Smith's death, but then anger that again, the possibility of victory had been snatched away from us.

"Here we were, three years from the next election, just getting over a defeat that we hadn't expected, facing yet another leadership election, emerging from a bruising internal fight over party reform.

"This was Labour at a low ebb, at a time when we could have easily descended into chaos. John Smith knew the Labour Party had to change, he had to continue the reforms started under Neil Kinnock and that huge baton of responsibility had now been passed to the next generation of reformers.

"21 years ago we said goodbye to John Smith from this church, but three years later we went on to win the first of three historic election victories.

"Not just that, but we started one of the most sweeping periods of reform this country had seen.

"Transforming every corner of the UK. Lifting millions out of poverty with the minimum wage and tax credits, changing public attitudes towards gay and lesbian people with civil partnerships, and concluding the work that John Smith had begun in the 1970s by establishing a Scottish Parliament.

"Our lowest points can be the catalyst for our greatest victories."

He explained that his victory in Edinburgh South points the way to how the Scottish Labour Party can win again: "The way people engage with politics has changed, but the way the Scottish Labour Party has worked hasn't kept pace.

"As a start that has to mean our politics has to be community

based, bringing together a broad range of people across the constituency.

“There can be no no-go areas.

“That is what we did here and given this constituency is a microcosm of Scotland, with both wealth and poverty, we can use this as the blueprint for the future.

“We spoke to people in the Inch about their lives on zero-hours contracts and what Labour would do to fix it. About increasing the minimum wage. About dealing with anti-social behaviour. And giving their kids more opportunities.

“But we also had something to say to people in Fairmilehead about defending the valuable greenbelt from inappropriate developments and in Marchmont about the relationship between a transient student population with the settled residents.

“Underpinning all this was a community-based approach that we had built up since 2010, responding to what the local community wanted and the issues they raised with me. Giving them the ownership of the problem and support to access the solutions.

“We campaign here to build real relationships with voters. Showing people that we didn’t just come to their door at election time but we were listening all year round.

“And that is what I will try and do in every corner of Scotland as the Shadow Secretary of State. Listening to communities and responding with Labour solutions.

“From my own experience I see the way the Scottish Labour Party has to rebuild – as a community based movement in every street, town and city across Scotland. It’s easy to say “stronger for Scotland” but we need to be stronger for our communities.

“By being rooted in the communities we seek to represent, we

will begin to once again win the trust of voters.

“Recognising that the majority of people see politics through the prism of the place, the town or city they’re from and the conversations they have with neighbours and friends – we need to be seen as standing up for their area.”

He called for a new generation of members, activists and politicians to take the Scottish Labour Party forward: “This is – and has to be – a new start for the Scottish Labour Party.

“We are a proud party with a great history. But we have to put the past behind us and keep firmly focused on the future.

“We will elect a new leader in a matter of weeks and the hard work will begin.

“A fresh team, a fresh approach, a new generation. I’ll play my part in whatever way I can.

“A party which takes inspiration from those who went before – Smith, Dewar, McConnell, Brown.

“All of them made their own unique and lasting contribution to our party and to our country.

“But the Scottish Labour Party can no longer turn to the big beasts. It falls to a new generation to take the Scottish Labour Party forward.

“I want us to look back twenty years from now, in government in the UK and in Scotland, and be able to say that when the burden of responsibility passed to the next generation we were up to the challenge.

“In his final speech before his untimely death, John Smith said: *“We will do our best to reward your faith in us, but please give us the opportunity to serve our country. That is all we ask.”*

“Today, I say to people across Scotland, we will work every day to listen to you, to talk to you, to work with you.

“This will be the work of the new generation. It has to be the work of the new generation because we cannot go back.

“A new generation that will change the party so we can change the country for the people we seek to represent.

“A new generation that will give people the confidence to place their trust in us again and, ultimately, the opportunity to serve once again.”

Jimmy Osmond keen to trace his Scottish roots



Jimmy Osmond can't wait to visit the capital with the world famous 'Andy Williams Christmas Spectacular' as he believes that he will be returning to his Scottish roots. Last year the pop icon discovered a Welsh ancestor and this has spurred him on to find a Scot in his family tree. (which should come as no surprise to anyone considering that his siblings are called Donald and Marie).

Despite a health scare several years ago, Jimmy has never been busier. He's appeared in films, on numerous television shows, and in musical theatres around the world. He's also produced and financed countless live productions from record-breaking concert tours to Las Vegas extravaganzas as well as acquiring the Andy Williams Moon River Theatre in Branson, Mo. In Utah,

He is also a member of the Board of Trustees for the

Children's Miracle Network, which has been instrumental in raising more than \$5 billion to benefit 170 children's hospitals in the USA and Canada and last year he even found time to write and publish a new children's book with a very familiar ring to it: the "Awesome Possum Family Band.

Earlier today, Jimmy kindly took time out of his hectic schedule to chat to the Edinburgh Reporter about the show, and his quest to confirm that Scottish blood runs through his veins.

Jimmy said: "I've only recently started to get into it with my brothers but I'm sure we have some Scottish ancestry. We definitely have some Welsh as I was over doing a hospital dedication last year for my charity and discovered that the guy that started that hospital was actually my great great grandfather and I have always believed that we got our musical talent from the Scots and the Welsh side of the family.

"I really love it in Scotland, it's my favourite place with the beautiful countryside and I am thrilled to bring Andy's Christmas Spectacular to our friends there.

"I have visited Edinburgh many times and love it there. I always wear a kilt although I remember the last time I was there, I did a bit of a spin and a photographer managed to get a photo from a wrong angle which was then plastered all over the papers, but I love the people there and when we do concerts there is no place compares to level of energy and response than from the people of Scotland.

I'm also a golf fanatic and I actually spent my sixteenth birthday playing the home of golf at St Andrews although I have to admit that I was terrible."

So what can the audience expect at The Queen's Hall?

"If you ever grew up watching our shows or the Andy Williams shows you will find that same style this year. Everybody loves

nostalgia and people love to look back at an easier time, especially at Christmas time. The Andy Williams show has always been a tradition in America and we grew up playing on that show. In fact last year three prime time US specials were dedicated to Andy as people just don't want to let go of his memory.

"I first appeared on Andy William's stage when I was only three years old. My brothers had been singing back-up on Andy's biggest hits and had been regulars on his hit television series for several years. It's such a joy to carry on Andy's legacy and continue his treasured holiday tradition.

"Irish Comedian Jimmy Cricket will display his unique brand of comedy along with the excellent Moon River Singers and Dancers and my brothers, Merrill Jay and myself will be singing the Christmas classics that everyone knows and loves such as "Silent Night", "Last Christmas" and 'Merry Christmas Everybody as well as our big hits from the seventies such as "Love Me for a Reason", "Down By The Lazy River" and of course "Crazy Horses" plus of course there will be nostalgic footage of the legendary Andy Williams from Christmases past.

"Hopefully it will evoke a warm and fuzzy feeling for people who want to go and see a Christmas show. It's all about making the audience happy at the end of the day.

"We take every show seriously and realise that it costs a lot of money to come out and see us and buy our albums so we owe it to our fans to give them what they deserve because they are the ones who made it happen and we learned that at young age. They key to having a long career is staying legit and being grateful for what you have and know that it could go away in a second.

"Our audiences consist of a huge cross section including older people like grandmas plus fans from the seventies who grew up

listening to our music and they now bring their own kids to show them what worked for them all those years ago.

Unfortunately big brother and sister Donny and Marie will be unable to make it to Edinburgh for the show as they have been busy in Las Vegas, but fans can relax as there has been no family feud.

“Who are they?? “ Jimmy joked when asked about his superstar siblings. “I still keep in touch with them both and Donny actually lives just a block away from me although I no longer look after his business. We are still close and there has never been any sibling rivalry between us. Of course Donny Marie and I would never have happened without the support of our older brothers and we all celebrate each other’s successes. We’ve all been through the peaks and valleys of our careers and it’s nice to look back now and know that we don’t have a lot to prove but we still have a huge desire to deliver and that’s what has kept us young.”

Fans of a certain age naturally associate Jimmy with a hit song from 1972, namely ‘Long Haired Lover from Liverpool’ but does he still perform the song which keeps him in the ‘record’ books as the youngest performer to have a number one single in the UK Charts?

“I try not to,” he laughed, “but the fans still demand it. So when I do it now it’s kind of tongue in cheek but you have to remember that these songs which are part of your life are part of their lives as well so you have to do them. I still have fun with it as long as I don’t take myself too seriously.

“Actually Long Haired Lover went double platinum and I like to rub that in to my brothers.”

The good news for his millions of fans is that he has never been fitter after a health scare.

He continued: “About 15 years ago I had a stroke on stage but

I'm 100% fit now. I had heart surgery and my heart is 100% healthy and fit as a fiddle. I do a lot of walking but probably not enough. I just try to enjoy my life now and I've learned how to enjoy the moment a bit more."

Typically the modest Jimmy plays down the families' success which saw them perform to sell-out crowds throughout the world as well as selling over 100 million records.

"We weren't everyone's cup of tea but we were there and we were part of it all" he said.

[The 'Andy Williams Christmas Spectacular'](#) is on at the Queen's Hall on Monday 21st December.

Tickets for the show are available via [The Queen's Hall website](#) and fans also get the chance to have an Osmonds' VIP Experience which includes attending the last song of the rehearsal, best seats in the house plus photos with the brothers and an exclusive mug and chocolate bar.

Hearts Through After Scare

Heart of Midlothian 4 Arbroath 2

Scottish League Cup First Round, Thursday 30 July 2015 – Tynecastle

Hearts began season 2015/16 by breezing into the second round of the Scottish League Cup when they defeated League Two side Arbroath before just over 6,000 fans at a sun-kissed Tynecastle.

However, the evening was far from comfortable for Robbie Neilson's side as the Red Lichties led at half-time and

threatened to cause the first cup upset of the season.

Hearts fielded a strong team with Neilson having stated before the game he was looking for a couple of good cup runs this season. The Maroons – although it was the visitors who were wearing maroon tonight with the home side wearing all-white – began strongly but it was Arbroath who had the first effort on goal through Clarke.

Billy King and Sam Nicholson came close to giving the home side the lead before Gary Oliver's effort was chalked off for offside. If the home support were beginning to have thoughts this might be one of those nights, those feelings were enhanced when Arbroath took a shock lead five minutes before half-time. Gold slipped the ball past young home keeper Jack Hamilton and Tynecastle was stunned.

Half-time Hearts 0 Arbroath 1

Hearts set out to repair the damage at the start of the second half but almost found themselves in even bigger trouble. Jordan McGhee and captain Alim Ozturk got themselves into a mess which produced an gilt-edged opportunity for Coult but his effort from twenty yards went wide – much to the relief of a now increasingly anxious home support. Their worries were soon eased, however, when Hearts scored three goals in four minutes to turn the tie around.

In the 57th minute an Ozturk cross was turned home by McGhee before great play by Sam Nicholson set up Osman Sow to give Hearts the lead. Sixty seconds later, Hearts were awarded a penalty when the always-dangerous Nicholson was brought down in the penalty box and Sow duly converted the spot kick.

It would not be Hearts, though, to allow their supporters to relax. Arbroath almost pulled a goal back when Linn's thirty yard free-kick almost shattered the Hearts crossbar. When the ball fell to Gold in front of an empty goal, the striker could

only balloon his effort into the stand.

But the Red Lichties did pull a goal back six minutes from the end through Grehan and a nervous finish beckoned for the home support. However, substitute Jamie Walker sent the Gorgie fans home relatively happy when he scored Hearts fourth goal in stoppage time.

Hearts through, then, to the second round of the League Cup but not after an impressive Arbroath team gave them more than a couple of scares.

Hearts: Hamilton, Paterson, McHattie, Ozturk, McGhee, King, Gomis (Juanma, 65'), McKirdy, Nicholson, Oliver (Walker, 52'), Sow (Rossi, 76').

Arbroath: Fleming, Wilson, London, Little, Hay, Clarke, Linn, Stewart, Coult, Gold, Alvarez (Hester, 82').

Referee: Alan Muir

Att: 6,240

Top man: Sam Nicholson

Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015 – A Canadian Redhead in Edinburgh



Most people have probably, at one point or another, had a job

that they did not particularly like. Joanie Little is no different. She graduated with a major in Anthropology and a minor in Earth Sciences, and imagined that she would be out there working with the likes of Jane Goodall, studying the animal wonders of the natural world.

Instead, she is a barista in a local coffee shop.

Now, that is not a bad job at all – it's just not the one that she wanted. So, to while away the time, Joanie puts the skills that she learned at university to the best use that she can: she studies the natural wildlife of her surroundings – her customers!

This is the premise behind my one-woman show, "Confessions of a Redheaded Coffeeshop Girl". It is, to a point, based on my experiences. I really did work in a coffee shop, and it was not what I wanted to do: I wanted to be what I am now – an actress – and I certainly cannot claim to be an anthropologist.

Nevertheless, the variety of people that come into a coffee shop is certainly wide enough to be a fascinating study. After all, while the businessman who comes in of a morning and does not spare a kind word or a smile can be a difficult character to deal with, imagining him as a penguin, in his black and white suit, concerned with something wholly more important than talking to you, offers a more palatable outlook.

We have reached a point where many people, particularly those who are young, maybe fresh from university or school, are rarely offered the chance to work in their chosen field. The road to the eventual career must be treated with some care, lest the way be lost before it is reached. I hope that "Confessions of a Redheaded Coffeeshop Girl" will appeal to people in that situation, but will also show that finding a coping mechanism that works for you will allow you to bear with that job until you achieve your goal.

Oh, the grumpy, overtired gorilla in the corner, grunting to himself and scowling at everyone? That's the manager. You do not want to let King Kong out if you can help it, so make sure you're on time and you don't burn the milk!

I myself am Canadian and, just as Joanie longs to go on adventure, so I am on one now, performing in the UK for the first time – out of the comfort of my home turf into the jungle that is the rest of the world! Coming to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe is exceptionally exciting for me, and is a huge step. While Canada has, to the best of my knowledge, the second largest Fringe festival in the world, it is less than one sixth the size of Edinburgh's.

The pack in the corner? That's the afternoon mothers' meeting, prams and all. They create a defensive circle, and they will not let you in, come hell or high water. They are alert for each other all the time, save for the occasional venture out to acquire supplies. The herd in the corner is a lot less structured, but then that's the student crowd for you.


What else is it about this show that I feel is relevant? The discussion of the coffee culture. Caffeine has a long, decorated history, stretching back centuries, and coffee is one of the drinks that has shaped history. When coffee shops first appeared, they were places to discuss business and ideas just as much as they are today – and more importantly so, since the advent of the internet and cellular technology has moved us away from face-to-face meetings to a point. However, we have also entered a time when many people rely on caffeine, and there is a whole new level of import that was not there before.

So, what can I get you?

"Confessions of a Redheaded Coffeeshop Girl" is at the Gilded Balloon Teviot Balcony. 5-31 August (not 12, 19, 26) at 18:30 (1hr) – £10(£9) or £9(£8), previews £5.



Edinburgh Fringe 2015 – Tribute Acts

 A new Edinburgh Fringe show is looking at the links between false memories, father figures and the failure of the left wing.

The bad guys keep winning. Cheryl Gallacher and Tess Seddon of TheatreState theatre company didn't expect life to be like this. They dream of simpler times when their Dads were in charge and politicians were like rockstars. Deciding to make a tribute act, they attempt to resurrect their forgotten heroes.

In the wake of Labour's defeat in the last General Election, Cheryl and Tess looked to their fathers. Both dads are active socialists; they are vocal about equality and fighting for a better life for all. But both men have struggled with how to be a father to young women. After years of absence and miscommunication, Cheryl and Tess decided to ask them everything. And film it.

In Tribute Acts Cheryl and Tess dream of simpler times when their Dads were in charge and politicians were like rockstars. Deciding to make a tribute act, they attempt to resurrect their forgotten heroes. But when faced with videos of their fathers, their music doesn't match up. Tribute Acts asks whether our remembered pasts are, in fact, a fiction.

Inspired by science fiction films and old dreams of the future

that never happened. Cheryl and Tess drift alone in space, their fathers' messages beaming through to the stage like garbled holograms from another time.

'We've tried to make Tribute Acts a darkly comic, strikingly honest show' said Cheryl. At its heart is frank video footage of Tess and Cheryl's fathers talking about their daughters and their lives, their feelings and views.'It was important that someone else conducted thye interviews' added Tess 'We weren't even in the room'. The performers interact with their on screen fathers in an attempt to close the void. Wicked and fun yet simultaneously thoughtful, tragic and poignant.

Evoking their 90's childhoods and political and cultural father figures, Tribute Acts will strike a chord with anyone who has mixed emotions about their parents and concerns that their world will become our own.

TheatreState co-directors are Tess Seddon and Cheryl Gallacher. They make shows that celebrate the weird and alienating aspects of 21st century life. Each show is its own world, with its own rules. 'We put our own experiences into bumper cars and then invite the audience to press GO' they concluded.

<http://www.theatrestate.co.uk>

Tribute Acts

Assembly Roxy Downstairs (Venue 139)

6 – 30 Aug (not 19)

14.50 (60mins)

buy tickets from <http://www.assemblyfestival.com>

Submitted by [Martin Mouth](#)



Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015 – Adam Hess



Hotly tipped, award-winning comedian, Adam Hess will perform his highly anticipated debut hour Adam Hess: Salmon at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015. As well as offering brilliant insight into the awkward youth of one of the UK's finest comedy storytellers, Adam will be trying his best to make you laugh a lot (and like him loads).

Adam Hess: Salmon will be bursting with hilarious tales from the perspective of a six-year-old, the disappointment of growing up to find out that you don't become a better person and why wearing your sister's dresses isn't as cool as you may have thought. This densely written show will offer noticeably high laughs per minute and, perhaps more importantly, it will prove that Adam is fine. Absolutely fine. And really normal. Just like you.

Having won the Chortle Student Comedy Award in 2011, Adam quickly made a name for himself on the comedy circuit with his impeccably written surreal one-liners before later proving himself as an accomplished story-teller and sketch-writer. Since then Adam has written for lots of big TV shows (including BBC Two's Russell Howard's Good News on which he was a staff writer), appeared in BBC One's Count Arthur Strong and regularly contributed to the award-winning Dave podcast. He has also supported David Baddiel on tour and is one of the creators of underground cult hit The Bearpit Podcast alongside John Kearns.

In 2013 Adam was nominated for Leicester Mercury New Act of

the Year and Best Newcomer at the Chortle Awards.

VENUE: Big Cave, Heroes @ The Hive (Venue 313), 15 – 17 Niddry Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1LG

DATES: 7th – 31st August 2015

TIME: 5:20pm (1 hour)

TICKET PRICES: £5 in advance to guarantee entry or pay what you want at the venue www.pay-what-you-want.info

BOX OFFICE: www.edfringe.com/ www.heroesoffringe.com

A galloping start to married life!



It was wedding bells at Musselburgh Racecourse today when an Army doctor and his new bride got married life off to a winning start with a gallop across the hallowed turf as part of their wedding day celebrations.

Major Chris Baird-Clarke and Shelley Clark (correct) had earlier tied the knot at the East Lothian racecourse while astride their Arab and Irish Draught horses in what is believed to be the first wedding of its type held in Scotland.

Assistant registrar Jan Boyd oversaw the wedding vows in a ceremony held at the Winning Post which tonight (Frid 31 July) will resound to the clatter of hooves as jockeys compete in Musselburgh's Carnival Racenight meeting.

Major Chris Baird-Clarke, who often went racing at Musselburgh during a three year posting with The Royal Scots in Edinburgh was resplendent in family tartan trews and Bonnie Prince

Charlie jacket while his beautiful bride Shelley opted for a traditional Ivory wedding dress, as they exchanged vows in front of their two-year-old son Alex and guests.

Racecourse management agreed that as a one-off wedding day treat, the happy couple could enjoy a celebratory gallop along the home straight and past the winning post.

The new Mr and Mrs Baird-Clarke were toasting a triple celebration. In addition to becoming man and wife, the couple are moving to a new home in Edinburgh from Exmoor in Somerset, as the Major is promoted to Lieutenant Colonel as Head of Defence Occupational Medicine for the Army in Scotland and Northern Ireland.





Major Baird-Clarke has served in Iraq with The Royal Scots, including a seven month stint near Basra during the second Gulf War, and in Germany, Canada, Iraq and Afghanistan with the 1st Battalion Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.

Shelley is a respected horse trainer and specialises in the rehabilitation of psychologically damaged horses. She trained at the Duchy College, Cornwall, in equine management and riding instruction. She has worked for a number of racing stables, including champion trainer Martin Pipe, the late Lambourne-based John Hill and show jumping trainer Andy Reeves.

Major Baird-Clarke said: "We originally thought of getting married on the beach at Gullane and having our reception at the racecourse but then got round to wondering if we could do something at Musselburgh with our own horses.

"Compared to down south where there are quite strict rules about where, when and how you can marry, we have been very impressed at how unbelievably hospitable and accommodating everyone has been in making this all come together."

Mrs Baird-Clarke added: "Jane Walker from the racecourse and the Registrar's Office have been very supportive and we are thrilled the racecourse has allowed us to canter down the home straight, adding to our special day. It is the second time married for both of us and we wanted to do something out of the ordinary, which was just for us, and this was perfect."

The couple's other children Jake, 10, Faith, 9, and Isabella, 5, are looking forward to visiting them in Edinburgh once Major Baird-Clarke starts his new posting.

Musselburgh Racecourse marketing manager, Aisling Thornton, said: "We do receive some left of centre requests from visitors to Musselburgh and we always do our best to accommodate within reason. We are delighted that Chris and Shelley chose the racecourse to hold their wedding and hope the setting and special arrangements will bring happy memories for years to come."

- Major Chris Baird-Clarke was astride his chestnut Irish Draught, Rosie, while Shelley rode her bay coloured Arab, Mimi.

Photos courtesy of Ian Jacobs

Edinburgh Fringe 2015 – Women's Hour



Total Theatre and Arches Brick Award winners and Amnesty International Freedom of Expression Award nominees Sh!t Theatre return to this year's Fringe with a new show all about women – that was commissioned by a man.

Now that gender inequality has been solved, they thought they might write a show about how great Dolly Parton is but Brian Logan of Camden People's Theatre commissioned Louise Mothersole and Becca Biscuit to write a show about feminism for the Calm Down Dear Festival. Women's Hour is all the things they could do or say about women in sixty minutes.

Women's Hour is a show of giddy, freewheeling silliness about what happens when women are given just one hour a day to think about what it is to be a WOMAN. Feminist theatre for all genders.

Previous Sh!t Theatre shows have explored the benefit system (in Job Seekers Anonymous 2013) and the pharmaceutical industry (in Guinea Pigs on Trial), but Women's Hour departs in form from these journalistic pieces. Women's Hour is a mix of satire, song, clowning, movement and mess more akin to cabaret or sketch comedy. It is a mix of newly written sections and verbatim text taken from advertising, news media and pop culture.

It is constantly rewritten in response to current affairs. There's loads of new sh!t happening to women all the time.

Sh!t Theatre are Louise Mothersole and Rebecca Biscuit. They are Associate Artists at Camden People's Theatre. They have been advised many times by theatre professionals to change

their name although their publicist tells us he'd leave them if they did. To make their shows affordable for un(der)waged people ticket prices are kept intentionally low (£6).

This show is very charming but it is really not suitable for children.

Women's Hour

Summerhall, Anatomy Lecture Theatre Venue 26

5, 7, 9-10, 12, 14, 16-17, 19, 21, 23-24, 26, 28, 30 Aug (each Sun, Mon, Weds, Fri) 2pm

Submitted by [Martin Mouth](#)



Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015 – Expect the UNEXPORCUPINE



2015 New act of the Year Michael Stranney and Laughing Horse
New act of the year runner up Olaf Falafel bring you an hour of fun filled silly comedy. With a mixture of offbeat characters, one liners, outlandish tales and an irrelevant spinning wheel, they invite you into their wholly unique worlds.

MICHAEL STRANNEY is a character comedian from Northern Ireland. As well as winning the prestigious New Act of the year award (formerly Hackney Empire New act of the Year) in

January, he has also won several other new act competitions including The Max turner Prize 2015, The Dave Leicester Comedy festival Toilet Duck award and the Tedfest New Irish Comedian of the year 2014.

Steve Bennett of Chortle described his set as the following: "Perfectly encapsulated fuzzy Irish whimsy in a compelling, nervous stream-of-consciousness that paints a detailed picture of peculiar small-town goings-on. There's a cast of supporting characters any offbeat sitcom would relish. The sense of place is powerful, with his quirkily amusing descriptions wittily fleshing out the vivid situation"

OLAF FALAFEL may well hold the self proclaimed title of 'Sweden's eighth funniest comedian' but he is quickly rising up the ranks of the UK comedy scene. His unique mixture of one-liners and Scandinavian-tinged stories earned him second place in this year's Laughing Horse New Act of the Year. Other accolades include being crowned the 2013 Golden Jester and also being named Last Minute Comedy Club's New Act of 2013.

EXPECT THE UNEXPORCUPINE is on 2.15pm (60mins), COWGATEHEAD
Up Two M (Venue 32) 65 Cowgate, EH1 1JW,
8-29TH AUGUST (except 18th August)

Submitted by [Michael Stranney and Olaf Falafel](#)



Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015 – Fiction



A surreal and immersive audio experience in complete darkness is set to create a unique theatrical experience at this year's Fringe.

Conceived by David Rosenberg and Glen Neath Fiction is a surreal and immersive audio experience in complete darkness using binaural sound. This goes beyond stereo to create realistic yet otherworldly sound imagery via headphones that appears to moving around in 3D. The audience are transported into the sprawling architecture of their dreams, where little is as it seems. The Fiction experience is at once one of immersive isolation and an atmospheric group encounter, creating the eerie sensation of presence when no one is there.

Cocooned in total darkness with a surround sound experience of noises and voices the audience's imagination runs free to create their own imagery. Despite hearing exactly the same thing, everyone will have a different and unique experience as they explore their dreams, dreams they have difficulty waking from...

Disorientating, immediate and thought provoking, Fiction is a unique theatrical experience that undermines common conventions of drama.

Fiction is the second collaboration between David Rosenberg and Glen Neath following the acclaimed Ring, which sold out runs at Battersea Arts Centre and the Fringe in 2013.

The show is produced by three time Herald Angel Award winners Fuel. Founded in 2004 by Louise Blackwell and Kate McGrath, Fuel produces fresh work for adventurous audiences by

inspiring artists. Fuel is also presenting Portrait by Racheal Ofori and Tom Stuart's I Am Not Myself These Days at this years Fringe and is Associate Producer on Clod Ensemble's The Red Chair

Aug 5-16, 18-23, 25-30 at 12:00 at Pleasance Dome Venue 23

[Tickets here](#)

Submitted by [Martin Mouth](#)



Edinburgh Art Festival 2015: Courage, creativity... attitude



'To me, Edinburgh is a city equally at home in the worlds of fiction and of reality'



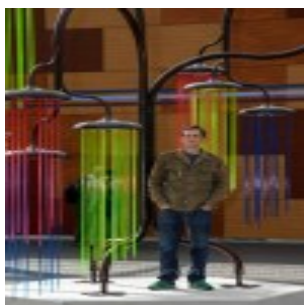
Director **Sorcha Carey** is launching her fifth – and the city's twelfth – **Edinburgh Art Festival** at **Dovecot Studios**; it may be Edinburgh's youngest, but it's also now the largest annual festival of visual arts in the UK.

Over one hundred artists are involved, with exhibitions, events and commissions occupying over thirty city-wide venues; from **Picasso** and **Escher** to **Dennis and Debbie Club**, the Festival seeks to support artists at all stages of their careers – artists working in all sorts of media, from

traditional painting to improvised vocal acoustics and street interventions. Sorcha said: “We may be entering into our adult years, but we still have that bit of attitude and teenage energy that all good festivals should have.”



So where do fiction and reality come in? One of the Festival's main themes is ***The Improbable City***, which takes its inspiration from **Italo Calvino's** 1972 novel, ***Invisible Cities***. Calvino describes a fictional conversation between **Kublai Khan**, emperor of 13th century Mongolia, and **Marco Polo** – an exploration of the nature of cities, how they are formed and how they work. For *The Improbable City*, the Festival has commissioned seven artists, each of whom conjure up imaginary worlds, ‘worlds or spaces at the limits of the probable...Worlds which are distinctly ‘other’, yet sit in close relation to our own..’





Artist **Charles Avery** unveiled the first of these encounters this morning at **Waverley Station**; it's a bronze sculpture of a rather unusual tree. Avery is best known for his project ***The Islanders***, works from which were seen in the **National Galleries of Scotland's** recent ***GENERATION*** exhibition – the project is dedicated to describing the inhabitants, flora and fauna of a fictional island, and that island's park is filled with artificial trees and shrubs, an expression of the islanders' refutation of nature. So Avery's new tree, (which can be seen next to Platform 2) with its colourful dangling 'branches' reminiscent of a weeping willow, is part plant, part sculpture, part temple. New works in the ***Onomatopoeia*** project will also be on view at the **Ingleby Gallery**.



Image courtesy Julie Favreau & Battat Contemporary



Image: Rob Gillanders



Other *Improbable City* participants include Quebecois video and installation artist **Julie Favreau**, Mexican illustrator and inventor **Ariel Guzik**, and vocal artist **Hanna Tuulikki**, whose ***SING SIGN: a close duet*** is a 'vocal and gestural suite', which she will perform in **Gladstone's Land** and other closes of the Old Town.





Dovecot Studios themselves are hosting the work of two outstanding artists. In **Kwang Young Chun's** fascinating **AGGREGATIONS** we see beautiful large scale sculptures constructed from tiny interlocking packages – these little parcels are made from traditional mulberry paper or *Hanji* and tied with mulberry string. In melding such a traditional Korean symbol with the Abstract Expressionism he studied in the US, Chun seeks to reconcile the divide between the ideals and the reality of the American dream. (The artist was represented at the launch by his son).





A Life in Colour, meanwhile, offers a retrospective of the career of the celebrated textile designer **Bernat Klein**; Klein's fabrics were used by **Chanel** and **Dior**, but painting was always the driving process behind his designs, and in the 1970s he commissioned Dovecot to make ten tapestries based on his *impasto* technique. The pieces exhibited today exemplify Klein's sumptuous and – for the 1950s – almost revolutionary use of bright colours and texture.





In the Car by Roy Lichtenstein 1963, copyright The Estate of Roy Lichtenstein/DACS 2004

Historic art features just as much as the contemporary stuff in this festival – it's not all installations and performances, wonderful though these may be. At **The Queen's Gallery Scottish Artists 1750-1900: From Caledonia to the Continent** will bring together paintings, drawings and miniatures collected by monarchs from **George III** to **Queen Victoria**, whilst the **City Art Centre's Scottish Art: People, Places, Ideas** showcases important pieces from its huge collection – which includes works by the **Scottish Colourists**, the **Glasgow Boys**, **Joan Eardley** and **Alan Davie**. Other partner exhibitions feature **Roy Lichtenstein** (Modern One), **Lee Miller and Picasso** (Portrait Gallery) and **MS Escher** (Modern Two) – and as Sorcha points out, the ups and the downs, the closes and the pends of the Old Town can feel very like an Escher print at times.



From **Philippa Barlow's** major solo exhibition **set** at **The Fruitmarket Gallery** to **Toby Paterson's *Thresholds*** at **Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop** and **John Chamberlain's** stunning metallic sculptures at the **Botanics**, the Festival spreads far and wide throughout the city – and beyond, to **Jupiter Artland's** sculpture park in West Lothian, which will provide the backdrop to works by **Tara Donovan** and **Samara Scott**. Whilst some venues are well-known Edinburgh establishments – modern photography in the shape of ***Bailey's Stardust*** is at the **Scottish National Gallery**, ***Photography: A Victorian Sensation*** at the **National Museum of Scotland** – many smaller galleries and pop-up spaces will be taking part too.



Edinburgh is an eminently walkable city, and to help you get around the Festival invites you to join a free walking tour; just turn up at its new central hub, **The Kiosk** in Blair Street, at 2pm any day Saturday to Thursday and off you go. On Fridays there are special **Walking Lunch Tours** – for £4 you get

a brown bag lunch to snaffle as you see the sights (these tours must be booked 24 hours in advance). They've also got **Explorers** maps and guides specially for families with children.



Whisper it low, but there are a few other festivals going on in the city this summer... and Edinburgh Art Festival is keen to build conversations with them. The **Festival Detours** programme is a series of live performances in galleries by people like **Carol Ann Duffy, Phill Jupitus** and **Man of Moon** (who? only Edinburgh's latest uber cool band, that's who..). Meanwhile on 13th and 20th August, **Art Late** will see evening openings with live music, artist talks, tours and performances at venues such as **Talbot Rice Gallery, Collective** and **Dovecot Studios**. I'm slightly relieved to see that this festival's idea of late closing is 10.30pm... you young things can party the night away in the Grassmarket all you like, I need to be home for *Book at Bedtime*.



But before I go, I'm sure you're agog to know one thing... just what is the **Dennis and Debbie Club** – can anyone join? All I can tell you is, it involves 'despair, personal torment...and the absurd'. To find out more, you'll need to get down to **CodeBase** in Lady Lawson Street. As **Henri Matisse** apparently said, 'Creativity takes courage'.

The Edinburgh Art Festival starts today 30th July and ends 30th August 2015.

Most venues should have brochures, and you can also see the programme online [here](#). For daily news, events and updates, visit **The Kiosk**, 9-11 Blair Street.



Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015 – My Favourite Words in the English Language



Comedian Omid Singh is coming to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival for the first time! Singh is an American touring stand-up, based in Los Angeles.

A compilation of stories, relationship material and one liners mixed with audience interaction – My Favourite Words in the English Language is Omid's comedy thesis.

Raised in a multicultural family (half Indian, half Iranian), he has lived in more than a dozen different cities across two continents. From the suburbs of Orange County to Texas to Dubai, his unique upbringing – and rapidly growing facial hair – have influenced his comedy, making him a diverse performer who enjoys connecting with every type of audience.

Venue: Just The Tonic at The Tron (Venue 51). 9 Hunter Square, EH1 1QW.

Dates: 6th – 30th August (No show on 18th)

Time: 19:30 (1 hour)

[Box Office](#)

Tickets: £5 – £8.50

Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015 – Barry From Watford's Bingo Bonanza

✖ Continuing to defy the years, the nation's favourite octogenarian Barry from Watford returns to Edinburgh this year with his Bingo Bonanza show in tow. Following his monthly residency at The 100 Club in London, he brings his one-of-a-kind variety night full of bingo, stand-up, and some very special guests to the Fringe.

From calling radio stations to give his opinion on the burning issues of the day, 82 year old Barry from Watford – created and performed by acclaimed actor and writer Alex Lowe – has

since been forging a career in showbiz, making a name for himself through his radio chats on Iain Lee's Absolute Radio show, BBC Radio 2's Steve Wright in the Afternoon, and in his very own series shortly broadcast for BBC Radio 4. For TV he has appeared on Channel 4's 'Feeling Nuts' with Angelos Epithemiou, who he now has a weekly podcast with.

Thursday 13th, 20th, 27th / Friday 14th, 21st, 28th / Saturday 15th, 22nd, 29th August

Pleasance Courtyard, Above

10:20pm (60 mins)

Tickets £10 (£9 concessions) Thursdays, £12 (£11 concessions) Friday & Saturday

<http://www.pleasance.co.uk/event/barry-watfords-bingo-bonanza>

<http://www.barryfromwatford.co.uk>


<http://www.facebook.com/BarryFromWatford>

<http://www.twitter.com/barryfromwat>

Submitted by [Live Nation](#)



Edinburgh Fringe 2015 – I Am Not Myself These Days

 A Fringe first timer is bringing his new, no holds barred adaptation of a best selling American autobiography to the Edinburgh stage.

I Am Not Myself These Days is set in 1990s New York where Aqua is an alcoholic drag queen desperately trying to make a relationship work with Jack, a high-class crack addicted rent

boy.

The show is adapted and performed for the stage by Tom Stuart from Josh Kilmer-Purcell's autobiography, a bestselling, darkly funny memoir of a young New Yorker's daring dual life – advertising art director by day, glitter-dripping drag queen by night.

Directed by Nick Bagnall, this one-man show that is by turns brutal, funny and heartbreaking, a surprising tale of love and loss, set amidst the excesses of late 20th century New York.

Although the characters pride themselves on their unconventionality, their problems are universal. Tom Stuart was moved to adapt the novel for the stage to bring the personal journeys of marginalised members of society within LGBTQ communities – and those who live with addiction – into a wider context, seeking to help break down the barriers of prejudice.

Tom Stuart has worked extensively in theatre around the UK. His TV work includes Kathy Burke's *Walking and Talking*, *Psychobitches*, *Little Crackers* and *Law and Order*. Films include *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*, Michael Winterbottom's *The Look of Love*, and John Boorman's *Queen and Country*.

Director Nick Bagnall has recently become Associate Director at Liverpool Everyman and has previously worked with both classics and musicals ranging from *'Guys and Dolls'* to Joe Orton's *'Entertaining Mr Sloane'* He has created and led acting and directing workshops for the RSC, National Theatre, Liverpool Playhouse, and West Yorkshire Playhouse.

I Am Not Myself These Days is produced by Fuel, three time Herald Angel Award winners Fuel. Founded in 2004 and led by Louise Blackwell and Kate McGrath, Fuel produces fresh work for adventurous audiences by inspiring artists. Fuel is also presenting *Fiction* by David Rosenberg and Glen Neath and Racheal Ofori's *Portrait* by at this years Fringe. Fuel is also

Associate Producer on Clod Ensemble's The Red Chair

I Am Not Myself These Days

Pleasance Beneath (Venue 33)

5-30 Aug (not 17, 24)

4.15pm (75 mins)

Tickets from <http://www.pleasance.co.uk>

Submitted by [Martin Mouth](#)



Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015 – Annabelle's Skirting Board Adventures



Annabelle's Skirting Board Adventure is a brand new theatre show for young children and families produced, written and starring Howard Read, creator of the hugely successful CBBC and live theatre touring hit Little Howard. Uniquely for this Fringe, the show utilises live digital puppetry, innovatively combined with 6 video cameras, animation, film, comedy and live music, all created in real-time before the audience. It's ideally suited for ages 3-6 and their big friends.

Annabelle's Skirting Board Adventure is like no other kids show at the Fringe, and works on many levels. Children can immerse themselves in Annabelle's adventures, parents can appreciate the charm and wit of the story, and the more

curious in the audience can marvel at the technology and spend the rest of the summer wondering how on earth it was performed.

Howard Read is a stand-up comedian, animator, writer and lyricist and highly regarded in writing and production circles around children's entertainment. The Perrier nominee has taken his cartoon creation Little Howard around the world, to the Royal Variety Performance, and beamed into millions of homes on CBBC. Steve Pretty is best known as bandleader of the Hackney Colliery Band. His own critically-acclaimed Edinburgh shows combining music, theatre and comedy have been described as 'original, intelligent comedy delivered with commendable panache.' Fest

Featuring:

Howard Read (Little Howard, CBBC)

Steve Pretty (Hackney Colliery Band)

<http://www.skirtingboardadventures.com/>

Annabelle's Skirting Board Adventures

Just the Tonic at The Community Project (Venue 27)

11:30am 6-30th Aug (not 18th)

Submitted by [Duncan Ballantyne](#)



Four teenagers in court following motorbike thefts



Four teenagers are due to appear before Edinburgh Sheriff Court today in connection with a number of motorcycle thefts in the Capital.

The males, who are aged 16,17,17 and 18, are expected to face three charges of motorbike theft, one count of attempted motorbike theft and one count of housebreaking in which a car was stolen.

On Tuesday, July 28th, three motorcycles were taken from properties at Mayfield Gardens and Buchanan Street while later that same night a property on Orchardhead was broken into resulting in the theft of an Audi Q3. Meanwhile, in the early hours of Wednesday, July 29th, a thief or thieves attempted to steal a motorcycle from Mayfield Gardens but made off empty handed.

Each incident was thoroughly investigated by Police Scotland officers as part of Operation RAC, resulting in the arrest of the four suspects and the successful recovery of two stolen motorbikes and the car.

Detective Inspector Alan O'Brien of Police Scotland, said: "Following a thorough investigation into a number of thefts in Edinburgh officers successfully traced and arrested four males.

"Vehicle theft and housebreaking has a huge impact on victims and we are committed to doing everything in our power to ensure those who carry out these offences are brought to justice.

“Housebreaking and associated offences remains a priority for police in Edinburgh and Operation RAC is our response to this type of crime.

“Thanks to the hard work of local police officers we were able to successfully recover two of the stolen motorbikes as well as a stolen car.

“We will continue to target housebreakers and work alongside the public and our partner agencies to identify those who continue to engage in this unacceptable behaviour.”

Witness appeal following serious assault on South Bridge



Police are appealing for information following a serious assault which occurred yesterday at around 3.50am when a 55-year-old man was assaulted on South Bridge, opposite Hunter Square.

The male suspect struck the 55-year-old to the face, causing him to fall back and strike his head on the pavement. The suspect then fled the scene in a southerly direction down South Bridge.

The Scottish Ambulance Service took the 55-year-old to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary for treatment. He has since been released.

The suspect is described as a white man with a slim build. He

is in his mid-twenties and is around 5ft 9" in height. He was wearing a black tracksuit and a white t-shirt.

Detective Constable Alison Wyllie said: "This was a violent incident, which has resulted in the victim being hospitalised.

"We are eager to trace this suspect as soon as possible. Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact police immediately."

Those with information regarding this incident are asked to contact Police Scotland on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Fringe performers get married ahead of coming to Edinburgh



Award-winning science-theatre writer-performer John Hinton comes to the Edinburgh Fringe this year with his new show, [The Element In The Room, at Pleasance Courtyard](#) – a musical comedy about the life and work of Marie Curie, which premieres at the Edinburgh Fringe. It's the third in his 'Scientrilogy' which has toured internationally and won several awards, and all three are playing in rep.

He performs with his partner Jo Eagle. They got together in 2013 and quickly decided to do a show together – his last, Albert Einstein: Relativitively Speaking. Jo played Einstein's wife Elsa, and they ended up touring the world together with it and fell in love. They're now working on the Marie Curie show, cross-dressing with John as Marie and Jo as her

dedicated husband Pierre.


And now in a remarkable twist in the story John and Jo got engaged this year and – in a testament to the shows that brought them together – they got married on 26 July, on the same day that Marie and Pierre Curie were married 120 years ago (on 26 July 1985)!

Many congratulations to them (and we are assured that they got married in ‘normal’ wedding garb!)

Submitted by [Will Young](#)



Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015 – Portrait

 Renowned production house Fuel are producing the work of a Fringe first timer at this year's festival

Portrait by Racheal Ofori is a frank and funny look at modern life through the eyes of a young black woman.

Inspired by her own experiences, Racheal takes the audience on a frank and funny journey through cultural stereotypes to explore the lack of diverse role models available in today's society. Portrait is a truly exceptional debut solo show from an authoritative new voice.

Straight talking yet endearing, Portrait is a candid and satirical look at the trials of modern existence through the

eyes of a young black woman. This playfully compelling and engaging one-woman show asks: just how does a girl make it these days?

It's an engaging and honestly authentic one-woman show with music, dance laughter and poetry and a succession of costume changes to challenge perceptions. Portrait is ballsy, funny and current – and an excellent opportunity to see this rising new talent.

Racheal Ofori is a London based writer, performer and rising talent. She trained at Italia Conti graduating in 2013. The first theatre production she performed in was a boisterous modern adaptation of A Midsummer Night's Dream which attracted rave reviews. She went on to play Nerissa in The Merchant of Venice at Shakespeare's Globe and has performed her own poetry in London and New York.

Three time Herald Angel Award winners Fuel were founded in 2004 by Louise Blackwell and Kate McGrath. They produce fresh work for adventurous audiences by inspiring artists. At this years Fringe Fuel is also presenting Fiction by David Rosenberg and Glen Neath and Tom Stuart's I Am Not Myself These Days and is Associate Producer on Clod Ensemble's The Red Chair.

Portrait

Pleasance 10 Dome (Venue 23)

5-29 Aug (not 17, 24), 13.20 (60 mins)

Tickets here <http://www.pleasance.co.uk>

Submitted by [Martin Mouth](#)



Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015 – Blind Man's Song



After a sell-out run at the 2015 London International Mime Festival, Theatre Re (The Gambler, The Little Soldiers) presents a wordless tale about the power of imagination that blends together physical theatre, mime, sound, illusion and a beautifully lyrical live music score.

As an old blind man takes unsteady steps around a room, he recalls an encounter that triggers his memories and imagination and, a story of love, courage, hope and unquenchable vision unfolds.

Blind Man's Song is a tale about one man's rage against his world of darkness. Inspired by the paintings of René Magritte, the dead-end world of Samuel Beckett and interviews with blind and visually-impaired people, it witnesses the power of the body to communicate without words.

Director Guillaume Pigé comments: "With Blind Man's Song we take that leap of the imagination to an extreme. We want to respond to the magical and emotional sparks that seep into us when the eyes are closed. Our main character is a blind musician who has never seen the light. As endless sensations distract, inform and amuse him, we follow his dreamlike journey to a place where some things become more visible in the dark."

Established in 2009, Theatre Re is a London-based international ensemble that creates vibrant and emotional work on the edge of mime and theatre. Blind Man's Song is funded by National Lottery through Arts Council England and supported by

Haringey Council, The French Institute in London, The Greenwich Theatre and South Hill Park Arts Centre.

Tickets are available from www.pleasance.co.uk

Pleasance Dome (King Dome), 1 Bristo Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9AL

Thursday 6th – Sunday 30th August 2015, 3.30pm

Previews (6th, 7th): £6

Monday/Tuesday: £9 (£8) (10th, 11th Aug – £11 (£10))

Wednesday/Thursday: £11 (£10)

Friday/Saturday/Sunday: £12 (£11)

Suitable for ages 8+

Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015 – CATALPA



35 Brookline Productions present a revival of: CATALPA By Donal O Kelly

Winner of the Fringe First, Donal O'Kelly's epic one-man show returns to Edinburgh with a new cast and company.

35 Brookline begins its international tour of Catalpa at the 2015 Edinburgh Festival Fringe before continuing on to the highly selective United Solo Fest in New York, performances in California and Oregon, and additional dates and locations to be announced.

After having bombed his first Hollywood pitch, an aspiring

screenwriter, Matthew Kidd, reenacts his entire screenplay to his empty room in a final act of desperation. The screenplay is about the Catalpa rescue, a daring 18th century prison break from Australia. The story spans two continents and an ocean, featuring dozens of characters (and wildlife), all portrayed by one actor and a handful of props.

At its essence, Catalpa is about a young artist wrestling with his self-worth and rediscovering his passion. About a man fighting for his voice.

35 Brookline Productions is made up of recent Emerson College graduates. The team first mounted Catalpa at Emerson College in the spring of 2013 which opened to a sold out run.

<http://www.catalpaplay.co.uk>

Listings information:

Venue: Paradise in The Vault (Venue 29)

Preview: 8 Aug

Show: 10-15 Aug; 17-22 Aug

Time: 17:45 (1hr 05mins)

Tickets: £6

Box Office: 0131 510 0022

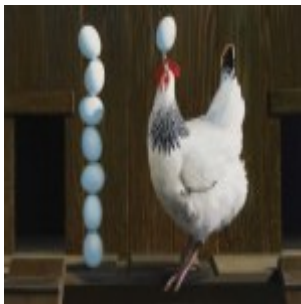
CATALPA Press Photos-2.jpegCATALPA Press Photos-3.jpegCATALPA Press Photos-5.jpeg

Submitted by [Alexander Neher](#)



Thursday in Edinburgh – What's On Today

Super Sedan Chairs. Sedan chairs carried people through the streets of Edinburgh, particularly in the Old Town. Take inspiration from the museum's sedan chair to make and decorate your own miniature one, with **Lauren Wayland**. 2.30-4pm, [Museum of Edinburgh](#), Huntly House, 142 Canongate. Tickets cost £4 and must be booked in advance via the [Usher Hall Box Office](#), in person, by calling 0131 228 1155 or online [here](#). Please note that these workshops are intended for children and adults to experience together; children must be accompanied by at least one paying adult, and no child should be booked into a workshop alone.



Gordon Mitchell 'Cocksure': Roger Billcliffe Gallery

Festival Exhibition: Gordon Mitchell RSA. The acclaimed and prolific Edinburgh artist describes himself as an 'abstract expressionist', and intends his work to be thought-provoking. 11am-5pm, Tuesday to Saturday, [Scottish Arts Club](#), 24 Rutland Square. Ends 30th August 2015.



Hanne Darbovan: *accepting anything among everything*. German artist Darbovan (1941-2009) created a vast body of idiosyncratic works, documenting her attempt to index life as it is lived; amongst the weight of world history and culture. *accepting anything among everything* is centred on the work ***Life/Living (1997-98)***, a monumental installation of hundreds of framed works that form a systematic representation of the years 1900-1999. Darbovan was one of the last century's most important conceptual artists; this exhibition will create a spectacular monument to an extraordinary individual. Preview tonight 6-8pm, then 10am-5pm Monday to Friday, 12 noon-5pm Saturday & Sunday in August only, then 10am-5pm Tuesday to Friday, 12 noon-5pm Saturdays (closed Sundays and Mondays) in September and October, [Talbot Rice Gallery](#), Old College, University of Edinburgh, South Bridge. Ends 3rd October 2015. There will be a curator's talk about Hanne Darbovan at 4pm on Friday 31st July: booking is required – see listing. Part of **Edinburgh Art Festival**.



Meet the Glasshouse Staff: find out more about this stunning collection of plants from the people who care for them. Every month meet a different member of the indoor horticulture team, each with different specialist knowledge. 1-2pm, Glasshouses, [Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh](#), Inverleith Row. Free with Glasshouse entry (£5/£4, children under 5 and essential carers free).





(c) Kaare Espolin Johnson

Nordic House: an exhibition of art work from the five Nordic nations, featuring Arctic seascapes, Icelandic lava fields, Denmark's oldest allotment gardens, women fishing on the Baltic and a subsidence-threatened Swedish mining town. For five weeks the **Scottish Storytelling Centre** will become a visible symbol of Nordic/Scottish cooperation, with all national flags flying together outside, and a model of the North Atlantic linking Scotland with all the regions depicted on the floor inside. Curated by **Graham Hogg** of **Lateral North**. Throughout the exhibition there will also be a **children's trail** with Nordic soft toys, and the centre's cafe will feature **Nordic dishes**. 10am-6pm Monday to Saturday, 12 noon-6pm Sundays, [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#), 43-45 High Street. Ends 5th September 2015.

WHALE Arts Summer Festival: fun activities for children and families. Today: **Street Arts Drums** – fun rhythms and drumming! 10am-12 noon for ages 5+, 1-3pm for ages 8+, [WHALE Arts](#), 30 Westburn Grove. Free – just drop in.

✖ **Edinburgh Art Festival starts today!** Founded in 2004, this is the UK's largest annual festival of visual art, bringing together the capital's leading galleries, museums and artist-run spaces, alongside new public art commissions by established and emerging artists, with an innovative programme of special events. Artists' talks, theatre, children's activities, music, guided tours, film screenings, plus **Art Late** – a special programme of late openings and live events. Featured artists include **Charles Avery, Derek Michael Besant, Toby Patterson, Marvin Gaye Chetwynd** and **Beatrice Gibson**.

There will be **free guided tours** of the venues at 2pm Saturday-Thursday, leaving from the [Festival Kiosk](#), 9-11 Blair Street (no booking required, just turn up). The festival takes place throughout the city and also at Jupiter Artland in West Lothian; most events are free. Please see the festival's website [here](#) for further information and to book for ticketed events. Ends 30th August 2015.

Blackwell's Edinburgh Presents Ron Butlin: The Magicians of Scotland. The themes of this new collection from Edinburgh's former makar include Scotland's past, present and future, its landscapes and people, its myths and politics, from **Bannockburn** to **Donald Trump**. 6.30pm, [Blackwell's](#), South Bridge. Tickets are free and may be obtained from the shop's front desk, by calling 0131 622 8218, emailing events.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk or via eventbrite [here](#).

Scrapheap Art: get creative with rubbish – including the scrapheap boat race! 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.



Image: Talbot
Rice Gallery,
University of
Edinburgh

Fabienne Hess: Hits and Misses (from the archive). Swiss-born Hess explores the disorientation and bewilderment we feel in the face of the vast quantities of digital information surrounding us, questioning how we begin to navigate this maelstrom of images we produce, consume and distribute in everyday life. Preview tonight 6-8pm, then 10am-5pm Monday to Friday, 12 noon-5pm Saturday & Sunday in August only, then

10am-5pm Tuesday to Friday, 12 noon-5pm Saturdays (closed Sundays and Mondays) in September and October, [Talbot Rice Gallery](#), Old College, University of Edinburgh, South Bridge. Ends 3rd October 2015. The artist will be in conversation with University of Edinburgh Art Collections Curator **Neil Lebeter** at 6.30pm on Saturday 1st August: booking is required – see listing. Part of **Edinburgh Art Festival**.

An Evening with Gavin Francis: having won Scottish Book of the Year in 2013 with his outstanding travel narrative ***Empire Antarctica***, Gavin Francis is back with ***Adventures in Human Being***, a very different book – a cultural map of the human body. 6pm, [Waterstones West End](#), 128 Princes Street. Please call 0131 226 2666 for further information.

☒ **Cafe Voices: Norse Myths & Legends.** Join storyteller **Calum Lykan**, in full Viking dress, to be transported to the Norse lands in an evening of sagas surrounded by the dramatic ***Nordic House*** exhibition in the Storytelling Court. Plus an open-floor section for people to tell their own tales. 7pm, [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#), 43-45 High Street. Tickets cost £5 and are available in person, by calling the Box Office on 0131 556 9579 or online [here](#).



Maidan (12A): a special showing of **Sergei Loznitsa's** film, which captures the trajectory of the **Ukrainian civil uprising** in 2013/2014, from peaceful rallies to bloody street battles. In a minimalist style and with still, long shots, the film depicts the point of view of the crowd, peeking into the organised chaos of a revolution. 6.30pm, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Tickets may be purchased from the Box Office in person, by calling 0131 228 2688 or online [here](#); prices vary.


☒ **A Potter, A Painter and A Poet.** Potter **Paul Tebble**, artist **Anne Gilchrist** and poet **Elizabeth Burns** have worked together over several years, exploring their shared creative

processes. In this exhibition they will focus on the natural world and make connections between their work, showing crystal-glazed stonewear, porcelain and multi-textured golded pots, paintings, drawings and installations growing from a deep relationship with pottery and an ancient Perthshire landscape, and poetry exhibited and read around the galleries. The artists will work alongside invited projection artist **Sophia Lindsay Burns**, and the exhibition will take place over the entire third floor of the building. Opening preview tonight 6-9pm, then 10am-6pm daily, Third Floor (galleries 1,2 & 3), [St Margaret's House](#), 151 London Road. Ends 30th August 2015.



Image (c) Derek Michael Besant

In Other Words...Derek Michael Besant: the highly acclaimed Canadian multi-media artist presents a dynamic new exhibition. *In Other Words...* explores our means of visual perception and the scientific resolution that the eye is a faulty mechanism and the brain compensates for this by assembling data we observe to construct what we see. Besant has researched the idea that one part of our brain 'sees' while another part 'reads'. 'Everyone has two selves. This exhibition will reveal both...one we wear outward...the other, we wear inside'. Talk and tour by the artist tonight 6-7pm, launch follows 7-9pm, [Edinburgh Printmakers](#), Union Street. Free; all welcome to both events, but tickets are required for the artist's talk and may be obtained via eventbrite [here](#). Derek Michael Besant will also give a **lecture** on 1st August about his concept for the exhibition and for the public art facade integration at **Castle Mill Works, Fountainbridge** (which will be launched on 31st July), along with four other related projects that draw from public collaboration in other cities.

 **The Bonzai Quartet:** groovy instrumental jazz-fusion from

guitarist **Dan Abrahams** and his eclectic band, with **Rob Harrison** (*keys*), **Charlie Nash** (*electric bass*) and Italian drummer **Davide Rinaldi**, playing a varied range of originals and catchy jazzy/funky tunes, with influences from all over the world. 9pm (entry from 8pm), [The Jazz Bar](#), Chambers Street. £5/£4 on the door: please note this venue is cash only.




Untitled (Two Guys
in Boat
Approaching
Quayside) 2015:
image courtesy the
artist & Ingleby
Gallery

Charles Avery: *The People and Things of Onomatopoeia*. This exhibition will include new drawings and sculptural works, all of which stem from the fictional port of Onomatopoeia, the main town in Avery's epic project, ***The Islanders***. 10am-6pm Monday to Saturday, 12 noon-5pm Sundays in August only, [Ingleby Gallery](#), 15 Calton Road. Ends 3rd October 2015. Part of **Edinburgh Art Festival 2015**.

Hanna Tuulikki: Sing Sign: A Close Duet. An intimate performance devised for the closes of the Old Town. Composed by Hanna Tuulikki and performed with **Daniel Padden**, the work combines music and gestures drawn from British Sign Language to reflect on how our experience of the city is inseparable from the languages that we speak. 5pm *or* 6.30pm, [Fountain Close](#), 22 High Street. Free: please contact [Edinburgh Art Festival](#) for booking information. Also on various dates throughout August – see **Edinburgh Art Festival** programme for details.



Image: Rob Gillanders

Ragged University: Psychology of Obedience and Authority  **and An Ancient Syrian All-Girl Band.** The first talk this evening, by **Professor Ray Miller**, will look at what we can really learn from psychology about the extent to which we are controlled or are in control – are we really open to manipulation against our better judgement? After a break for refreshments, in the second part of the evening, **Warwick Ball** will focus on the **Maryamin Mosaic** (from Maryamin, Near Hama in Syria), one of the most extraordinary works of art to have survived from the ancient world. The mosaic represents a snapshot of an actual event – a live musical performance – and is an important source of information on the development of music and musical instruments, their spread from the Ancient Eastern Mediterranean to Medieval Europe, and also on ancient costume. 7-10pm, [The Counting House](#), West Nicolson Street. Free, no booking required, just drop in. Please bring an item of food to put on the table to share if you can.



Cuento Ballena 2008 (c) Ariel Guzik

Ariel Guzik: *Holoturian*. For the last ten years, Mexican artist, musician, illustrator and inventor Ariel Guzik has searched for a way to communicate with whales and dolphins. His new work, commissioned by **The Arts Catalyst**, brings him closer to this goal; for his first UK exhibition, Guzik is constructing a beautiful capsule, the *Holoturian*, designed to send a living plant and a string instrument into the depths of the sea for a period of time. Imagined and re-imagined by Guzik in a series of extraordinary drawings made over the past decade, this ship has instrumentation, which expresses life, space, harmony and brightness as primary messages, and is dedicated to sperm whales and other deep ocean creatures. 10am-6pm daily, [Trinity Apse](#), Chalmers Close, High Street. Ends 30th August 2015. Part of **Edinburgh Art Festival**.



Southern Fried: your first chance to get away this weekend isn't too far from home – it's Perth's festival of **American Roots** music, featuring country, Americana, rockabilly, blues, soul, bluegrass, gospel, funk, cajun and folk. Acts include **Punch Brothers, Rhiannon Giddens, McCray Sisters, the Fairfield Four**, and many more – there's even an all-women celebration of **the songs of Dolly Parton**. There'll also be a free daytime outdoor stage, open mic session, 'country-oke', free gigs, a cinema programme, a hot rod and custom cars meet, and plenty of Southern Fried soul food. Most events are held inside at various venues around Perth, so this is one where you don't have to worry so much about the weather. Launch party tonight (sold out), then various acts and events

throughout Friday 31st July, Saturday 1st August and Sunday 2nd August. For more information and tickets, see www.horsecross.co.uk [here](#) or the festival's Facebook page [here](#).

Man of Moon: the Edinburgh two-piece rock band have supported **We Were Promised Jetpacks**, **Phantom Band** and **The Subways**. 7pm, The Speakeasy, [The Voodoo Rooms](#), West Register Street. For over 18s only. Tickets cost £6 and may be purchased online [here](#) (transaction fee applies).



Five things you need to know today



Tesco coming to Dundas Street

High Street telephone boxes redundant

At the Grassmarket Community Project

Hidden Door live auction

Gin and Tin crafternoon

Tesco are apparently still coming to Dundas Street to the shop units previously occupied by And So to Bed and Emma Bridgewater.

Signs are that the supermarket has applied for their name to go up in lights above the door. You can see the details of this [here](#).

This is what the frontage might look like:



Loading...



Taking too long?



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

The advent of the mobile phone has proved overwhelming in many areas, particularly in making phone calls! Given that most people now have a mobile phone there is now a formal admission that telephone boxes on the High Street are redundant. An application has been made for the 'Installation of 6 LCD advertising screens in 3 redundant telephone boxes' there. The boxes just down the street from the City Chambers will be developed by a company called Thinking outside the box who will use them for advertising instead. Click [here](#) to see the drawings of what the boxes might look like.

Grassmarket Community Project – FREE SCREENING: CRASH MONDAY
3RD AUGUST – 7PM – FREE (certificate 15)

Crash, co-written, produced, and directed by Paul Haggis tells the powerful story of Los Angeles citizens with vastly separate lives colliding in an interweaving story of race, loss and redemption. Sandra Bullock, Don Cheadle and Matt Dillon among others make up this incredible ensemble cast with some almost uncomfortably brave performances of bigotry and racism. Described as a “A raw and unsettling morality piece on modern angst and urban disconnect, Crash examines the dangers of bigotry and xenophobia in the lives of interconnected Angelenos”, Rotten Tomatoes, while Roger Ebert gave the film four-out-of-four stars and described it as “a movie of intense fascination”, listing it as the best film of 2005. The film also ranks at #460 in Empire’s poll of the “500 Greatest Films of All Time”. Rating: 15

Hidden Door the organisation behind last year’s art and music extravaganza on Market Street, and this year’s on King’s

Stables Road, is aiming to raise some money by selling off some art. There is a silent auction and a Live Auction at Lyon & Turnbull on Tuesday 4 August. More information [here](#).

Edinburgh Gin invite you to join them for a ***crafternoon*** of gin and craft workshops at Coburg Studios!

They have paired up with the artists at Coburg Studios to bring you the inaugural in a series of Edinburgh Gin & Craft Socials.

The first of these workshops will be a Gin & Tin workshop, led by resident artist Bryony Knox.

Let your imagination run wild as you create colourful objects from recycled tin. From a brooch to a picture frame, Bryony will guide you through the techniques of forming and riveting this fascinating material.

If you like, you can bring along your favourite drinks cans or painted tins if you want to incorporate them into a more personal project- perfect for a 10th wedding anniversary gift!

All materials and Edinburgh Gin refreshments will be provided, all you have to bring is a little imagination a spot of creativity!

Over 18s only, T&Cs apply.

Please contact the Edinburgh Gin Distillery on 0131 656 2810 for more information.

More information and to buy tickets click [here](#).

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.

Hibs ask fans to be respectful on twitter after Scott Allan abuse



Following a number of offensive tweets directed toward Hibs' midfielder Scott Allan who yesterday submitted a transfer request, the club have issued a statement urging supporters to be respectful when commenting on club matters.

The statement which was printed on the club website reads:

Hibernian FC today asked Hibernian supporters to ensure they are respectful when commenting on any Club matters on Twitter or any other form of social media.

This follows unacceptable Tweets posted following the news that our player, Scott Allan, had handed in a transfer request.

The Club have been in contact with Police Scotland regarding the recent Tweets and will support any subsequent police investigation.

Two men arrested following city centre attacks



Police have arrested a 19-year-old man following an assault and robbery in Hanover Street, Edinburgh last month when a 24-year-old man was assaulted and his watch and other personal effects stolen on 25th June.

He will appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court tomorrow (Thursday).

In a second unconnected incident Police in Edinburgh arrested a 27-year-old man following a serious assault in Hanover Street on 24th July.

He was bailed and will appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court at a later date. Meanwhile he will be subject to 'Think Twice' bail conditions that he does not enter licensed premises in the city centre between 6pm and 6am.

Chief Inspector Bob Paris, local area commander for the city centre said: "Edinburgh has a vibrant night time economy and we want everyone to enjoy their night out without becoming involved in, or falling victim to, alcohol-related crime.

"The Think Twice initiative aims to keep people safe by excluding those charged with a relevant offence from city centre night time drinking venues until court proceedings are concluded.

"We also anticipate that public awareness of Think Twice will act as a deterrent.

"A night time ban on entering the city centre's drinking venues will have a significant impact on a person's social life.

“Anyone who finds themselves in a situation that could lead to police involvement is encouraged to think of the consequences and make the correct decision.”

Two men hunted following robbery in Easter Road



Police are appealing for information following a robbery which occurred on Sunday, July 26, at around 10.30pm when two men followed then approached a 27-year-old woman when she was walking down Easter Road.

The men threatened the woman and demanded that she hand over her mobile phone. One man grabbed her phone and, along with the other man, ran away down Easter Road. The victim was not injured as a result of the incident.

Police are eager to trace the two men responsible for this attack and are appealing to the public for information.

The first suspect was described as a white man with a slim build. He was approximately 17-years-old, around 5ft 8" in height and had an unkempt appearance. He had a pockmarked face, short dark hair and spoke with a Scottish accent. He was wearing a navy blue top, blue jeans and white trainers.

The second suspect was also a white man who was around 17-years-old. He was around 6ft in height, had a medium build and short dark brown hair. He also spoke with a Scottish accent. He was wearing a striped jumper and jeans.

Detective Constable Christopher Harding said: “This was a

frightening experience for the woman who was attacked and we are eager to trace the people responsible as soon as possible.

“Anyone with information is asked to contact police immediately.”

Those with information regarding this incident can contact Police Scotland on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Hearts Look to Beat Again in the Big Time



After storming to the SPFL Championship last season – easily swatting aside the challenges from city rivals Hibernian and the club that fell from grace i.e. Rangers – Hearts will find another challenge to overcome in their return to top flight Scottish football in season 2015/16 – expectancy.

A year ago, Hearts had undergone major changes following their demotion at the end of season 2013/14. The 15 point deduction imposed on the Gorgie club at the beginning of that season as a consequence of entering administration in the summer of 2013 was always going to prove to an obstacle too high for then manager Gary Locke. The former Hearts captain was thrown into the deep end as a rookie manager but he had both hands tied behind his back as Hearts battled not only a points deduction but a ban on signing players. Locke had no choice but to throw in many of Hearts promising youngsters and they didn't let

anyone down with their efforts.

Sadly, Hearts didn't quite manage to pull off the great escape although they made a valiant effort. Indeed, had it not been for the 15 point deduction they would have finished above Hibernian and taken their place in the dreaded play-offs.

When the Hibeers joined Hearts 'downstairs' and were met with a resurgent Rangers moving 'upstairs' from League One, many observers thought the best Hearts could hope for was taking their chances in the aforementioned play-offs. With another rookie manager in Robbie Neilson and another summer of upheaval, the Maroons weren't really thought of as automatic promotion contenders by many people outside Gorgie. But, oh how the Gorgie boys proved so many people wrong. With a mix of youth and experience – Neilson having brought in players such as Morgaro Gomis, Prince Buaben and Neil Alexander – they romped to the Championship title. Hearts never looked back from their opening day win over Rangers at Ibrox and, in truth, the title was all but secured by Christmas with the Gers and Hibs trailing in the wake of the marauding Maroons.

Now there has been another summer of significant change at Tynecastle. Championship winning captain Danny Wilson has opted to remain in that division by returning to his first club Rangers. He has been joined at Ibrox by Jason Holt whose departure from Tynecastle last season surprised many. Equally surprising were the departures of James Keatings – who, for the second year in succession chose not to go with his promoted team and has instead signed for Hibernian – and Brad McKay who was snapped up by St. Johnstone.

Robbie Neilson has brought fresh faces in. Forwards Juanma Delgado and Gavin Reilly and defenders Blazej Augustyn, Juwon Oshininiwa – subject to international clearance – and Igor Rossi Branco will all be wearing maroon in the new season. Now it's a well-worn cliché that having these new faces will mean the team will take time to gel and on the evidence of some of

Hearts pre-season results – defeats from Stirling Albion, Dumbarton, Preston North End and Everton for example – this is proving to be the case. However, it's another cliché that the serious stuff starts when the competitive season begins. For Hearts, this is this Thursday when Arbroath visit Tynecastle in the Scottish League Cup.

Hearts supporters will need to accept that their team won't get things anywhere near as easy this season. Their team will lose more games and after a year of winning games at will this may take a bit of adjusting to. That said, there is much for the Maroon Army to look forward to. More than 13,000 season ticket holders will ensure the renowned Tynecastle atmosphere is cranked up for most games, even if city neighbours Hibernian won't be among those visiting Gorgie.

Most newly-promoted teams look at avoiding relegation as their first target. But it's not unreasonable to suggest Hearts should be aiming at not only avoiding demotion but securing a top six place come the tail end of the season. I expect Celtic to run away with the league again with Aberdeen likely to be their nearest challengers. Inverness Caledonian Thistle and St. Johnstone should also be in the top half and I have a hunch that Kilmarnock, with former Jambos Jamie MacDonald, Dale Carrick and Scott Robinson now on board, will also be pushing for a top six place.

If they can avoid injury – and striker El Hassnaoui has already been ruled out until November – Hearts can also contend for a top six place which would be a commendable achievement given where the club were a little over a year ago.

Robbie Neilson and Hearts Director of Football Craig Levein have never been ones to shout from the rooftops. Levein's naturally cautious approach to the game, particularly when he was Scotland manager, has brought its critics. And there have been some Hearts supporters who have questioned the decision

to let the likes of Jason Holt, Adam Eckersley and James Keatings leave Tynecastle. All three played their part in Hearts romp to the Championship last season and it remains to be seen if those players brought in during the summer will be able to improve the team.

For now, the Hearts fans have put their trust in Robbie Neilson. The new season in the Ladbrokes Premiership will be a challenging one for Edinburgh's finest and something of a contrast to last season.

Re-establishing Hearts in the top flight of Scottish football has to be the club's priority. They should be capable of achieving that and, perhaps, a run in one of the cup competitions. Hearts haven't scored a goal, never mind win a game in the Scottish Cup since they lifted the trophy after the hammering of Hibernian in 2012. Those who look at omens will note next year ends in 6 which means there's a fair chance the Maroons will reach the Scottish Cup Final, having done so in 1896, 1906, 1956, 1976, 1986, 1996 and 2006. Given that my youngest daughter has foolishly arranged her wedding for May 21 next year, you can bet your rent money on it happening...

It should be another eventful season in Gorgie. The Jam Tarts are back in the big time. And Hearts supporters can hardly wait.

Alan Stubbs extends Hibs' contract



Hibs' fans were today given a huge boost when Head Coach Alan Stubbs and his coaching staff John Doolan and Andy "Taff" Holden agreed contract extensions that will see them at Easter Road until the end of the 2016/17 season.

Stubbs said: "I am very happy to continue with the work in progress. I think supporters would agree that they have seen a lot of positive changes over the past year, and I know there is a lot more to come.

"I think most supporters would agree that whatever disappointments they have suffered in recent seasons are behind us, we are on the right track now, we're trying to play a winning and exciting brand of football that they want to see and be part of.

"I believe in what we are all trying to achieve, and if there is one thing supporters can do to help me it is to get themselves along to Easter Road to support our team. To put it simply, we need you.

"I'm grateful to all of those who have supported the team, especially all of those who have put up their hard-earned money – all of that has helped me get players in – but we need more supporters to come back to their Club if we are to continue to get stronger.

"We made decent progress last year, this season we all know we need to get promoted. We need to be as strong as we can to achieve that, and while I know that the Board are giving me all the support they can, I also know that if we can get more people coming to games, I'll be able to do more.

"This is football, so there will be setbacks along the way. It's how we react to those setbacks that will eventually determine how successful we are. If we buckle and fight amongst ourselves we will lose. If we stick together and show our collective commitment, we will win. I'm confident that we can win."

Chief Executive Leeann Dempster was delighted to announce the news and said: "This is a tremendous demonstration of our ambition at this Club. We have a really talented management team, and their desire to stick with us shows that they understand we are determined to get this Club back to the top.

"Supporters wanted to see that commitment, and Alan, John and Taff have all shown their own determination to restore this Club to the upper end of Scottish football, where it belongs."

Police seek help to trace woman following fraud investigation



Police Scotland has today released an image of a woman that officers wish to trace in order to assist in their investigations into a number of dishonesty offences which took place between October 2006 and April 2013 when a number of frauds and similar crimes were committed across Edinburgh, Glasgow, the Central Belt and North of Scotland.

Large sums of cash and other items have been stolen or fraudulently obtained during these incidents.

Pauline Flett, 31, is described as being around 5ft 6 inches tall, of medium build, with blonde hair and she has a distinctive tattoo of a bat on her upper left arm.

She is also known to use the name Pauline Campbell and to alter her appearance and has travelled around Scotland, residing in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Grampian.

Officers are now asking anyone who can assist with their ongoing investigation to come forward.

Constable Chris Campbell from Leith Police Station said: "We are working closely with our partner agencies in an effort to trace this woman and I would urge anyone who can help us establish her current whereabouts to contact police immediately.

"Similarly, anyone with any further information relevant to our investigation can contact Police Scotland on 101 or, alternatively, information can be passed anonymously through the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."