

# **Last Chance for Edinburgh Businesses to get the Green VIBE**

The application period for Scotland's leading environmental award scheme is drawing to a close and businesses in Edinburgh are encouraged to enter their green credentials for a chance to join the country's list of sustainable champions.

All entries for this year's Vision in Business for the Environment of Scotland (VIBES) Awards, which recognise and showcase businesses that are taking significant steps to reduce their impact on the environment, must be submitted by 5pm on Monday 13 July 2015.

Open to organisations of all sizes and sectors, the awards aim to encourage efficient use of resources, enhance business competitiveness, improve environmental performance and support wider sustainable development goals.

There are seven award categories open for entry this year with multiple entries accepted. Categories include: Management (Large and SME), Environmental Product or Service, Transport, Co-operation, Hydro-Nation and Circular Economy. In addition to this, the Micro Business Award will be presented to the best entry to any category from a company with less than 10 employees.

Previous award winners have included Rabbie's Small Group Tours, Vegware, Soilutions and Radisson from Edinburgh, Fife Harca Ltd., Peel Tech Ltd., FMC Technologies and Brand-Rex from Fife, Airdrie based Albert Bartlett & Sons Ltd, BAE Systems Naval Ships and GRAHAM Construction from Glasgow, Dundee based IRT Surveys Ltd. and Taypack Potatoes, Stagecoach and Jessie Mac's B&B in Perth, to name a few.

Gillian Bruce, chair of the VIBES Awards, said: “We want to hear from businesses in Edinburgh that are working hard to make Scotland more environmentally aware – this could be down to a new product or service or an improved process that is resulting in environmental and business benefits. We’ve received some great entries so far but there is still time for businesses to enter and showcase their commitment to the environment.

“Sustainable practices are crucial to businesses of every kind and VIBES showcases some of the fantastic work being done by companies across Scotland to reduce their impact on the environment. We’d encourage anyone thinking of applying to get in touch with us if they have any questions or require support.”

Scotland’s businesses will also have the opportunity to attend an application guidance event with VIBES and Fife Green Business. Held on Wednesday 24th June at Fife Renewables Innovation Centre, the breakfast seminar will run from 8am-10:30am and will offer advice and tips on the 2015 VIBES application process as well as providing an opportunity for businesses to ask questions.

Sponsoring the awards this year are Scottish Government, ScottishPower, Zero Waste Scotland, Brand-Rex, Chivas Brothers Pernod Ricard and The University of Stirling Management School. A number of previous VIBES winners have also pledged their support as VIBES Ambassadors and are encouraging other businesses to enter for their chance to win a coveted VIBES Award.

VIBES is a strategic partnership between Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Government, Scottish Water, Scottish Enterprise, Highland and Islands Enterprise, Zero Waste Scotland, Energy Saving Trust and Scotland’s 2020 Climate Group. The Awards are further supported by CBI Scotland, the Institute of Directors, the Federation of Small

Businesses and Bright Green Business.

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

To reserve a space at the application event on the 24th June please visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2015-vibes-awards-helping-you-write-a-winning-application-tickets-15556043545>.

For more information on VIBES or to obtain an application from, please visit <http://www.vibes.org.uk>.

Twitter: @VIBES\_Awards

Submitted by [Lesley Ogilvy](#)

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## Playbase put it all online

✖ Leith-based charity, Playbase Training, specialists in early years childcare courses introduce an online learning platform and new free app to help students gain qualifications and help with digital skills.

Chair, Freda O'Byrne, said: "Two years ago we decided that we needed to explain to others what we did in a clearer way. We also knew we needed to respond to the changes in the digital world by improving our own skills and finding ways to help our students improve theirs."

Freda continued: "A report by the Royal Edinburgh Society told us that one in five adults in Scotland do not have basic digital skills. We felt that, if we could help our students improve their digital skills and awareness *at the same time* as they were attending our courses then we would be truly helping them on the path to further education, training or employment, to accessing services, to finding out about jobs, to becoming fully digital citizens."

Since 1999 the charity has provided local training to parents,

carers and those with an interest in working in childcare and recently received Enterprise Ready Funding to embrace digital technology for online learning. The new digital platform will be available to existing students immediately and new students can also apply to study purely online extending the charity's reach beyond Edinburgh. The Playbase 3 Course is newly accredited and offers students a better chance to access further learning opportunities and enter a career in childcare.

Many of the current students have not studied since school, are new to Edinburgh and do not have the confidence or digital skills to enter further education. With the guidance of experienced tutors, the students will be supported in online learning and the website will allow students to access coursework, upload assignments and engage with other students and tutors to improve the learning process.

Development Manager, Maria Sherrington, said: "Courses are open to everyone with an interest in young children. We are excited by the diversity in our classrooms. A typical class of 12 students regularly has as many as nine nationalities. We actively encourage different communities to share their culturally diverse experiences and approaches to parenting and working with young children as part of the learning process. We believe this support can also be provided online as students have the opportunity to engage with others in chat rooms and form an online community. Many people are used to communicating by email or on Facebook so it's just a progression to online learning."

Freda added: "And we asked ourselves how could we be playful at the same time? How could we create something that was helpful to people and might make them use a digital resource more frequently? Something that would help build their confidence around using a smartphone or the web? So just in time for the summer holidays we are piloting an app called 'What will we do today?'; an app that suggests a quality play activity that parents, grandparents and carers could use to explore different activities that would help them to help their children learn through play."

Playbase Training engaged with members of the Creative

Exchange in Leith consisting of Starbit (web developers) Cathy Tingle (copywriter) Designers on the Run (graphic designers) and Ann Robb (marketing consultant) to develop all the elements of the re-launch. The team were briefed to focus on the 'user' designing a brand and website that looks and feels intuitive, uncomplicated and easy to use for people new to the digital world. Designers On the Run, proposed the idea of Froebel Gifts as imagery for the new logo.

Friedrich Froebel (1782 – 1852), the German educationalist, is best known as the originator of the 'kindergarten system' and the Froebel Gifts are educational materials developed for his original Kindergarten. Perhaps the world's most intricately conceived playthings, these materials appear deceptively simple, but represent a sophisticated approach to child development. The Gifts are arguably the first educational toys.

For more information visit the [website](#).

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## **EIFF 2015: Every Secret Thing (Amy Berg, 2015)**



Amy Berg is known as the uncensored, strong willed documentary filmmaker who's willing to show the world how warped and unaware it truly is. She's made magic in the past, whether that's the exceptional West of Memphis, Deliver Us From Evil or her striking work on the Hollywood child molestation exposé An Open Secret, she is yet to let her audience down. Which leads us to ask, what went wrong with her fictional debut?

*It has been almost a decade since two ten year old girls were charged with the kidnapping and murder of a baby in their sleepy, American hometown. Years later, after the pair are*

*released from a young offenders correctional facility, another child has gone missing. With the two now wandering the streets of the town, a detective must decide if cracking the case is as simple as pointing the finger at who is easiest to blame.*

It's impossible not to note the comparisons between Every Secret Thing and near enough every high profile child abduction case in UK history. The novel on which the film is based is most likely inspired by the case of James Bulger. Which leads us to think: can we forget this blip in Amy Berg's career, and see her do a documentary series on these absorbing crimes instead?

Nicole Holofcener, the director and writer of the slick, middle aged rom com Enough Said has penned Every Secret Thing's screenplay. A totally incongruous choice perhaps, and one that has unfortunately little pay off. A plethora of static, awkward dialogue litters the film; making it at times a sort of implausible crime story to follow.

The two seemingly 'reformed' criminals are played by Dakota Fanning and Danielle Macdonald, who do a solid job of doing their rather cliched characters justice. Unfortunately, this will ultimately remain a forgettable addition to Fanning's impressive repertoire. Diane Lane tries her best to work with what she's given but seems to cave by the conclusion, delivering some cringe worthy, unconvincing lines.

Amy Berg has done her utmost to make Every Secret Thing as intense and shocking as her documentary work, but a lack of serious tension and a spatter of shaky dialogue leaves the audience indifferent; this is perhaps Berg's biggest disappointment.



Every Secret Thing has its UK premiere at the Edinburgh International Film Festival 2015. Ticket information can be found [here](#).

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## Edinburgh MSP says Maleny 3G pitches will have to be locked



*Gordon MacDonald MSP has written for us about the difficulties facing the new sports pitches recently unveiled in Balerno. A lot of hard work went into providing these pitches for the area, and it seems that their open door policy is now in danger.*

I attended the opening of the new 3G pitches at Maleny Park a couple of weeks ago with the Minister for Sport Jamie Hepburn MSP and Councillor Bill Henderson.

These new 3G pitches at Maleny Park, Balerno which are now being used for both football and rugby were funded in part by the Scottish Government's Cashback for Pitches programme that provided £200,000 towards the cost.

The intention was that they would be available for use during school hours for Balerno High School and local primary schools. Currie RFC and Currie Star FC would have the use of the facility at night and weekends with some community access at weekends and during the holidays.



However since their opening there have been a number of incidents that threatens that “open door policy”. There have been a number of verbal confrontations between coaches and groups of youths who refuse to leave when they are asked so that training can take place. Parents have also faced verbal abuse from some of the youngsters and there are now allegations of an assault on Friday 12 June resulting in police and paramedics having to attend.

Each morning the 3G pitches are covered in litter and there have been concerns about burn marks from dropped cigarettes. Both Currie RFC and Currie Star FC are having to spend more time making the pitches playable than coaching the youngsters.

The result is that in order to protect this investment for the community, it is actively being considered that the gates should be locked at all times and only those booked to play will gain access. The fence will also be altered, at considerable expense, to prevent access by climbing over. It



is unfortunate that the actions of a minority are spoiling the opportunity that the wider community should be enjoying.

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# Hard Rock Rocks in Edinburgh to star Stevie McCrorie and The Feeling



More news of events taking place in St Andrew Square this summer has just been announced and tickets go on sale today.

Hard Rock Cafe Edinburgh today announced its first-ever music festival in Scotland. Hard Rock Rocks Edinburgh will be a three-day music festival in the capital, taking place at the iconic St. Andrew Square Garden from Friday 31 July – Sunday 2 August. Acts confirmed to perform across the weekend include The Voice winner Stevie McCrorie, Edinburgh's own singer-songwriter Nina Nesbitt, rockers Big Country, Brit-nominated rock band The Feeling, three piece Fatherson who stormed The British Embassy show at SXSW, as well as a collaboration performance from Starsailor's James Walsh and Ben Montague.

The announced acts will perform to an intimate crowd in a beautiful, original 1920's Spiegeltent. Tickets for these gigs go on sale today, so be sure not to miss out! Visit [arfringe.com](http://arfringe.com) to book.

Hard Rock Cafe Edinburgh continues its support of new music with a second acoustic Rising Stage. Set under the Melville Monument in the Square, this stage is free for all the city's music fans to come down and enjoy a packed bill of emerging

breakthrough acts. The line-up for the Rising Stage will be announced soon.

There will be some fantastic food and drink offerings at Hard Rock Rocks Edinburgh with the Hard Rock food truck on site across the weekend serving up the cafe's tasty menu. The infamous Hard Rock Rock Shop will also be making a pop-up appearance selling Hard Rock merchandise and an exclusive Hard Rock Rocks Edinburgh rubber duck!

Music is the heartland of Hard Rock and Hard Rock Cafe Edinburgh is proud to be presenting its debut Hard Rock Rocks Edinburgh festival.

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## Thursday in Edinburgh – What's On Today


❌ **01Leith Festival 2015: Trainspotting Tour.** Great as an introduction to the book and film – and equally great if you're a hard-core fan, as guide **Tim Bell** gives lots of insights you've probably never thought of before – whilst not missing any of the laughs. For adults only. 7pm, [Port 0'Leith Bar](#), 58 Constitution Street (starts here and ends at the **Foot of the Walk** 183 Constitution Street). £4/£3 per person – no advance booking, just turn up: for information please email [mail@leithwalks.co.uk](mailto:mail@leithwalks.co.uk). Also at same time on Friday 19th June and Saturday 20th June 2015.




**Onwards! LGBT Age Capacity Building Project:** for LGBT community members and professionals working in older people's services. 2.30-5pm, [LGBT Health & Wellbeing](#), 9 Howe Street.

Booking is essential and may be made by calling 0131 652 3284 or emailing [katherine@lgbthealth.org.uk](mailto:katherine@lgbthealth.org.uk).

**Help Contribute to Recovery in South West Edinburgh –  Volunteers Needed!** Community Health & Advice Initiative – Edinburgh Alcohol and Drug Partnership invites people who are in recovery, and interested in being part of a team to develop and shape recovery in this area, to an informal get together (with lunch provided). 10.30am, [Wester Hailes Healthy Living Centre](#), 30 Harvesters Way. For further information and to book your place, please call **Susan Butters** at CHAI on 0131 453 9406.

 **Spells, Spaceships and Seashells:** readings by **Oxpens Creative Writing Group**. 2-3pm, [Oxgangs Library](#), 343 Oxgangs Road North. New members of the group are welcomed – please contact **Morag** at Pentland Community Centre on 0131 445 2875 or [morag.grant@ea.edin.sch.uk](mailto:morag.grant@ea.edin.sch.uk).

**Easel Sketching in the Gallery – June:** led by artist **Damian  Callan**. A different subject every month, sometimes with a model. 2-4pm, [Scottish National Portrait Gallery](#) (please ask at the information desk for exact location), 1 Queen Street. Free; no booking required; all materials supplied. Also at same times on Friday 19th June 2015.





**Edinburgh International Film Festival continues today!** For details of all films and other events see the programme [here](#) or pick up a paper copy at EIFF venues and many other locations throughout the city. Tickets are available in person from the [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road, [Cineworld](#), Fountain Park, [Odeon](#), Lothian Road and the [Festival Theatre](#), by calling 0131 623 8030 or online [here](#). Today's highlights include ***The Closer We Get***, Karen Guthrie's 'tender yet bittersweet' Scottish documentary about of an apparently ordinary family having to deal with broken dreams and hidden secrets, and ***Hector***, the story of a homeless man (a perfectly pitched performance from **Peter Mullan**) whose past life starts to catch up with him.

✖ **An Evening of Classical Music with Charles Whitehead:** the New Zealander concert pianist plays **Prokofiev Piano Sonata Op 8 No 84**, **Ravel Gaspard de la Nuit** and **Scriabin Deux poemes Op 32**. 7pm, [St Andrew's & St George's West Church](#), 13 George Street. All welcome: free admission.

**Inspired Flash Fiction:** a guided visit to the **City Art Gallery** followed by an art-inspired flash fiction writing workshop at the **Central Library**. Please note that this event involves about 20 minutes of walking, some of it uphill. 2pm, [City Art Gallery](#), 2 Market Street. Free but booking is required via ✖ eventbrite [here](#). This event forms part of ***In Their Own***

**Write – Women and Words**, a festival of talks, exhibitions and workshops organised by **Glasgow Women's Library, Edinburgh City Libraries** and the **Bonnie Fechtters** women's group.



**The Luvvies Present *Love Match***: 'playing gay in the straight world'. **Richard Hall's** play looks at what happens when a mainstream actor takes on his first gay role and considers the pressures of pretending (or not). 'A comedy of manners for the gay world, going from love-all to match-point in two sets'. Plus two shorts by **David Dalzell**, ***Moved to Touch*** and ***Train to New Zealand***, plays that represent a larger work-in-progress exploring LGBT people's need to feel connected, or realising disconnection. For ages 15+. 7.30pm, Red Lecture Theatre, [Summerhall](#), 1 Summerhall. Tickets cost £9/£6 and may be purchased from the Box Office in person, by calling 0131 560 1581 or online [here](#). Also at same time on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th June 2015. **The Luvvies** exist to promote dramatic theatre that expresses aspects of the lives and experiences of the LGBT community, and to increase confidence and self-esteem. For more information email [info@theluvvies.org](mailto:info@theluvvies.org).




Image (c) Paul  
Wolfgang Webster


**Simon Armitage – *The Great War: An Elegy***. The award-winning poet, playwright, novelist, lyricist and broadcaster discusses the challenges of writing poetry for his BBC commission *The Great War: An Elegy* and shows film extracts. 6-7.30pm, Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Tickets cost £5/£4 and may be purchased in person from the gallery's Information Desk or by calling 0131 624 6560 between 9.30am and 4.30pm.

**Word Power Books Presents Barry Phillips and Grant Hill**. Barry Phillips is a third generation Dundee supporter; his debut

novel ***The Tartan Special One*** has gained thousands of fans worldwide with its surreal charm and violent hilarity – ‘Scottish football gets torn apart and stitched back together with due care and debauchery’. Grant Hill founded the now infamous **Teckle Collective**; his debut ***Clubbed to Death*** ‘weaves its way through the unforgiving nature of the music industry via the empty dancefloors of a club for the lost’. ‘A very funny, no-holds-barred, romp into the Dundonian badlands’ (*Neil Forsyth*). Both authors will read from their books. 6.30pm, **Word Power Books**, West Nicolson Street. Free: all welcome – donations also welcome!



**LGBT Learning Disabilities Social Circle:** a monthly group  for LGBT people who also identify as having a learning disability or difficulty. This session's theme will be **EDG (Edinburgh Development Group) and Self Directed Support**. 2-4pm, [Lifecare Centre](#), Cheyne Street, Stockbridge. For more information and to join the group, please contact **George Burrows** on 0131 652 3281 or email [george@lgbthealth.org.uk](mailto:george@lgbthealth.org.uk).


 **Leith Festival 2015: Trinity House – Maritime Leith.** Visit Trinity House and take a self-led tour of Leith's maritime history, using the latest technologies to uncover the local stories behind the collections. Meet the conservators to learn about the work they carry out on the vast painting

collections, and watch digital recordings of Leithers talking about their memories. Today there will be **object handling sessions** (11am-2pm) and **tours of Trinity House** led by **Junior Guides Tours** (11am-1.30pm), [Trinity House](#), 99 Kirkgate. Free. For more information please contact [adam.gorysz@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:adam.gorysz@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) or call 0131 554 3289.

**Italian Cinema: *Una Piccola Impresa Merionale* (15).** A group  of family outcasts ends up in a remote lighthouse – ‘after a period of chaos, this small world gradually discovers that unity makes strength’. Directed by **Rocco Papeleo**. In Italian with English subtitles. 6pm, [Italian Cultural Institute in Edinburgh](#), 82 Nicolson Street. Free: please reserve your place by calling the Institute on 0131 668 2232 or online [here](#).



**Edinburgh Festival of Cycling** continues today! Rides, films, talks, drama, books, photos, workshops and lots more. Today's events include **The Brotique Pop-Up Fixie Shop**, the **King of Kaimes Hill Climb & Barbecue** and a talk by **Fraser Cartmell**, Multiple Ironman and Ironman 70.3 Champion. For more information please see the festival's website [here](#) or its Facebook page [here](#), or pick up a programme from many venues across the city and beyond, including libraries, leisure centres and many shops. Ends 21st June 2015.

**Nothing Ever Happens Here: James Blackshaw and Yusuf Azak.**  ‘Blackshaw sings in a gentle but assured voice, while his words combine his personal experiences, neuroses and fantasy through many layers of abstraction, poeticism and dark humour’. James' new album ***Summoning Suns*** draws inspiration from 60's and 70's singer-songwriters, baroque/orchestral pop and folk music. **Yusuf Azak** is an Aberdonian living in Glasgow: his album ***Peace in the Underworld*** is out on **Gerry Loves Records**. Over-18s only. 8pm, The Dissection Room, [Summerhall](#), 1 Summerhall. Tickets cost £10/£8 and may be purchased from the Box Office in person, by calling 0131 560 1581 or online



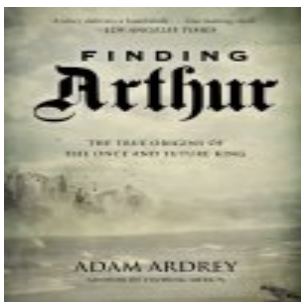
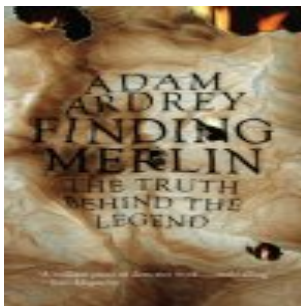
[here](#).



**Leith Festival 2015: Leith Community Concert Band:** the annual Festival concert. 7.30pm, [St Margaret's Episcopal Church](#), Easter Road. Entry by donation. For more information please contact [leithcommunityconcertband@gmail.com](mailto:leithcommunityconcertband@gmail.com).




**Old Royal High School Preservation Trust:** a community drop-in session to view plans for the proposed transfer of **St Mary's Music School** to the old Royal High School. 5-8pm (drop-in), [Canongate Kirk](#), 153 Canongate. All welcome.




**Arthur and Merlin in Scottish History.** Following a discovery on the shelves of the National Library, **Adam Ardrey** wrote ***Finding Merlin*** and ***Finding Arthur***. These evidence-based, time-lined, supernatural-free books show how Scotland is linked to these world legends – now, for the first time, the wonderful legends of Arthur and Merlin are firmly fixed in Scottish history and geography. 2pm, [National Library of Scotland](#), George IV Bridge. Free but booking is required and may be made online [here](#) or by calling 0131 623 3734.



**Hot Tin Roof Trio: Andy McKay-Challen, Gavin Jack and Kenny Miller** bring their blues to the OCP. 9pm, [Old Chain Pier](#), Trinity Crescent, Newhaven. Free. 

**Picturehouses *Slow West* Satellite Q & A/Preview Night:** live via satellite from the **Jameson Film Club**, join director **John Maclean**, Oscar-winning producer **Iain Canning** and host **Edith Bowman** for a special preview screening, preceded by an acoustic set from **Jim Dixon** and **Vincent Neff** of **Django Django**.

 In Maclean's first feature, shot in New Zealand, naive teenager Jay Cavendish searches for his estranged sweetheart – who has a price on her head. Rescued from a vicious bandit and henceforth accompanied by a roughneck drifter with his own agenda, Jay eventually learns what it is to be a man in an unyielding world. A complementary glass of Jameson's will be served. 8.40pm, [Cameo](#), Home Street. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Box Office on 0871 902 5723 or online [here](#); prices vary.

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# Five things you need to know today



**Edinburgh Guarantee**

**Royal High School**

**Magic Festival**

**Farm to Fork**

## **Leave more time when travelling to and from Edinburgh Airport**

More school leavers than ever in Edinburgh are moving into work, education, or training, thanks to the strong partnership that has developed between the public and private sectors through the [Edinburgh Guarantee](#).

[tweet\_box design="default"]Figures published by the Scottish Government show that the success rate of school leavers in Edinburgh achieving and sustaining a positive destination are at the highest rate ever.[/tweet\_box]

The figure is up 10 per cent since the Edinburgh Guarantee began four years ago and is now at 93.1 per cent. The Capital is now the best performing city in Scotland and is 12th out of all local authority areas, which puts us well above the national average.

The statistics show that more school leavers in Edinburgh are getting into jobs compared to September 2013 with over one in four of school leavers in employment at the snapshot taken in March. Just over 40% are getting into and sustaining places in Higher Education while over a quarter of school leavers opt for Further Education.

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The Royal High School Preservation Trust (RHSPT) is to host the first public exhibition of its plans to move St Mary's Music School into the iconic Thomas Hamilton buildings on Carlton Hill.

The exhibition, which takes place at Canongate Kirk on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June, will set out how the RHSPT will fund the conservation of the former Royal High School and how it will adapt the buildings to give the music school the greater performance and teaching space it desperately needs to fulfill its ambitions as an internationally recognised centre for

young musical talent.

The exhibition will also stray from the conventional format for such consultation events, by including performances from students at the music school.

William Gray Muir, Chairman of the RHSPT said:

“Backed by philanthropic funds, we are in a unique position to bring new life to the Old Royal High School by restoring it to its original purpose. We want to see St Mary’s Music School move to the site where it can enjoy a new, inspiring and internationally prestigious home. With the extra space it needs to expand and which the High School could provide, it can also open its doors to greater numbers of talented Scottish children.

“What makes the project particularly exciting is the chance to create three significant new performance spaces of unrivalled character within the city. This will bring together the schools exceptional pupils, musicians of international standing and an audience drawn from the citizens of Edinburgh and beyond.”

He added:

“I would encourage local residents to come to the exhibition on 18<sup>th</sup> June. Students from the music school will be performing in the impressive surroundings of Canongate Kirk and we will have a number of people available to discuss the history of both schools and the opportunities our plans present.”

Ken Taylor, Headteacher for St Mary’s Music School, added:

“This is an incredibly exciting prospect for the School. We have been growing steadily to the point where we are bursting at the seams and need to increase our performance and teaching space. The opportunity to move into the former Royal High School Buildings not only allows us to fulfill our ambitions

to expand, but will also serve to give Scotland's only independent music school a greater and more prestigious international standing."

The RHSPT Public Exhibition takes place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June, between 5pm and 8pm, at the Canongate Kirk, 153 Canongate, Edinburgh, Midlothian EH8 8BN.

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This summer from 26 June magic comes to Edinburgh. See the top magical performers live on stage at the Magic Village at Summerhall. There are six theatre spaces on one site over 8 days with 30 performers including Paul Wilson, Will Houstoun, Ali Cook, Richard Wiseman, Colin Cloud, Mark Elsdon, Rob Jagerhorn + many more.

"There's nothing quite like seeing magic live, close up, with no screens, Hollywood effects or fancy TV editing getting in the way of something beautifully impossible. So Awake in Wonder at the Edinburgh International Magic Festival from 26th June till 4th July."

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City centre workers are to be given a chance to enjoy lunch featuring the best produce local farmers can offer – prepared by some of the Capital's most celebrated chefs.

Farm to Fork is an event which will take place at St Andrew Square Garden on Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11am till 4pm to mark the 15<sup>th</sup> birthday this month of the renowned and award-winning Edinburgh Farmers Market.

On offer will be delicious lunches prepared with inspiring ingredients straight from the market, prepared by top city chefs Neil Forbes (of Café St Honore), Mark Greenaway (of Restaurant Mark Greenaway); Victor and Carina Contini (from

Continis) and Dale Mailley and Edward Murray (from The Gardener's Cottage).

A mini-market will also be a big part of the day, with select producers offering fresh baked goods, organic meats, artisan chocolates and more. Live music will also be a feature of the day.

Roddy Smith, Chief Executive of event and Farmers Market organisers Essential Edinburgh, said: "It is tremendous to mark the 15<sup>th</sup> birthday of the market and also Scotland's Year of Food and Drink with this celebration of the abundance of top quality local produce and the fantastic talent we have in our city chefs.

"Edinburgh Farmers' Market continues to be one of the very best markets anywhere in the UK, with a whole raft of awards that testify to its quality, diversity, and even the stunning setting at Castle Terrace under the ramparts of Edinburgh Castle. It is the only farmers market in Scotland to take place on a weekly basis in one location, every Saturday.

"Thousands of people go to the Farmers Market and many of our city's best chefs source high quality ingredients at the market. This event sees some chefs showcase the ingredients to be found at the Market in an imaginative and fun way that will allow city centre workers to enjoy a very keenly priced and deliciously appetising lunch. We hope everyone enjoys the day."

In addition, a special expanded Farmers' Market is planned for Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> to mark the 15<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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As the 2015 Royal Highland Show gets underway, Edinburgh Airport is calling on passengers planning on flying this weekend to be prepared and allow extra time to get to the

airport.

With the busy summer schedule now underway and almost 160,000 passengers expected to travel through over the next four days, Edinburgh Airport is working closely with Show partners to ensure airport operations continue unaffected.

Around 180,000 people are expected to visit the showground between today until Sunday, meaning roads around the airport will be much busier than usual. Traffic management is already underway with signage up to guide show-goers safely to the Royal Highland Centre.

Adding to potential travel disruption are ongoing roadworks at the Gogar roundabout. In addition to this, railway works on the Winchburgh Tunnel could mean more people choose to drive to the Show. Those travelling to the airport over the next four days are advised to check local travel bulletins before leaving and allow extra time.

For those travelling from the city centre, the airport is encouraging the use of the tram and for those coming from the west, the Citylink Air service runs every 30 minutes between Buchanan Street in Glasgow and Edinburgh Airport.

David Wilson, Chief Operating Officer at Edinburgh Airport, said: "The Royal Highland Show is always a hugely popular event and we work closely with organisers, RHASS and external partners to ensure the event and our airport operations continue as normal.

"With an event of this size, roads around the airport will be busier and this will have an impact on travel time to and from the airport. We're asking passengers to be prepared for a longer journey and allow extra time to travel.

"It's important that we maintain safe operations at the airport and we'll be in regular contact with Police Scotland and colleagues at the Royal Highland Centre throughout the

event. We'll also be posting frequent updates on Twitter using #RHStravel."

Being prepared for security is also important to remember. All passengers flying should ensure liquids, gels and pastes are 100ml or less and presented in a clear plastic re-sealable bag. More information on how to be prepared for security can be found on the airport's website [edinburghairport.com/prepare](http://edinburghairport.com/prepare)

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## **EIFF 2015: The Legend of Barney Thomson (Robert Carlyle, 2015)**



With an illustrious screen acting career that has spanned the best part of 25 years, it's bizarre to think that it has taken until now for Robert Carlyle to grab the reins of a film as the director. His first film since his last Edinburgh appearance with California Solo, there's something brilliantly personal and devoted about The Legend of Barney Thomson – a Glasgow-set dark dramedy in which Carlyle comes into his own both in front of and behind the lens.

*Another day in the east end of Glasgow. A barber arrives at work with clients reluctant to see him. After years in the*

*business, this has become all that he has. Uninspired and aggravated by day-to-day life, he finds himself fired and, by accident, with a pair of scissors through the chest of the man who delivered the bad news. A brutal, unfortunate accident? Yes. Call the police? Absolutely not. With a potential motive behind his accidental actions, the man must cover up his tracks and avoid being embroiled in a serial killing mystery that's overcoming the city.*

The film takes place in an indeterminable time period in Glasgow. Fuzzy, analogue radios blare Kasabian's latest. Dating ads in browning newspapers reference Brad and Angelina. There's a sort of comely, dateless feel to Carlyle's otherwise dark Scotland. Brilliantly accomplished, there are signs of a fresh director toying with cinematic techniques and relishing in the outcome; a piece of work he must be undeniably proud of.

[tweet\_box design="box\_1"] There's a sort of comely, dateless feel to Carlyle's otherwise dark Scotland.[/tweet\_box]

His directorial work goes hand in hand with the lead role he has taken on. A barber with a nervous disposition, Carlyle's performance remains as controlled as his directorial hand; suitably cautious and flat out erratic when it's called for. Once we bypass the ropey opening monologue, we find ourselves suitably in the head of Barney Thomson; by turns hopeless and obscure.

Carlyle has squeezed in a shining, supporting cast from across the country. Martin Compston, the Scot actor known best for Sweet Sixteen gives it his all; even if he's not given a whole lot to work with. Ray Winstone plays the detective assigned to the case to solve the unraveling murders. He does so with a tough as nails, ballsy attitude. It's nothing new to him, of course, but he's doing a fine job, overcoming the one or two incongruous sexist jokes delivered by his character. They're some of very few gags that don't quite gel with the otherwise



slick, Scottish humour.

There's no way of discussing the film without highlighting the bloody genius work of Emma Thompson. The actress known better for her sharp witted, well-to-do characters embodies Barney's foulmouthed trainwreck of a mother pretty much impeccably. Adorned in faux fur and decorating her faced with lurid pink lipstick, we first meet her at the dog tracks; betting her money away and spending her winnings on a fish supper. As she shovels the contents of the paper packet into her mouth, it's difficult to see the original woman underneath. Her brilliant sense of humour pokes through her crooked, smoke-stained teeth; paired with a flash of near enough every Scottish person's grandmother that makes her an absolute delight to watch. It may sound hard to believe, but looking back upon this illustrious actress' career, this oddball piece of work may just be considered a worthy highlight.

[tweet\_box design="box\_1"]Emma Thompson's brilliant sense of humour pokes through her crooked, smoke-stained teeth[/tweet\_box]

When it delves into sordid subject matter, the film becomes a mix of dark comedy and family drama. There are moments of genuine sadness that can be seen beneath the running gags; but poor taste never manages to be the defining factor. Instead, it balances its topsy-turvy tone to the end, avoiding depressing, emotional gravitas.

It may be a film about a deeply depressed, unintentionally murderous hairdresser, but its hard to disagree with the fact that this feels like the cinematic calling card Glasgow has been hoping for. Brimming with black comedy and featuring an excellent, oddball performance from Emma Thompson, this is one of the strongest Edinburgh openers we've seen in years.



The Legend of Barney Thomson had its world premiere at the Edinburgh International Film Festival 2015. It has its official UK release on July 24th.

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## Police ask for help in tracing two girls



Police Scotland are appealing for the public's help in tracing two girls who went missing from Glasgow yesterday.

They are continuing their enquiries and appealing for the assistance of the public in an effort to find the girls aged 14 and 16 years, who went missing from Springburn Park at around 1600 hours yesterday.

Lilly McLaughlin-Clear, aged 14 years, is from Castle Douglas, but is currently staying at a unit at Stobhill Hospital. She is described as white, slim build, 5ft 4" in height with shoulder-length brown curly hair. She was wearing a blue hooded top, black leggings and silver trainers.

Nicole Crossley, aged 16 years, is from Gartcosh but is also currently staying at a unit at Stobhill Hospital. She is described as white, medium build, 5ft 4" in height with long auburn hair. She was wearing a blue hooded top and blue jeans.

Inspector Craig Walker from Maryhill Police Office said today:

“The girls were out in Springburn Park when they made off from staff around 4pm. Both are known to visit Springburn and Glasgow city centre and enquiries are ongoing in those areas to try and trace both girls.

“Officers have been able to establish that the girls stayed at a youth hostel in Edinburgh city centre last night and then withdrew money from a cash machine in Princes Street at 1000 hours today.

“We are continuing to work with our colleagues in Edinburgh to see if they are still in the area however it is also possible that they have travelled elsewhere and so I would urge everyone to keep an eye out and let us know immediately if they think they may have seen Lilly or Nicole.

“I would urge anyone who has any information on their whereabouts to contact Police Scotland on 101.”



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## **EIFF 2015: Fidelio, l'odyssée d'Alice (Lucie Borleteau, 2014)**



Every single shot of *Fidelio, l'odyssée d'Alice* seems to be bathed in the inky blue waters that surround it. A film set almost entirely at sea in a grinding mechanical ship that provides the vast majority of the soundscape, you would be surprised at just how gentle and fluid this supposed love story really is.

*Alice lives a life incongruous to what her family may have expected. She makes a living working aboard a merchant navy freighter as an engineer to the gigantic vessel. With her lover left at home, Alice embarks on a fluid relationship while aboard with the opposite sex that seems to entice more people than it revolts.*

Ariane Labed assumes the role of the titular character, carrying a somewhat heavy, emphatic story on her more than capable shoulders. For the vast majority of the film's runtime, she is the only woman present; counteracted by a collection of men each pleasant, tough or downright sordid. As a character, Alice takes on each of these characteristics.

What's most refreshing about Borleteau's characters is that there is a significant lack of hierarchy between them. Roles within the ship? Yes, but when it comes to conversations between them there's a friendship or resentment that comes down to their personality traits rather than their positions. This could have easily become a film at which a woman falls to her knees at the sight of an unattainable man of power whom she desires, but it manages to be somewhat smarter. If it's possible, *Fidelio* is a film about sexual liberation rather than promiscuity; the rights we have to use our body as we so choose and to be nobody's property but our own.

It does almost drag a little, pointing its toes towards a conclusion then retracting them for the last twenty minutes. The interim is strong though, making this slight delay a lot less aggravating.

An absorbing work of gender study set upon the ocean, *Fidelio*, *l'odyssée d'Alice* is as seraphic as it is salacious.



Fidelio, l'odyssée d'Alice has its UK Premiere at the Edinburgh International Film Festival 2015. Ticketing information can be found [here](#)

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## EIFF 2015: The Closer We Get (Karen Guthrie, 2015)



Isn't it peculiar that in 2015 we can still be overcome by the complexity of family? Something that everyone has been a part of but, through the aimless guidance that life provides, can twist into something that shapes the way we live and feel. Documentary filmmakers are often blessed with uncensored access into some of the most protected, rarely discussed places in the world, but Karen Guthrie has not had to travel far to find her subject. Her latest work made her delve deeper into the emotions and peculiar events that involve those closest to her.

*Filmmaker Karen Guthrie finds herself and her family caring for the woman who used to care for her . Looking back upon the timeline of the life her mother and father spent together, she picks up on the bizarre events that drew the two apart and brought them back together again.*

Guthrie's undeniable blatancy when it comes to the story of her family's past is perhaps the film's most refreshing feature. The lyricism of their story stems from genuine

experience rather than applied imagination. It's undoubtedly a strange one, involving affairs and offspring that cross continents. She looks closely at the woman left behind following the couple's divorce, both fifteen years ago when it first occurred, and now, as her mother lives near bed bound following a stroke that debilitated her health.

Her mother's sharp tongued, sassy attitude remains beneath the fading facade, as we compare it with Guthrie's previous work and home videos that show her with much more liveliness. Most of her comments are directed towards Ian, her ex husband who in the wake of her illness, moved back into the family home and began to care for her. He's almost the hero and antihero of the family story here; although the focus lies mostly on his dissatisfaction from the acts of his children. It's almost like a sort of family pilgrimage; as they simultaneously travel back to the town they hail from to care for their mother.

The camerawork and use of yellowing, archive footage make this family tale a gorgeous one to witness. Her words and captured moments so profoundly emotional you feel as though you've known them for years. Almost effortlessly, Karen Guthrie has painted a family portrait with such deft intimacy that its impossible to focus your vision elsewhere.



The Closer We Get has its European Premiere at the Edinburgh International Film Festival 2015. For ticketing information, visit [the EIFF website](#).

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# EIFF 2015: The Stanford Prison Experiment (Kyle Patrick Alvarez, 2015)



It is said that the best thrillers do more than leave your heart in your throat. They provoke strong reactions and ask questions that rarely have answers. The power of *The Stanford Prison Experiment*, the latest work by Kyle Patrick Alvarez, is that it messes with moral implications; questioning the line that can be drawn through science and the point at which it is acceptable to cross it.

*In an effort to test the limits of the position of power, a Stanford psychology professor creates a study comprised of a makeshift prison, assigning the roles of prisoners and guards to students putting themselves forward as subjects. As the experiment goes on and the subjects assume their roles a little too deeply, the lines blur between the study and the justifiable actions of those in charge.*

At the helm of an impressive young ensemble are two actors delivering some career defining work. Michael Anganaro plays Christopher Archer, who assumes the role of a prison guard with relentless conviction. He's at the head of most of the brutality in the prison environment; relishing in his own power. The majority of it is directed towards Daniel, known as Prisoner '8612', who acts as a ringleader for organised anarchy in the situation. Overcome by breathless psychosis, he's played impeccably by Ezra Miller, an actor finally getting the profound, emotional scope he deserves.

When we veer from the confines of the makeshift prison, we find ourselves in the position of the experiment's leaders. Professor Philip Zimbardo loses himself in the experiment's

uncontrollable power and affecting nature. He too sees them as the wrongdoers they are meant to only represent. When this meets the egotistical attitudes of the assigned prison guards, near insanity ensues.

It seldom lets your stomach settle, pinning you against a wall and forcing you into compliance in sync with the prisoners. It's only when the prisoners themselves are not present that the film goes awry. Overdramatised conversations about the prisoner's fate and boundaries are accompanied by soaring stereotypical scores. They're only dotted throughout, but with these cut and the film fifteen minutes shorter, we would have a masterclass in the American thriller on our hands.

But we can forgive this mishap for the near perfection that surrounds it. An antagonising vision of strained ethical boundaries, *The Stanford Prison Experiment* holds the audience in a dumbfounded grip. Treacherous, profound; you will not forget this anytime soon.



*The Stanford Prison Experiment* has its international premiere at the Edinburgh International Film Festival 2015. It screens on June 18th and 21st, for more information head to the [EIFF website](#).

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## Film in the City attracts the crowds

✖ Edinburgh's free outdoor cinema event **Film in the City**, has



been hailed as a major success by event organisers, *This is Edinburgh* and *Edinburgh International Film Festival* (EIFF).

Taking place over the two weekends in the run up to the EIFF, just under 15,000 people attended the events in Grassmarket and St Andrew Square, 1,300 more than last year's Film in the City.

23 films screened over the two weekends, including *Mary Poppins*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Life of Pi*, *Brave* and *The Sound of Music*. The most popular movie by far was Sunday's showing of the 2004 Lyndsay Lohan classic, *Mean Girls*, in St Andrew Square Gardens, which was filled to capacity, and watched from the surrounding streets by hundreds of additional viewers. Other popular films included *Guardians of the Galaxy* on Friday evening and *Princess Bride* on Sunday afternoon.



The Grassmarket's dance-along themed weekend, in partnership with Dancebase, also enjoyed full capacity, with over 625 people finding their groove along with Meryl Streep in *Mamma Mia*!

**Paul Wakefield, Head of Marketing and Commercial, Marketing Edinburgh said:**

"To have such a positive response from the public and such high numbers attending both weekends is tremendous. Despite some windy and slightly wet weather especially over the opening weekend, it's great to see so many people made the effort to come along and take advantage of the free cinema screenings."

**Roddy Smith, Chief Executive of Essential Edinburgh said:**

"It's the busiest Film in the City weekend we've had at St Andrew Square Gardens and the atmosphere was very relaxed and happy. The 'This is Edinburgh' campaign is all about

encouraging local people to come and enjoy their city centre and make the most of what it has to offer. This year's Film in the City is another example of the campaign's ongoing success and the attractiveness of St Andrew Square Gardens as a fantastic flexible event space for the public to enjoy."

**Mark Adams, Artistic Director of the Edinburgh International Film Festival** added:

"We are delighted at the wonderful response to people – sometimes from all around Scotland – enjoying the informal fun of the outdoor screenings. It was great to see audiences having such a great time."

Following Edinburgh Fashion Week and Spa in the City which both took place earlier this year, Film in the City is the third event in the 'This is Edinburgh' 2015 calendar. With Edinburgh Restaurant Festival still to come in October, the two-year campaign aims to attract locals and people living within two hours of Edinburgh, back into the city centre to enjoy its shops, restaurants and attractions. For more information visit: [www.thisisedinburgh.com](http://www.thisisedinburgh.com).

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## **Best Bar None scheme to extend to the city centre**



At an event to be held later today licensees will hear that Best Bar None (BBN) Scotland is preparing to launch a new scheme catering for licensed premises across Edinburgh's city

centre.

BBN, is an accreditation initiative aiming to promote responsible management and operation of licensed premises throughout Scotland to help create a safer, socially responsible and more vibrant leisure economy, The Scheme currently operates in venues across Leith and Gorgie/Dalry and Grassmarket areas of the city.

At 2pm today BBN will host a special launch event at Lothian Chambers to kick start the scheme offering venues throughout George Street and New Town the chance to sign up.

This event will offer potential new members the chance to find out more about the different awards available and what it means to gain accreditation.

Attendees will hear from speakers including Councillor Eric Milligan and Mandy Haeburn-Little, Director of the Scottish Business Resilience Centre, about the benefits of being part of the Best Bar None scheme.

Arlene Campbell, National Lead for BBN Scotland, said:

“For the first time BBN is offering licensed premises through the capital’s city centre the opportunity to sign up to a nationally recognised accreditation scheme that supports premises in offering customers the best safety measures and service standards.

“This launch event is open to any venue across the city as there are schemes already running in Leith, Gorgie/Dalry and the Grassmarket.

“It’s our aim to share the benefits of the scheme with venues and encourage them to consider becoming accredited. Holding a BBN award shows the venue and its staff have met a level of standards that assures members of the public they will be able to enjoy a safe and welcoming atmosphere.

“Edinburgh has a vibrant day and night time economy and it’s our ambition to ensure this is both enhanced and supported by BBN by ensuring venues provide, and customers receive, the very best quality experience.”

All licensed premises in the new and existing areas have been invited and are encouraged to attend.

The Best Bar None initiative has accredited over 400 premises throughout Scotland and works with the licensed trade, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, suppliers, The Scottish Licensed Trade Association and supported by Scottish Government to celebrate and reward licensed premises for responsible management and efforts made to combat alcohol related crime and disorder.

The Best Bar None scheme, which is sponsored by Diageo, Molson Coors, Heineken, Tennents, Maxxium and Chivas Brothers is an integral part of the Safer Areas Initiatives throughout Scotland.

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## **The Sun Inn at Dalkeith – fabulous pub food by the River Esk**

It’s very rare to go to a restaurant these days and not feel there was something that could have been better, perhaps because we all eat out much more these days, and watch too many cookery shows... I blame Greg Wallace! With this dilemma in mind, I have to say that [tweet\_box design="default"]The Sun

Inn is one of those rare places where everything was perfect![/tweet\_box]

They say 'At the Sun Inn you'll get the warmest of welcomes, friendly service and an atmosphere with real character' and its true! Our food was absolutely faultless and so tasty, the service professional but friendly and the atmosphere first class. Best of all the food is great quality and so reasonable, especially compared with many city centre restaurants. Safe to say we loved it!



The Sun Inn is a beautiful old coaching inn that lies close to the banks of the River Esk in five acres of beautiful wooded grounds is just outside Edinburgh near Dalkeith, and just below a railway bridge arch. It is owned by the same people who have the Potting Shed in town. The Sun Inn is a real family business. Head Chef Ian Minto, is an award-winning cook with a passion for quality and fresh produce. Craig, his son, is the expert 'nose' behind the Inn's exceptional and very reasonable wine list. While mother and daughter-in-law, Bernadette and Jay, bring their inspiration to the décor and front of house arrangements.

We went on a Saturday evening for dinner and were surprised by how busy it already was by 7pm. It's a lovely country pub with a big restaurant area, open fires, outdoor beer garden and bar. The atmosphere was very friendly and the pub is clearly a favourite with the locals and those in the know! Everyone was chatting away between tables and the staff were so friendly. We were greeted by the manager, who took us to our table and explained the menu.



They have a big menu with something to please everyone from fish and chips and other pub classics through to Oysters and borders lamb cutlets, all locally sourced. They also have many options for gluten free and other allergies with the chefs

very happy to create for you. The specials menu also included a number of dishes (see the pictures attached!) and some great offers too including an Early bird with 3 courses for just £14 and on the first Wednesday of every month a three course meal with a glass of prosecco just £25 – definitely a good plan for the next ladies night out!

So what did we eat you ask?!



### Duck tasting plate

The boy fancied the Moules Marinere (Mussels in white wine and cream sauce) and I went for the Duck Plate which was pressed duck leg, duck liver pate, smoked duck breast and quince jelly, both priced at £7 or £13 for the mussels as a main. I have to say that the mussels were amazing and according to my dining partner the best he has ever had, embarrassingly I had to restrain him from drinking all the juice from the pan! The duck was equally good with the different textures and flavours working well together.

Personally I thought my main course was the star of the show 'Pan seared Monkfish, wrapped in pancetta with clams, chorizo and broad bean salad' one of the more expensive meals priced at £17 however there are many options ranging up from just £10 a main course up to a huge rib eye steak with hand cut chips and peppercorn sauce at £22. The fish was cooked well, the meaty flavour of the chorizo complemented it perfectly and I even liked the broad beans. My dining partner opted for the Border's Lamb Cutlets with braised hogget, dauphinoise potatoes, feta and asparagus (£17) which disappeared impressively speedily too. By this point we were both stuffed and probably should have shared a pudding as the portions are very generous portions, however we are both fatties and didn't.



## Seared Monkfish with Chorizo

The Sun Inn have a good old dessert selection too and also do a soufflé of the day for all you soufflé fiends. On the day we went the soufflé was raspberry and served with a white chocolate ice cream (£7) – it was a huge fluffy delight, as was my Vanilla Crème Brulee (£5) which was served in a big flat dish more like a crema catalana which means you get more burnt sugar crunch!



### Creame Brulee

As you may have guessed we loved our trip out to the Sun Inn and are already planning to head back for their Sunday roast after a walk around the beautiful Dalkeith Country Park.

[The Sun Inn](#), Dalkeith EH22 4TR.

Open Daily for Lunch and Dinner.

Follow them on [Twitter](#)



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# Clearabee on its way to nationwide roll-out

Clearabee, the on-demand rubbish removal company, today announced that it has opened a depot in Musselburgh, just outside Edinburgh, to provide waste management services to customers across Scotland.

Clearabee has hired five people in Scotland and will initially operate three rubbish removal trucks from its new base. With growing demand for its services, Clearabee plans to employ 10 people and run five trucks in Scotland by the end of 2015.

The opening of the Edinburgh depot completes Clearabee's initial UK roll-out, enabling it to offer same-day or next-day rubbish removal services across all parts of mainland Britain. Its professional rubbish removal teams can remove almost all waste streams and are frequently called on to remove single bulky items, provide house clearance services and clear fly-tipped waste on behalf of local authorities and housing associations.

Clearabee's flexible and environmentally friendly rubbish clearance and removal services have been used by more than 30,000 household, business and local authority customers since it started trading in 2013. It now employs 50 people at 15 sites across the UK.

Rob Linton, operations director at Clearabee, comments: "We are delighted to open a depot in Scotland. It marks the completion of our initial UK roll out, enabling us to serve all four corners of mainland Britain and provide our largest customers with a nationwide multi-site rubbish removal service. Through our quick, efficient and fully compliant service, we remove tens of thousands of tonnes of junk and other waste each year, and partner with waste transfer stations that operate a zero-to-landfill policy wherever possible."

Submitted by [James Taylor](#)



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# Hearts Season Ticket Sales Approach 13,000

Hearts have announced that season ticket sales for the club's return to the SPFL Premiership in the forthcoming season are fast approaching the 13,000 mark.

With Phase Two prices starting today, Hearts are on course for record sales figures.

Owner Ann Budge told the club's official website "The support shown by Hearts fans for their club never ceases to amaze me. I keep thinking "it can't get any better" and they prove me wrong every time.

"When we sold 12,500 season tickets last season, we were absolutely thrilled. To have sold 13,000, so far, this season...well, what can I say? We made extra seats available to allow for the possibility of extra demand and the supporters, as ever, are backing us all the way.

"There are still seats left, of course, but they are going quickly. The best seats remaining now are for our hospitality reserved areas and I have absolutely no doubt that they will go equally quickly, now that the hospitality season packages have been announced.

"I really cannot thank our supporters enough for their loyalty; but I also want to reassure them. I know they are all desperate to hear about new signings for next season but I urge them to be patient. I assure you we are all working really hard to negotiate a number of new contracts, some of which are very complex.

"We are totally focused on bringing in the calibre of player that Craig and Robbie believe we need to ensure our continued success on the field. Our supporters deserve the best we can

afford and we are doing everything in our power to deliver on that.”

Hearts have also announced details of its hospitality packages for the new season, details of which are at [www.heartsfc.co.uk](http://www.heartsfc.co.uk)

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# Car sharing might help commuters bypass rail disruption



With regard to the 44-day disruptions hitting the Edinburgh-Glasgow rail line due to maintenance work the UK’s largest car sharing site Liftshare.com might be able to help.

They have been in touch to tell us how it works:

Liftshare has 430,000+ members, and enables drivers to offer a lift to anywhere in the UK to whoever needs transport. All it costs is a split of the petrol money, so it’s the same as giving your friend a fiver to cover a lift from Edinburgh to a gig at the SECC – for example. We find that whenever rail ticket prices rise or train strikes occur, we get many new members who are fed up of being let down by trains.

Car sharing is also far cheaper than rail, so it is a great alternative to trains during these strikes between Edinburgh and Glasgow. For example, a single ticket from Edinburgh to Glasgow costs commuters £12.50 on The Trainline.com, while the same trip is offered on Liftshare for as low as £4.70. You can also try out our Offer a Lift tool to see just how much you could save by car sharing. I invite you to give it a quick try

at <https://liftshare.com/uk/offer>

The Liftshare community is currently offering 101 lifts to Glasgow and 45 to Edinburgh, and we also just struck an official partnership with the Festival Fringe to encourage cheaper travel to the capital this August while getting more people travelling together to reduce the amount of cars on the city's roads. This should go some way to reducing CO2 pollution and gridlock around the event.

Submitted by [Dave Cook](#)

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## **Dramatic makeover for Under the Bridge**

Art Under the Bridge is an arts project that has involved pupils from several local primary schools.

The aim was to transform an unloved and defaced underpass in the otherwise beautiful Figgate Park in East Edinburgh that is known for its wildlife.

Ian Tayac a professional Graffiti artist born in France and living in Scotland has just finished this dramatic make over.

The Friends Group for the Figgate Park recently asked local school children what was special to them about their local Park and what they wanted to see painted under the road bridge that runs over the Figgate Burn in the Park. Pupils made art work that is currently being exhibited in two local libraries. Their artwork and ideas helped to inform and inspire professional artist Ian Tayac with his final design which has now transformed the underpass in the Figgate Park.

The response and feedback from park users has been fantastic and the Friends Group hope the project will continue to be a positive focus of conversation amongst park users in the park and in the local community.


Art Under the Bridge has been funded by the Duddingston & Craigentinny Neighbourhood Partnership Fund. You can read more [here](#) on the Figgate Facebook page.

Submitted by [debs holloway](#)



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## Wednesday in Edinburgh – What's On Today

**Donald Gorrie Schools Debating Competition:** for the third  annual competition the motion is 'This house believes that we can create and sustain communities across the nation of Scotland in the 21st century'. 6.30-9.30pm, [St Andrew's & St George's West Church](#), 13 George Street. All welcome: free admission – come along and encourage the teams, all from local schools! Last year's winners were Craigmount High Seniors and Royal High Juniors.



**Edinburgh International Film Festival starts today!** The opening film is **Robert Carlyle's** directorial debut ***The Legend of Barney Thomson***, starring Carlyle himself as a downtrodden Glaswegian barber whose life is turned upside down when he accidentally turns killer, and **Emma Thompson** as his hilariously fierce mother **Cemolina**, plus **Ray Winstone**, **Martin Compston** and **Tom Courtenay**. 'A deliriously dark comedy to be cherished'. 9pm, [Festival Theatre](#), Nicolson Street. Tickets cost £15/£10 and may be purchased (sta) from the [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road, [Cineworld](#), Fountain Park, [Odeon](#), Lothian Road and the [Festival Theatre](#) itself, by calling 0131 623 8030 or online [here](#).

✖ **Read, Relax, Recharge: Wendy Kirk**, Glasgow Women's Library librarian, invites you to bring along your lunch and relax while you listen to a story being read, then join in some lively discussion. An informal and welcoming session for women of all ages, from all walks of life. 12.30-2.30pm, Boardroom, [Central Library](#), George IV Bridge. Free but booking is required via eventbrite [here](#). This event forms part of ***In Their Own Write – Women and Words***, a festival of talks, exhibitions and workshops organised by **Glasgow Women's Library**, **Edinburgh City Libraries** and the **Bonnie Fechtters** women's group.


**Chatterbooks:** a fun reading group for children aged 8-12  years. If you like books, come along and meet new friends, chat about books and join in games and competitions. 3.45-4.45pm, [Fountainbridge Library](#), 137 Dundee Street. Free. For more information please ask in the library, call 0131 529 5617 or email [Mohammed.boussabou@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Mohammed.boussabou@edinburgh.gov.uk).



**Edinburgh Festival of Cycling** continues today! Rides, films, talks, drama, books, photos, workshops and lots more. Today's events include the **Spokes' Bike Breakfast** and talks by **Shannon Gilpin**, activist and National Geographic Adventurer of the Year, and **Christine Thomson**, the Papercut Artist (see separate listing). For more information please see the festival's website [here](#) or its Facebook page [here](#), or pick up a programme from many venues across the city and beyond, including libraries, leisure centres and many shops. Ends 21st June 2015.



**Visually Impaired Tour and Workshop – REFLECTIONS: a series of changing displays of Contemporary Art.** A free descriptive tour and practical workshop for the visually impaired. 10am-3.30pm, [Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art ONE](#), Belford Road (the workshop will end at Modern Art TWO). Booking is required and may be made by calling the Information Desk on 0131 624 6560.

**Common Weal Edinburgh North & Leith Book Group:** discussing  **Naomi Klein's** most recent book on capitalism and climate change ***This Changes Everything***. 7.30pm, [Pear Tree House](#), West Nicolson Street. All welcome.

**Lunchtime Concert: Will Pickvance – Piano Speak.** 12.15pm, [St Giles' Cathedral](#), High Street. Free.

**Get Organised: Music with Edinburgh Connections.** John Kitchen

plays music by the blind organist **Alfred Hollins**, two preludes by **Kenneth Leighton**, **Cecilia McDowall's** new piece ***Celebration*** and ***A Scottish Tuba Tune*** by **Donald Sprink**. 1.10-1.50pm, [Usher Hall](#), Lothian Road. Tickets cost £4 on the door and may also be booked in advance [here](#) (transaction fee applies).


✖ **The Artist's Route: Glasgow to Edinburgh via Buckingham Palace – and various stops in between.** Born in Glasgow, **Christine Thomson DA – the Papercut Artist** – has had a passion for drawing all her life, from her first poetry illustration in Primary 5 to a pen and ink of her Raleigh bicycle as a GSA portfolio piece, to designing the **Commonwealth Games** papercut and an invitation to the **Queen's Baton Relay** launch. The commemorative papercut for the Edinburgh Festival of Cycling is her latest piece. 2-3pm, [Central Library](#), George IV Bridge. Free but booking is required via eventbrite [here](#). This event forms part of **Edinburgh Festival of Cycling 2015**.


**Getting Started at the National Library:** learn how to get a ✖ library card, find your way around the library and request materials from the collections – the workshop includes a tour of the reading rooms lasting approximately 90 minutes. 10.30am, [National Library of Scotland](#), George IV Bridge. Free but booking is required and may be made online [here](#) or by calling 0131 623 3734. If you wish to apply for a library card on the day please bring proof of identity with you (details on NLS website [here](#)). For more information about this workshop please email [enquiries@nls.uk](mailto:enquiries@nls.uk).


✖ **Ewan Morrison: How I Accidentally Invented the Selfie 25 Years Ago.** Award-winning author, screenwriter and director Ewan Morrison's ***Screen Play: A self-portrait*** has been recently acquired for the **Scottish National Portrait Gallery** collection. In this talk Morrison will give a brief history of **postmodern art**, considering how his own artwork fits into it – and how it really doesn't. 12.45-1.30pm, Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed.



**Picturehouses E4 Slackers' Club:** a monthly free screening for students. This month's film is *Entourage: The Movie*, 'a high octane, Hollywood-set comedy'. 9pm, [Cameo](#), Home Street. Tickets may be obtained by calling the Box Office on 0871 902 5723. To join the Slackers' Club take your NUS or student photo ID card to the cinema; membership is free and existing Student Picturehouse Members have automatic membership of the club.

 **Stockbridge and Inverleith Community Council:** 7pm, [Stockbridge Church](#), Saxe Coburg Street. All welcome. For more information please see the Community Council's [website](#) or contact [stockbridgeandinverleithcc@gmail.com](mailto:stockbridgeandinverleithcc@gmail.com)

**Bi and Beyond Edinburgh:** a fortnightly social gathering for  people who identify as bisexual and non-monosexual. With organised social activities and refreshments provided, whatever your label or lack of label, we welcome you. 7-9pm, [LGBT Health & Wellbeing](#), 9 Howe Street. For more information please contact [biandbeyondedinburgh@gmail.com](mailto:biandbeyondedinburgh@gmail.com).

 **How the Scots Conquered Waterloo:** join **Owen Dudley Edwards** as he discusses his latest book, in which he recollects the battle through the paintings, literature and letters of soldiers and Scottish artists who were there. 6pm, [National Library of Scotland](#), George IV Bridge. Free but booking is required and may be made online [here](#) or by calling 0131 623 3734.



**Leith Festival 2015: CultFusion #1.** Poets **Nancy Somerville**, **Jo McFarlane**, **Angus Reid** and **Rex Sweeny** join forces with singer-songwriter **Kriss Robb** for a spirited evening of widely contrasting poetry and music. 8pm, [Constitution Bar](#), Constitution Street. £3 on the door. For further information



please contact [julianjmcenroe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:julianjmcenroe@yahoo.co.uk).

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# Five things you need to know today



**New Airlink buses**

**Friends of the Meadows**

**Custom House Leith**

**Daniel Scott**

**Learning Disability Festival**



New buses were shown off at the airport yesterday which will now take passengers between Waverley Bridge and Edinburgh Airport on the 100 route.

Holiday-makers flying via Edinburgh Airport will be able to benefit from a new fleet of buses that are being put into service in time for the busy summer season.

The 12 new Airlink vehicles which will be in service from 1 July have been designed to compliment the modern feel of the tram service and with reduced maintenance costs will lower air quality emissions.

The launch of the new vehicles comes on the back of a successful first year for Edinburgh Trams and a hugely important time for transport in Edinburgh and the surrounding areas. In addition to Edinburgh Airport's significant expansion, The Queensferry Crossing is set to open next year and the new Edinburgh Gateway station, which will link passengers from the Fife line and North East Scotland to the airport, scheduled for completion in 2016.

Picture shows : Jim McFarlane (General Manager of Lothian Buses), Lesley Hinds (Chair of Transport for Edinburgh and John Watson (Chief Commercial Officer at Edinburgh Airport

*Photographer Ian Georgeson, 07921 567360*

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Friends of Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Summer newsletter is now available on their website [here](#).

They look forward to seeing you at the AGM on June 26th at the Croquet Club, 7:30 pm.

\*\*\*

Scottish Historic Buildings Trust has sublet the Custom House in Leith on month by month basis, with cultural social enterprise group [Out of the Blue Arts and Education Trust](#) as the preferred tenant.

The Council will remain landlord for the building, and will work with SHBT to develop a feasibility study into long-term plans for the building. We had a look inside on Sunday when there was an open day to allow local people to contribute their ideas for the future of the building.

[The Edinburgh Reporter -Custom House Leith](#) from [Phyllis Stephen](#) on [Vimeo](#).

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# Edinburgh International Book Festival 2015: Around the World – with Two Goats



‘What unites us’, says Janet Smyth, ‘is our stories.’

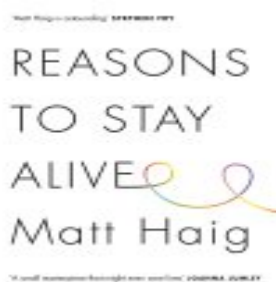
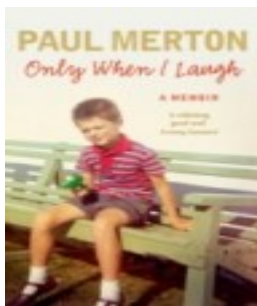
Janet, **Edinburgh International Book Festival Children and Education Programme Director**, is speaking at the launch of the 2015 programme, and what a programme it is. As ever there are famous names a plenty – from **Paul Merton** to **Celia Imrie**, **Ian Rankin**, **Rev Richard Coles** and **Mark Rylance** – but this year the festival’s main theme is **‘Around the World’** – Scotland as an outward-looking nation. The work of authors and poets from as

far afield as **Iceland** and **Nigeria** will feature alongside those of different cultures within Scotland itself; the festival will aim to create an environment that welcomes speakers of each and every one of the **140 languages** we can now hear without leaving the country. The art of translation will also be considered; in the ***Talking Translation*** thread, acclaimed translator **Daniel Hahn** will chair sessions on writers as diverse as **Georges Simenon**, **Christine De Luca**, **Elif Shafak** and **Juana Adcock**.



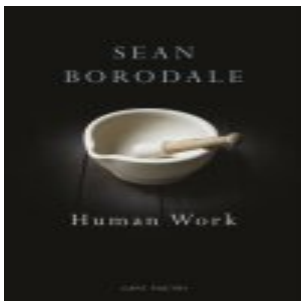
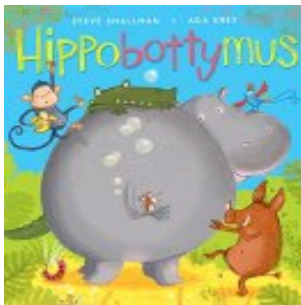
As we look out, so we need to look in: **mental health**, or ***Staying Well***, is another of this year's EIBF themes, and a very topical one too. In what promises to be a fascinating

hour, **Professor Andrew Scull** looks at the historical clashes between **Reason and Unreason**, reflecting on the ways in which different times and places have responded to 'madness'. Just what does that term mean? And why do some societies see it as a challenge? Other sessions look at **psychosomatic illness, teenage stress** and **dementia**, whilst several writers – including **Matt Haig, John Burnside, Paul Merton** and **Debi Giori** – talk about their own experiences of mental illness.



Sometimes we just want to escape from all of life's many woes and enjoy a good revel in other people's (fictional) misfortunes; **crime writing**, from the cosy to the very *noir* indeed, is as popular as ever, and the 2015 festival offers at

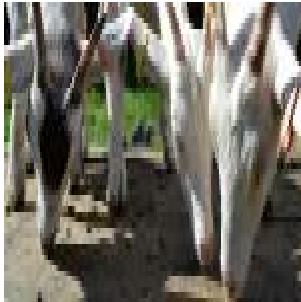
least twenty versions of it – so whether you prefer tough-cops-with-issues or salt-of-the-earth detectives with cups of tea, there's plenty here for you. Sticking to its international promise, the programme includes thrillers set in **Scandinavia, the Netherlands, Portugal, Italy, China**, and that most impenetrable of all places – **Aberdeen**.



From **Liz Lochhead** to **Beowulf**, poetry is alive and well in the EIBF programme. From poets in translation to poets in the kitchen (**Sean Borodale** wrote ***Human Work: A Poet's Cookbook*** 'live' among the pots and pans), Charlotte Square will be alive with sound of verse, whilst children can learn how to be a rhyming word wizard with **Elli Woodward** (***Woozy the Wizard: A Broom to Go Zoom***) and dance and sing along with **Steve Smallman's** 'bonkers rhyming story' ***Hippobottymus***.



I used to think I was pretty good at reading to my children – until one of their friends told me only *her* Mummy could do a proper Anne Shirley, and one of my own explained that she'd really rather read Harry Potter to herself, despite my excellent rendition of Professor Umbridge... The authors coming to the **Baillie Gifford Children's Programme** will, I am sure, do a much better job; they include **Nick Sharratt**, **Cressida Cowell**, **Frank Cottrell Boyce**, **Jacqueline Wilson** and the inestimably wonderful **Patrick Ness**; Patrick delivered a cracking **Siobhan Dowd Memorial Lecture** last year – in 2015 **Matt Haig** will take up the baton in what promises to be an equally inspiring session. Again the festival's *Around the World* theme is highlighted, with writers from **Finland to France, Australia and Poland**. Meanwhile, for those fed up with sitting still, willow artist **David Powell** invites everyone to help him make a sculpture from *Alice in Wonderland*, and **Gorgie City Farm** introduces **Moonlight** and **Shadow**. No they're not aristocratic racehorses – they're pigmy goats, and just as entitled to their dreams as you are.



Of course there's lots, lots more going on at this year's EIBF. Art, music, nature, history, science, biography, politics (yes, **Alex Salmond** and **Gordon Brown** are both here, though, perhaps sensibly, not in the same tent... plus **Lesley Riddoch**, **Polly Toynbee**, **Alan Johnson**, **James Naughtie** and **Nicola Sturgeon** herself – though don't start hassling the poor woman, she's here to talk crime with **Val McDermid**, not EU quotas with you lot).

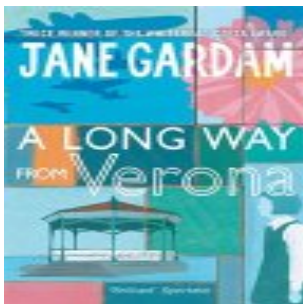
**Booking** for all EIBF events opens on 23rd June 2015 and may be made in person, by phone or online – some events sell out very quickly, so have your list ready! (though the less high profile events are very worthy of your attention too; one of my favourite sessions last year was [Books That Win](#), a fascinating discussion about the value – or otherwise – of awards for YA fiction, and one of the reasons I liked it so much was that the speakers – **William Sutcliffe**, **Theresa Breslin** and **Moirra Young** – had such interesting ideas). The full programme is available online and the paper version is



widely available throughout the city in libraries, bookshops and many other venues.



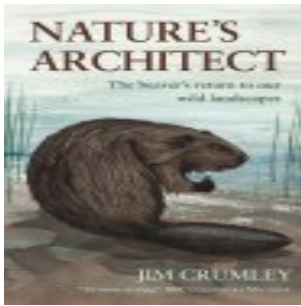
And just because I want to, here is my personal **Top Five** from this year's programme – see you in Charlotte Square, and let's hope it's sunny:



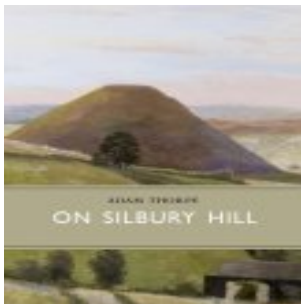
**Jesse Jackson: *A Formidable Activist*.** The Reverend Jesse worked for **Martin Luther King** in the 1960s, and in his later career specialised in high-profile international diplomacy, negotiating with **Fidel Castro**, **Saddam Hussein** and **Slobodan Milosevic**. He will discuss his life of campaigning for black rights and understanding. 8.15pm, Saturday 22nd August.

**Jane Gardam, Penelope Lively & Eileen Atkins with Lennie Goodings: *The Female Gaze: Great Parts for Older Women*.** Two of Britain's best-loved and highly acclaimed authors talk about some of their favourite older heroines from their own novels;

Eileen Atkins provides the readings. 5pm, Monday 17th August;



Jim Crumley



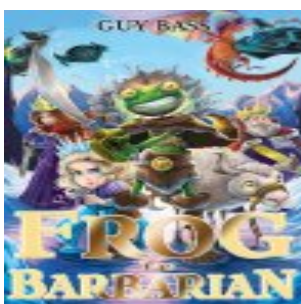
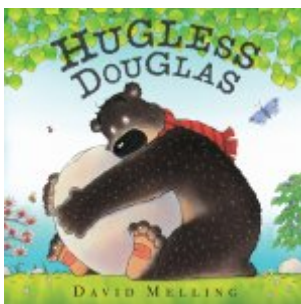
**Jim Crumley and Adam Thorpe: *The Joy of Britain's Natural Landscapes*.** Two distinctive voices with widely differing perspectives on the countryside. Jim Crumley has been described as 'the best nature writer working in Britain today', and he's certainly one of the best speakers on the subject; he will talk about his new book, ***Nature's Architect***, a study of the reintroduction of beavers at several UK sites. Adam Thorpe's prize-winning novel ***Ulverton*** was described by none other than **John Fowles** as 'the most interesting novel I have read these last years...suddenly English lives again'; his new book ***On Silbury Hill*** conjures up an alluring landscape and a journey into the imagination. 12.15pm, Thursday 20th August;



**Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow: *One in a Million*.** After watching a

1992 news bulletin about war-torn Bosnia, Magnus and his brother decided to take a week off work to help; neither of them anticipated that their one-off road trip in an old Landrover would grow into Magnus's life work, leading him to leave his job, sell his house, and direct all his efforts to feeding thousands of the world's poorest children. In ***The Shed That Fed A Million Children***, Magnus explains how a series of miraculous circumstances and an overwhelming display of love from those around him led to the creation of **Mary's Meals**, an organisation that could hold the key to eradicating child hunger forever. When it started in 2002 the charity provided meals to just 200 children in Malawi – now over one million children in twelve countries benefit from its work, and Magnus has been named one of **Time's 100 Most Influential People**.  
10am, Monday 17th August;

And finally- the one you've been waiting for...



**Animal Antics:** a free, drop-in afternoon with stories about

lots of animals, from *Hugless Douglas* to *Frog the Barbarian* and *Vampire Rats*. And *Moonlight* and *Shadow*, of course. 1-4pm, Saturday 15th August. In association with **Gorgie City Farm**.



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## Summer Solstice Whisky Festival comes to Edinburgh this weekend!



In association with the Scotch Malt Whisky Society, The Whisky Lounge is bringing something exciting and different to Edinburgh.

[tweet\_box design="default"]On the Solstice weekend there will be a spectacular live concert and evening of whisky tasting and fun in the beautiful, but normally private Queen Street Gardens.[/tweet\_box]

The Sundown promises entertainment in the form of local Edinburgh boy Stu Larsen, playing an exclusive acoustic set from his 2014 Vagabond album as well as high-energy blues from The Dan Hudson Band. Stu rarely gets to play in his native Edinburgh and this is a rare chance to catch him before he embarks on a European Tour for much of 2015, and Dan is one of the finest young electric blues guitarists on the circuit and has been compared to a young, Bluesbreaker-era Eric Clapton and Stevie Ray Vaughan.

While listening to this incredible pairing customers can look forward to tasting some amazing whiskies from a vast selection from the SMWS as well as their innovative whisky ice-cream and all-night BBQ. But as well as this we will also have a reasonably priced bar, a Champagne bar, plenty of delicious craft beer on tap and a huge BBQ for you to enjoy.

A chance to kick back with some top whisky (or wine!) and enjoy the superb and exclusive acoustic set from [Stu Larsen](#) and the high-octane blues from The Dan Hudson Band.

A little different to any of our events to date. The Solstice Sun Down is all about relaxing and enjoying some great drinks with some great music and with the gorgeous surroundings of the Queen St Gardens it should be a belter. You will also get a host of freebies included with your ticket from Whisky, exclusive discounts and even whisky ice cream too.

Eddie Ludlow, founder of The Whisky Lounge, said; 'This is a fantastic opportunity to show off what we love the most – whisky and music. To have the quality of whisky and music we will have under one roof is immensely exciting and the 200 lucky people who manage to get tickets will be delighted with the show.'

[The event](#) takes place from 7pm to 10pm in Queen Streen Gardens.

Tickets for the event are £20 and can be bought exclusively through [itison.com](http://itison.com).

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# Grassmarket Furniture – transforming lives with wood



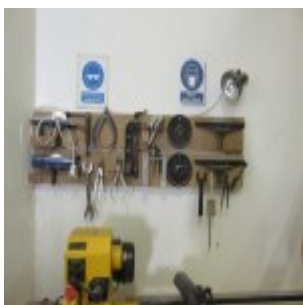
‘I need three things to make this work’ says Tommy Steel, ‘pews, guys and commissions’.

Tommy is the manager of **Grassmarket Furniture**, one of the social enterprises within the **Grassmarket Community Project**. He’s too modest to mention the fourth essential ingredient: Tommy himself, who runs the workshop with exceptional skill, enthusiasm and commitment. Grassmarket Furniture doesn’t just transform old wood; it transforms lives.



Today the Grassmarket Community Project is a thriving centre, housing not only the woodwork shop but also a state-of-the-art conference hall, cafe and tartan textiles group. The Project

runs all sorts of classes and groups for its members – from **cooking** to **art**, **IT**, **photography** and **sewing**. Although GCP works primarily with vulnerable adults – people with extra support needs or health issues, ex-offenders, the homeless – anyone can join, and can then sign up for classes. The GCP has come a long way from its origins as a soup kitchen; only a few years ago the old building was run down and poorly maintained, offering those in need a meal but not much else. Today the building is full of light, life and hope – there's masses going on, people are in and out all day; there is a real sense of joy about the place. Tommy tells me how this came about.



Originally a joiner, Tommy decided he fancied a career change



and moved into the care sector. He loved the work, moved up the ladder and became involved with the Edinburgh **Cyrenians**. Meanwhile, the Rector of **Greyfriars Kirk** (to whom the building belongs) was hatching a little plan; the pews were being removed from his and many other churches – people wanted to make the buildings multi-purpose, to install seating that could be moved around – what if a project could be set up to recycle those pews into new furniture? And even better, what if that project could be of benefit to GCP's members? The Rector didn't have to look far to find the perfect man for the job; Tommy's been running it ever since, and says it's the best job he's ever had. He started Grassmarket Furniture in a portakabin in the Greyfriars Kirkyard, asking members from the art class that GCP was by then running if they fancied trying a bit of woodwork. The sessions grew and grew, and in the meantime funding was found to redevelop the old Kirkhouse; **Gareth Hoskins Architects** designed the award-winning building you see today, slotting this stunning contemporary structure into the tight space available.



The atrium and hall are double-height, and on the upper floor smaller rooms, including the wood shop, are set around the hall, which had to be suitable not only for GCP events but as a high quality letting venue to provide an income stream to the project. Grassmarket Furniture now inhabits a very smart workshop, kept in shipshape condition by Tommy and his team.







On Fridays, Tommy runs a 'beginners' group' for people who've not worked with wood before. Many people have been referred to him by other agencies, but some simply get in touch; anyone who shows commitment is welcomed. By the end of just one day, each person will have made something – a clock, a pen, a tea-light holder; it's so important, says Tommy, to let them see they can achieve something, to be able to say 'Well done' to people who've never heard that before. Today a new member is just finishing his piece. 'What kind of wood is that?' asks Tommy 'Douglas fir' comes the quick reply – this from someone who's been in the workshop less than six hours; Tommy keeps them on their toes.





Once members are a little more confident, they can move on to the Tuesday and Thursday sessions; soon they are making tables, chairs and all manner of beautiful pieces, and also mentoring new beginners on Fridays – another confidence-boosting exercise. Tommy also teaches poker-work or **pyrography** – the art of decorating wood with burn marks – and if that sounds simple, just wait till you see some of the results. At present the group is making the awards for the **Edinburgh International Film Festival**, to be presented at the Filmhouse on 26th June (a ceremony that the whole group will attend); yes, the trophies that may be taken home by some of the most famous filmmakers in the world are being created right here at GCP, and having seen them I can tell you they will be cherished. There's also a small exhibition of GCP members' pyrographic art work at the Filmhouse throughout the Film Festival.





Sometimes even Tommy is surprised by people's talents; one girl who'd been sleeping on the streets produced a stunning picture, freehand, on her first day at the project – she's now running her own furniture business, exporting her work to California and Israel, and has just had her first mortgage approved. Another member who had not worked for years and could hardly speak for shyness now has a full-time job and has just been promoted.

Tommy works hard to create a 'normal' atmosphere, one that makes people want to come in to work – there's lots of banter, but no swearing or bad behaviour, and people are expected to turn up on time and do a good day's labour. He expects the trainees to take the standards of the workshop out into their everyday lives; he shows them respect, and by goodness do they respect him. The structure and order of the workshop give members something they may never have experienced before; a reason to get up in the morning and, as Tommy says, 'to start enjoying life'. Members play an important part in team

meetings too – there is no ‘them and us’ at GCP, and the whole group has been to tea at **Holyrood House** and, at the invitation of **Baron Wilson of Tillyorn**, visited the **Palace of Westminster**.



Tommy is a not only a genius at sourcing pews, which he travels up and down the country to collect; he’s also brilliant at selling the very same wood back to the people who gave it to him. Many congregations are only too pleased to commission Grassmarket Furniture to make pieces from the pews – beautiful lecterns and altar tables for the churches themselves, and personal items for individuals. The circular seats around the trees in the Grassmarket were made here, as were the display cabinets in Greyfriars’ Kirk. There’s never any shortage of work – in fact, there’s a waiting list.



When the **General Assembly of the Church of Scotland** was refurbished, Tommy was in there rescuing the balustrades – they’ve now been made into limited edition **Assembly Lamps**, each one coming with a certificate of authentication and the history of the members who worked on it. All 55 have been snapped up, many by past Moderators; at £100 each it’s what Tommy calls ‘a good bit of business’. And business is important to Tommy, because Grassmarket Furniture is **totally self-funding**, and he likes it that way. Not being dependent on short-term grants, he can decide how long each members stays with the group – some may need three months, others six months, some three years or more, but Tommy keeps them for as long as it takes. His goal is to build up people’s skills *and* their self-confidence, to help them move out into the world, ‘I take each one on a journey, and I decide when he or she is ready to move on’.



The wood workshop even contributes to other GCP projects; there are seven herb beds out in the beautifully kept kirkyard, the produce from which is used to make lip balms and soaps in herbal crafts classes every Wednesday. Sawdust from the woodwork is used in compost for the herb beds (it can't be used for pet bedding as it may contain other debris); everything is recycled. The kirkyard is of course worth a visit in itself; JK Rowling is said to have found inspiration for her characters' names among the headstones of the departed, and Harry Potter tours pass through daily, especially as they can also get a good look at the alleged model for Hogwarts, George Heriot's School.





Back in the Centre, the cafe is serving up coffees, cakes and delicious healthy meals (all made on site by a team of professionals and GCP members). Tartan versions of **Greyfriars Bobby** are on sale, although most of the tartan is used for commissions, with the group's work travelling as far as the USA and Shanghai. The recent **Greyfriars Tartan Design Competition** attracted entries from across the world. Tommy, of course, has his own Greyfriars tartan kilt and waistcoat, though I don't think he wears them to sand down the pews.

It's almost 4pm now and the woodworkers are getting ready to go home. When everything's been tidied up, Tommy says goodnight to each one of the group individually, asking them about their plans for the weekend, telling them he'll see them next week; for him that's what it's about, treating people with respect. Most of us enjoy that privilege every day; some GCP members have never experienced it before in their lives.

The average cost of keeping someone in care is, says Tommy, £24,500 per annum, and most will stay dependent on some sort of care all their lives, a total cost of at least £1.25 million per person. Tommy is saving that money with each person whose life he turns around, but for him it's not about the money;

'We don't choose the families we are born into. These are

people who have been abused, who end up lost in the world. I'll work with them for as long as it takes to give them independence and a reason to get up in the morning. I love my job.'



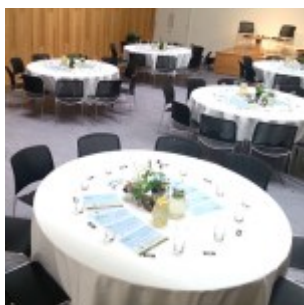
A big thank you to Tommy for giving up his time to tell me about this inspirational project.

The Grassmarket Community Project is at 86 Candlemaker Row, tel: 0131 225 3626.

The **Grassmarket Community Cafe** is open 8am-4pm Monday to Saturday; it is wheelchair accessible and has highchairs and free wi-fi – as well as fantastic food and friendly staff!



The Project has a **programme of events** to which all are welcome; the next one is a free screening of **Pride** on Monday 15th June at 7pm. Although many events are free, any donations that you can make towards this wonderful project will be much appreciated.



The GCP hall is available to hire for **conferences, wedding**



**receptions, corporate events, ceilidhs, theatre**, etc. It has a full theatre licence and state-of-the-art lighting and sound systems (technical assistance available if required). Catering is also available, from buffets to the full dining experience. Please contact the **Enterprise Manager, Alexander Glen-Bott**, on 0131 225 3626 for more information, or complete the contact form on GCP's website [here](#).



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## Parking attendant assaulted in Hamilton Terrace



Police in Edinburgh are investigating an assault on a City of Edinburgh Council Parking Attendant in the Duddingston area which took place around 9am yesterday in Hamilton Terrace when a Parking Attendant approached a driver outside St. John's Primary School who had parked on yellow zigzag lines.

Officers are investigating reports that the driver then drove at the parking attendant and struck his leg before leaving the scene.

The driver is described as a white man in his 30s – 40s with a medium build and he was driving an estate style vehicle.

The victim was shaken however did not sustain any injuries.

Sergeant Mark Pickavance said: "This was a distressing incident for the victim, which took place in the presence of a number of young children and their parents right outside a primary school.



“A number of parents witnessed the driver’s actions and have come forward. Positive lines of enquiry are being investigated in order to identify the driver of the vehicle.

“Anyone who witnessed this incident, or who has information which can help with our enquiries and has not done so already, is asked to come forward.”

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

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## Edina Hibs complete 50-year circle



Edina Hibs, one of the best-known names in Boys’ Club football in Scotland, have agreed to become a key part of Hibernian Community Football Club – and in doing so has helped complete a 50-year circle.

The club was originally to nurture local talent for Hibernian FC in 1965 under founding members Harry O’Neil and Jimmy McManus, the latter of whom went on to have a successful career as Hibernian FC’s chief scout.

Players such as Alex Copley, John Brownlie, Willie Miller, Keith Wright and John Hughes have come through Edina’s ranks to join Hibernian, while names like John Robertson and Christophe Berra have enjoyed successful careers at other clubs.

Now Edina, which is based at The Jewel, is becoming part of the Hibernian Community Foundation as the foundation stone of

the Hibernian Community Football Club, with its teams playing in Hibernian colours.

With Edina Hibs based in Edinburgh, the Community Club will also have a base at HTC for East Lothian players who wish to play in Hibernian colours. All teams will benefit from the expertise of Hibernian coaches.

Eddie Lamb, Chairman of Edina Hibs, said: "We are delighted at this merger with Hibernian, a major Scottish Club with whom Edina has enjoyed a life-long association. Our youngsters will now gain from input from one of the very best community and youth coaching set-ups in the country.

"We now look forward to working with our colleagues to develop a grassroots community football set-up, with bases at The Jewel and at the Hibernian Training Centre in East Lothian. We will be looking to recruit more players and more coaches as we expect to see numbers grow very significantly."

Wendy McAdie, Chief Executive of Hibernian Community Foundation, said: "The coming together of Edina and the foundation is a perfect match. Edina brings many years of expertise in grass roots football and a history that is testament to all that is best in youth football.

"That means we can now attract more players, more coaches, and have more youngsters playing in Hibernian strips every day – something that will be of great benefit to the Club in the future. This is a significant step forward in our plan to develop a Community Football Club that is second to none in its scale and ambition."

Keith Wright, League Cup winning hero with Hibernian, said: "Edina has produced a lot of good footballers over the years who have played for both Hibs and Hearts. It is a great name in Scottish grass roots football, and as an old boy myself I am delighted at the link between Edina and Hibernian, two names which mean a lot to me.

“Edina provided me with a grounding in football which was a tremendous start to me in my career. It has been a club that has benefitted thousands of lads, providing access to football and physical activity. I am delighted that this link will see the club thrive and prosper as part of Hibernian in the years to come.”

Edina Hibs have been supported over the past 50 years by the Jewel Miners Club and will now continue to go from strength to strength into their next half-century.

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## **Police investigate indecent exposures in Oxbgangs**



Police are appealing for witnesses following two reports of public indecency in the city which took place around 2.45am on Sunday 14th June after two women got off a bus in Oxbgangs Road North, outside the Oxbgangs Library.

Both women then saw a male standing nearby exposing himself. They returned home and contacted police.

Sometime around 3.20am the same morning a 19-year-old woman got off a bus in Comiston Road when a male approached and exposed himself to her.

This incident was also reported to police, who believe the same individual is responsible.

The suspect is described as white and wearing a dark jacket and light-coloured trousers. In addition, he was wearing a balaclava during both offences.

Detective Sergeant Jon Pleasance said: “At no point did the male attempt to touch or harm the witnesses but this was a very distressing experience for them, nonetheless.

“I would ask anyone who remembers seeing any suspicious activity in either Oxbgangs Road North, or Comiston Road, in the early hours of Sunday morning, to contact police immediately.

“Similarly, anyone who recognises the description of the suspect is also asked to come forward.”

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

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## **Police release CCTV image following public indecency in Lister Square bar**



Police have released CCTV footage of a man they wish to trace in connection with a public indecency investigation which took place around 8.20pm on Saturday 16th May in the No 8 Lister Square bar at 8 Lister Square, Edinburgh.

Detectives are keen to speak to the man pictured in relation to the ongoing enquiry and anyone who can assist in establishing his identity is asked to come forward.

He is described as white, around 6ft tall and between 60 and 70 years old. He is of medium to heavy build with grey hair in a side parting.

He was wearing a navy crew neck jumper, khaki green fleece and navy cords.

Detective Constable Johnson said: "This was a very distressing incident for the young woman in the bar and we are continuing with our enquiries.

"Anyone who can help us trace the male pictured within the CCTV footage is asked to contact police immediately."

Anyone with information can contact Police Scotland on 101 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111

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## **Man arrested and charged following firearms incident in Liberton**



A man has been arrested and charged following a firearms discharge which took place in the early hours of Wednesday 11th March outside an address in Kenilworth Drive.

No one was injured and Police Scotland has since been conducting various enquiries into the offence.

The 24-year-old will appear in court at a later date.

Detective Inspector Stuart Harkness said: "We are committed to tackling serious organised crime and associated offences including the possession and discharge of firearms.

"Incidents such as these are rare within Edinburgh but when they do occur we will utilise all resources at our disposal to

bring those responsible to justice.

“I would urge our communities to contact us on 101 if they have any information relating to the use or whereabouts of firearms. Alternatively, they can pass on information anonymously through the charity Crimestoppers by calling 0800 555 111.”

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## Rowing – Queensferry Regatta



*Words and Image by Donal Ferrie (Queensferry Rowing Club)*

Queensferry Rowing Club in partnership with North Queensferry Rowing Club will be hosting their annual Regatta on Saturday June 27th with racing starting from 10am. The Regatta will bring St Ayles Skiffs from along the Forth and further afield to compete over a 2km course between the Forth Road Bridge and Queensferry Harbour. Scottish Coastal Rowing is a Community based initiative with the participant clubs competing in boats built by their respective local communities based on a design by boat builder Iain Oughtred. The Regatta is going ahead with the kind assistance of Bosun's Locker and Port Edgar Marina.

The best viewing area will be at Port Edgar Marina and along the Shore Road under the Forth Road Bridge. Refreshments will be provided with home baking, sandwiches, rolls, tea and coffee available from Queensferry Rowing Club shed.