

# Edinburgh International Film Festival: TER's Recommendations



The return of the Edinburgh International Film Festival this morning signaled the arrival of fresh, exciting cinema on the capital's screens. New Artistic Director Mark Adams has helmed a dazzling programme; brimming with both playfulness and melancholy. The latest films from the likes of Amy Berg, Asif Kapadia and the geniuses over at Pixar seem to be hot on the lips of everyone here and are sure to pick up a great response following their screenings next month.

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[tweet_box design="box_1"]"Mark Adams has helmed a dazzling programme; brimming with both playfulness and melancholy"[/tweet_box]
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Thus, here are our most promising picks of the festival's 69th edition.

## **The Legend of Barney Thomson (Dir. Robert Carlyle)**

The festival kicks off with the directorial debut of one of Scotland's most beloved actors, Robert Carlyle. For his first outing, Carlyle has managed to rope in fellow screen talent Emma Thompson and Ray Winstone to tell this morbidly funny story of a Glaswegian barber turned serial killer. The film will have its World Premiere at the Festival Theatre on Wednesday June 17th.

## **45 Years (Dir. Andrew Haigh)**

Arriving on Scottish shores following a hugely positive response at Berlinale in February, 45 Years sees the cinematic return of acclaimed Brit director Andrew Haigh. It looks at

the torn relationship a couple share as they fast approach their 45th wedding anniversary. Tom Courtenay and Charlotte Rampling nabbed both the acting prizes at the aforementioned fest; setting this up to become one of those beautiful British festival circuit discoveries. *Playing Friday 19th June at Odeon Lothian Road and Saturday 20th June at Cineworld Fountainpark*

### **Chicken (Dir. Joe Stephenson)**

The directorial debut of young Joe Stephenson, *Chicken* is one of the festival's few rare Scottish premieres (the film had its UK premiere at Cineworld in Sheffield, the very same cinema Stephenson used to work in). A striking story of young Richard, an optimistic young boy with learning difficulties and his relationships; both familial and romantic. Richard Ayoade's female muse Yasmin Paige co-stars, and Charlie Lyne of *Beyond Clueless* serves as the film's editor. He spoke to us about the film back in January, you can read our conversation [here](#). *Playing Saturday June 27th at Cineworld Fountainpark*



### **Amy (Dir. Asif Kapadia)**

Kapadia's return to the the screen is a bold, melancholic look at the life of pop/jazz artist Amy Winehouse. Depicting her career's finest moments and those we'd heard of but never seen, music documentaries rarely delve as deep as Kapadia did here. A non-fictional masterpiece by all accounts, we gave this five stars following its world premiere at Cannes. You can read our review [here](#). *Playing Thursday 18th and Friday 19th June at the Filmhouse*

[tweet\_box design="box\_1"]"Music docs rarely delve as deep as Kapadia's Amy"[/tweet\_box]

### **Dope (Dir. Rick Famuyiwa)**

This film reeks of festival adoration and sweaty, frenetic teenage kicks. A big success at Sundance and the closing film

at Cannes' Director's Fortnight, it looks at the life and ambitions of three high school geeks and their attempts to escape their life in "The Bottoms". A coming of age story for the hip hop generation, a fairly unknown central cast is supported by the likes of Forrest Whitaker and the prince of modern rap music A\$AP Rocky. *Playing Thursday 25th and Friday 26th June at Cineworld Fountainpark*

### **Every Secret Thing/Prophet's Prey (Dir. Amy Berg)**

Of the three films documentarian Amy Berg has churned out in the past year, two of them have found their place in the EIFF programme. Known for her uncompromising depictions of the world's most caustic and beguiling characters, she has turned to fiction to tell the story of a detectives investigation into child abductions, years after their occurrence. With a cast featuring Diane Lane and Elizabeth Banks and a script by Enough Said's Nicole Holofcener, all the signs are pointing towards Every Secret Thing being an impressive fictional debut. In the Documentary strand, Berg is in familiar territory with Prophet's Prey – her examination of the leader of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and the accusations against him of child sex abuse. An absorbing one, we're sure, but we're questioning the omission of Berg's controversial work An Open Secret. A film that looks at child sex abuse in LA's young star circuit, they're billing it as the film Hollywood doesn't want you to see. We're intrigued by the thought of a last minute Berg trilogy here. If any film festival is brazen enough to screen it, it would be Edinburgh. *Every Secret Thing plays on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th June at Cineworld Fountainpark. Prophet's Prey plays Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st June at Odeon Lothian Road.*

[tweet\_box design="box\_1"]If any film festival is brazen enough to screen An Open Secret, it would be Edinburgh[/tweet\_box]

### **Last Days in the Desert (Dir. Rodrigo Garcia)**

Scottish national treasure Ewan McGregor assumes the role of Jesus Christ in this biblical epic from Colombia's Rodrigo García. An imaginative look at his forty days of fasting and praying in the desert and his encounters with the devil, *Last Days in the Desert* looks set to be a big crowd-puller. It has a one off screening in the Festival Theatre on Sunday June 21st.



### **Inside Out (Dir. Pete Docter)**

As expected, Disney/Pixar's colourful return to form has its pride of place in EIFF's animation lineup. A dazzling look into the personified imagination of a young girl, *Inside Out* is a gorgeous mix of humour and adventure with a touching philosophical flare. Pixar's best work in 5 years? We certainly think so. Read our five star review [here](#). *Playing Sunday 21st June at the Festival Theatre.*

Tickets can be purchased from the Festival Box Office at the Filmhouse, Lothian Road or online at the [Edinburgh Film Festival website](#).

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## **Police enforcement activity continues with three more arrests**



Operation RAC's dedicated housebreaking officers have arrested

three more people as enforcement activity continues within the city.

The occupants of a house in Denholm Green Avenue were awoken at around 2.10am on Tuesday 26th May and found that an attempt had been made to break into the property.

Nothing had been taken from within, however, the garden shed had been entered and various items were stolen.

A short time later a second property in Clark Road was subject to an attempted break-in and police responded quickly to the area along with Police Dog Keach.

PD Keach then traced the males to a nearby garden and both were detained.

A 14-year-old will now be reported to the Procurator Fiscal in connection with both incidents while a 25-year-old man has also been charged for these offences in addition to another housebreaking, which happened at an address in Crewe Crescent on Monday 25th May.

A third man was also arrested following a housebreaking, which took place sometime between 26th and 27th April at an address in Montpellier.

Two laptops and a sum of cash were taken during this break-in and officers had been investigating as part of Operation RAC.

One of the laptops was loaded with tracking software and initialised yesterday when the device was connected to the Internet.

As a result, Community Investigation Unit officers detained a 42-year-old man in Broomhouse Grove yesterday evening.

He was subsequently charged at will appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court today.

Chief Superintendent Mark Williams, Divisional Commander for the City of Edinburgh said: "In addition to our dedicated housebreaking teams, specialist resources such as the Dog Unit are regularly used to target and arrest these criminals.

"I want to make it clear to the public that tackling housebreaking is our top priority and we are arresting housebreakers every day as a result of our efforts. We won't stop our relentless pursuit of those responsible.

"Remember that you can help prevent housebreaking by appropriately securing your homes, outbuildings and businesses at all times. More information on crime prevention is available at [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk)."

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## New cook book launched today



Tenants and Residents in Muirhouse (TRIM) and Pilton Community Health Project held an event earlier today at Muirhouse Community Shop to launch the community Cook and Taste cookbook.

Thanks to Thomas Brown for the photos from the launch. He has more over [here](#).

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# Cycle lane changes to be introduced on George Street



A new set up for cyclists will be introduced in the city centre in September when the current trial comes to an end. This will be a conventional one-way layout not alongside the kerb but sitting in between two lanes of traffic. This means that there will again be two lanes of traffic on each side of George Street as before, with a central one-way cycle lane.

The alternative of a kerbside cycle lane has been discounted as 'less preferred' as it would not provide an 'unbroken and visible' cycle lane. The Council set up a trial in George Street last September with a temporary two-way cycle lane, a one-way system for other traffic heading east, pedestrianised areas and outdoor seating areas for some of the restaurants.

Most people have agreed that the outdoor seating 'tents' have not been a success and they are set to be removed (indeed some have already been removed) when the trial period ends at the end of the Festival. Previous arrangements such as this were trialled over the Festival and were deemed a success but it seems few people want to sit outside during the winter months.

Now that the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) is coming to an end the council has to decide whether to keep any elements of it, and they have decided that while the street will revert to two way traffic with parking along the central reservation they will retain a cycle lane here.

Traffic Regulation Orders take over a year to implement so the 'new' design will be covered by a temporary measure.

The council aims to bring George Street to life recognising

its importance as a place to work, socialise and shop.

The measures will be decided upon at next week's Transport and Environment Committee.



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## Mortonhall Memorial to be a water garden



The Multi-Agency Working Group made up of bereaved families affected by the Mortonhall 'Babies Ashes' scandal, representatives from other groups such as stillbirth and neonatal death society, SANDS Lothian, and SIMBA, the Simpson's Memory Box Appeal, have agreed upon a design for one of the two planned memorials.

The proposal is to site one memorial at Mortonhall Crematorium although recent discussions have also centred around where a second memorial would be placed. This is deemed necessary as some parents thought it inappropriate to have a memorial at the crematorium where working practices led to the 'Babies Ashes' scandal. Parents were told no ashes remained after cremation of their babies and young children which led to an enquiry headed up by Dame Elish Angiolini as well as a nationwide enquiry instructed by the Scottish Government.

A design based on a walled circular water garden for the Mortonhall Memorial is being recommended to councillors who are expected to approve the proposals next Tuesday. The other elements of the memorial may be a memorial tree or plaques to



record the babies names.

The memorial will be surrounded by a clipped beech hedge and central columbarium, which is intended to be a peaceful and private place for 'personal contemplation'. The centre of the pond may be deeper if parents would like water lilies planted there. The designer feels that the simple clean lines compliment Sir Basil Spence's design of the crematorium itself which is an A-listed building. This decision has to be ratified by the full council when they meet next month. The council will fund the costs of both memorials estimated at £250,000.

The site for the second memorial will be reported at next month's council meeting although it is believed that Princes Street Gardens is favoured. Other sites considered have included Inverleith Park, Calton Hill, Arthurs Seat and Blackford Hill.

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## **TERLive! EIFF 2015 programme as it happens**



The full programme for the Edinburgh International Film Festival 2015 will be announced today. We have set up a live blog here to capture the important parts!

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# Alan Stubbs determined to go up as champions



Hibs' Head Coach Alan Stubbs is determined to gain promotion to the SPFL as champions and therefore miss out on the uncertainty of the play-offs.

Much will depend on whether Rangers overcome Motherwell over two legs as the Ibrox side are likely to strengthen next season, whilst Motherwell will have to cut costs.

Already Stubbs is preparing for the next campaign with club captain Liam Craig leaving the club and vice-captain David Gray extending his contract until the summer of 2017.

Talks are continuing with other out of contract players and fans are waiting to hear whether favourites Dylan McGeouch and Fraser Fyvie will sign up.

Speaking to Hibs TV, Stubbs said: "I honestly believe we've got all the ingredients – now we need to go and bake the cake.

"We've got some really good players. We've come a long way – on and off the pitch.

"We've seen progress with the Share Issue, the players and all the programmes designed to give the fans their club back again.

"I think all of that will stand us in really good stead for next season.

"What's the ultimate aim? I will tell you straight away – it's to go up automatically next season.

"I was proud of the team and also proud of the way the fans

backed the players and hopefully at the end of next season we'll have our own party here to celebrate."

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## Devising a planning framework for Edinburgh City Region



Edinburgh's planning Convener Councillor Ian Perry is the Chair of an organisation called SESPlan which includes six councils from across the Edinburgh City Region. The six are charged with producing a Strategic Development Plan for the area.

A report outlining future challenges including population growth, housing shortages and environmental concerns is to be considered for approval by the SESplan Joint Committee this Friday, 29 May.

The report will then be published on the [SESPlan site](#) and all six local authority sites in the first stage in the preparation of the region's second Strategic Development Plan, which will impact on future housing development, jobs and investment.

The Edinburgh Reporter spoke to Councillor Perry and also to Councillor Stuart Bell who is Vice-Convener of the SESPlan committee about the statutory process:

The next step for the [Main Issues Report](#) is ratification by each of the member authorities (the City of Edinburgh Council, East, Mid and West Lothian, Scottish Borders and Fife) before the official consultation period runs from 21 July to the

15 September 2015.

Over this period SESplan invites comments from members of the public on the options in the report.

Further details on how to get involved will be made available shortly. Updates will be published on the SESplan [website](#), following @sesplan on Twitter or visiting their Facebook page.

Cllr Ian Perry, Chair of the SESplan Committee, said: "The Main Issues Report sets out the most important challenges Edinburgh and the South East of Scotland is facing such as population growth, housing shortages and environmental sustainability. We need to manage economic growth while protecting the region's unique environment. It is a consultation document and gives the opportunity for scrutiny, and feedback, on how best to plan for the future. We need to question preconceived ideas, explore new ones and investigate imaginative solutions to the challenges posed by the Region's success."

[tweet\_box design="default"]"I would encourage everyone interested in shaping the future of the Region to take the opportunity to tell us which option you think will best plan for future growth. It is crucial that we hear views from across all the local authority areas to ensure that the Strategic Development Plan has been scrutinised and informed by the as wide an audience as possible."[/tweet\_box]

The purpose of SESplan is to create a Strategic Development Plan, a planning document covering the whole of the Edinburgh City Region.

It is an important planning document as it is used to inform the Local Development Plan for each local authority area. It focuses on long-term strategic level planning matters which cross local authority boundaries such as housing, economic growth, green networks and infrastructure.

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# Wednesday in Edinburgh – What's On Today

**The Art of the Classroom:** an exhibition of work by pupils of **Craigroyston Primary School**. Paintings, models, pictures and drawings all reflecting the wide variety of study in the school. Opens tonight 6-7.30pm, then 10am-5pm Monday, 10am-7pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 1-5pm Thursday, [North Edinburgh Arts](#), 15a Pennywell Court, Muirhouse.

✖ **Craigmillar Employment and Learning Fair.** Find out more about real jobs, training and learning opportunities and meet representatives from a range of organisations; several employers with live vacancies will attend. 10.30am-1.30pm (drop-in), [East Neighbourhood Centre](#), 101 Niddrie Mains Road. Organised jointly by Craigmillar Library, Edinburgh College, DWP, Community Learning & Development, Third Sector and City of Edinburgh Council Employability & Skills Team.

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


**Stop Climate Chaos Scotland and Christian Aid Rally for the Climate.** Crafts, music and live performers as thousands of messages from across the country are handed to the First Minister, requesting strong political ambition on climate, both at home and internationally. All supporters welcome. 12 noon-2pm, [Scottish Parliament](#), Holyrood.

✖ **Evenings of Enlightenment:** join **University of Edinburgh** researchers on Wednesday evenings in May and June to celebrate the **2015 International Year of Light**. Experts from various disciplines will explore this fascinating area – from historical discoveries to today's cutting-edge research.

Tonight **Stefan Galander** (Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell Biology) will talk on ***You Light Up My Life: – how organisms sense light and what they can do about it.*** 6.30-7.30pm, Red Lecture Theatre, [Summerhall](#), 1 Summerhall. Tickets are free and may be booked via eventbrite [here](#).

**Nothing Ever Happens Here: Lost Map Records and Gold Flake Present Tuff Love.** Hyper-infectious, fuzzed-up lo-fi pop from Glasgow-based **Julie Eisenstein** and **Suse Bear**, with support from **Bruising** and **Alphabetical Order Orchestra**. 'Perfect pop music' (BBC Radio Scotland). For over 18s only. 8pm-late, The Dissection Room, [Summerhall](#), 1 Summerhall. Tickets cost £8 and may be booked online [here](#) or by calling the Box Office on 0131 560 1581.

**Edinburgh Gay Men's Book Group:** an inclusive group where you can meet new people and read and discuss interesting books. 7-9pm, [LGBT Health & Wellbeing](#), 9 Howe Street. For more information please contact [info@gaybookgroup.co.uk](mailto:info@gaybookgroup.co.uk).

 **Blackwell's Edinburgh and Sandstone Press Present Moira Forsyth: The Treacle Well.** David and Caroline are twins for whom the rest of the world is always distant. After the death of their mother and their father's remarriage they are sent to separate boarding schools, then a dramatic accident when they are students divides them again. The repercussions last for years, as they cut themselves off from the relatives who raised them and the cousins who adore them. Underneath the stable family life their grandparents worked so hard to establish run currents of insecurity and restlessness, and a secret only one person is able to uncover. 6.30pm, [Blackwell's](#), South Bridge. Free tickets may be obtained from Blackwell's front desk, by calling 0131 622 8218, emailing [events.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk](mailto:events.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk) or via eventbrite [here](#).

**LGBT Icebreakers:** if you want to meet new people, are just coming out or don't feel confident going out on the 'scene', try this informal, fun and friendly social group for LGBT

people and anyone questioning their sexuality or gender identity. For over 18s. 7.30-9.30pm, **The Regent Bar**, Montrose Terrace. For more information please contact Alison Wren on 0131 652 3283 or email [alison@lgbthealth.org.uk](mailto:alison@lgbthealth.org.uk).

✖ **The First World War in Cinema: *Gallipoli/Gelibolu* (PG)** (in English and Turkish with English subtitles). More than 120,000 soldiers lost their lives in the deadly Gallipoli campaign in 1915. To capture the human spirit of the campaign through the experience of the soldiers, this film tells the story simultaneously from both sides, focusing on the diaries and letters of two **British**, three **New Zealand**, three **Australian** and two **Turkish** soldiers, ordinary men forced by history to do extraordinary things. Director: **Tolga Ornek**. 6.10pm, 3.30pm, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Tickets may be ✖ purchased by calling the Box Office on 0131 228 2688 or online [here](#). **The First World War in Cinema** is a four-year series of films, programmed in association with the **University of Edinburgh**. Peter Weir's 1981 drama *Gallipoli* will screen in August 2015.

**Sofi's Clothes Swap:** bring as many items as you wish and leave with the same number – freshen up your summer wardrobe at no extra cost! 7pm onwards, [Sofi's Bar](#), Henderson Street.

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## Five things you need to know today



**EIFF programme launch**

**Photography project**

## Allotment survey

## Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnership

## MP's Surgery

The 2015 programme for the Edinburgh International Film Festival will be launched at the Filmhouse today.

Some snippets have already been announced with a number of Scottish titles in the 2015 Programme showcasing the works of numerous Scottish filmmakers and acting talent. From features and shorts to music documentaries, animations and exclusive gigs, this year's EIFF, which runs from 17-28 June, celebrates the very best in Scottish talent with many filmmakers and guests expected to attend this year's Festival.

As previously announced, the 69<sup>th</sup> Edinburgh International Film Festival opens with the World Premiere of Robert Carlyle's Glasgow-set THE LEGEND OF BARNEY THOMSON starring Emma Thompson and Ray Winstone, and the Closing Gala is the World Premiere of Scott Graham's IONA starring Ruth Negga (*Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.*), Douglas Henshall (*Shetland*), Tom Brooke (*The Boat That Rocked*), Michelle Duncan (*Atonement*), Ben Gallagher and Sorcha Groundsell.

Watch out for more news [here](#) as it happens!

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An Edinburgh College photographer is asking local people to take a trip down memory lane and rummage in their old toy boxes to share their most treasured childhood items for a new exhibition.

Simon Moorhouse's Nostalgia exhibition features photos of adults with their favourite childhood toys and memorabilia, exploring their attachment and the stories behind the strong bond they feel with these items.



Nostalgia is on at the Creative Exchange in Leith until 5 June.

Simon graduated with distinction from an HND Professional Photography course at Edinburgh College, and now works as a learning assistant in the college's photography department.

Simon stumbled across the inspiration for the exhibition when he was looking through old belongings and found the first cuddly toy that his mum had knitted for him, Charlie the monkey.

Simon is also keen for anyone with a nostalgic childhood item to come forward and share their stories through the Edinburgh College Facebook page and Twitter, and is offering a free professional photo shoot at the college for one lucky winner. Post a photo of your own item and tell us in one sentence why it is important to you. Simon will choose his favourite entry.

Nostalgia will be on show at Creative Exchange, 29 Constitution Street, Leith, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH6 7BS from 18 May – 5 June. Creative Exchange is open Mon-Thurs 9am-5.30pm and Friday 9am-4.30pm. Admission is free.

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Edinburgh locals and community groups are being encouraged to put their allotments, orchards and community gardens on the map, by taking part in an online survey.

Europe's largest greenspace initiative, the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN), is conducting the research to map community growing spaces across the central belt.

Participants will be able to trace the boundary and entrances of their growing spaces, as well as answering a few questions about the places they grow in, such as the numbers of trees or plots.

The data will be used to identify the size and distribution of

these vital resources and campaign for improvements for the benefit of local communities.

Keith Geddes, Chair of the CSGN, said: “Encouraging community growing is central to the CSGN vision of creating an environment which supports healthy lifestyles and good mental and physical well-being.

“This groundbreaking research will support our work in increasing the area of land used by communities for growing plants, fruit and vegetables and I would encourage locals in Edinburgh to take part in the survey.”

The CSGN is Europe’s largest greenspace initiative which seeks to transform Central Scotland into a place where the environment adds value to the economy and where people’s lives are enriched by its quality.

As one of the Scottish Government’s national developments for Scotland in the third National Planning Framework, the CSGN is changing the face of Central Scotland, by restoring, transforming and greening the landscape of an area stretching from Ayrshire and Inverclyde in the west, to Fife and the Lothians in the east.

The CSGN encompasses 19 local authorities across 10,000 sq km and has the potential to benefit 3.5million people, equating to 70 per cent of Scotland’s population.

The survey runs until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015. It takes a few minutes to complete and the information will be used to increase the number and quality of community growing spaces across the region. The findings will be collated into a report which will be made available on the CSGN website.

To take part in the survey go to <https://maptionnaire.com/en/556/>

For further information about the CSGN

visit [www.centralscotlandgreennetwork.org](http://www.centralscotlandgreennetwork.org)

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Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnership met on Monday night at Blackhall Library where it was so summery they had the door open to the gardens.

Under the chairmanship of Councillor Iain Whyte the meeting heard about a range of issues around the area including the problem of chewing gum in Stockbridge, break-ins at Maidencraig where it is said that some residents are scared to leave their homes, rubbish chutes which become blocked as rubbish cannot be taken away due to lack of access for bin lorries due to bad parking, congratulations for the North Edinburgh News who received £25,000 last year as part of the Contact in the Capital pilot and assurance that the whole report with a breakdown of all figures is released online soon.

The meeting ended after two hours with agreement on looking into setting up CCTV on the cycle path at Maidencraig to deter criminal activity.

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Joanna Cherry QC MP for Edinburgh South West is holding a constituency surgery at [Fountainbridge Library](#) on Saturday 30 May from 10.15 till 12 noon. All constituents are invited to drop in if they have any problems to discuss with her.

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# Concern for missing tourist

Updated

Missing Chilean tourist, Victor Gonzales (72) was found safe and well in Edinburgh earlier this evening

Police would like to thank members of the public and media for their help in tracing Victor. He has now been reunited with his family

A man who was last seen at the Water of Leith has gone missing. The 72 year-old Chilean is a tourist in Edinburgh and he does not speak English.

Police in Edinburgh are appealing for information to help trace Victor Gonzales who is around 5ft 8in tall with tanned skin and short white hair.

He was wearing dark grey trousers, a pink shirt and a beige, brown and blue cardigan.

Victor was last seen around 12 noon today on the Water of Leith walkway at Bells Brae with his wife and daughter.

He is Spanish-speaking and does not speak English.

Victor has not been in contact with friends or family since then and they are growing increasingly concerned for his welfare.

Anyone who might have seen Victor or who has information is asked to contact police immediately on 101.

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# Chef is up for a challenge!



A big challenge is looming for one Edinburgh chef who tomorrow night is due to serve up a three course meal to an audience of discerning experts at Scotland's foodie equivalent of the Oscars.

The catering specialists for the Scotland Food & Drink Excellence Awards have explained how they plan to meet those lofty expectations, while working within tight timescales to serve 800 people.

Chef Tom Beauchamp and planning specialist Sandy Robson are leading the 120-strong team from Sodexo Prestige Venues & Events and are remarkably unfazed by the pressure of such a high-profile test.

Sandy, 33, Account Director with Sodexo Prestige's Heritage and Events Business, said: "It's a huge challenge for sure, not least the sheer numbers involved and the scrutiny that comes when serving the great and the good in the food sector.

The awards are one of the highlights of Scotland's Year of Food and Drink and will see 800 specially invited guests gather in the National Museum of Scotland to see sought after accolades handed out in 19 fiercely contested categories.

The menu for the evening is a closely-guarded secret, but will make the most of Scotland's natural larder – and will be the culmination of months of careful planning, which started when the contract was awarded to Sodexo Prestige in August 2014.

Talented and imaginative chef Tom Beauchamp, who heads up Sodexo Prestige's development kitchen at South Queensferry, devised the menu, which went down a storm during a special tasting session for the award organisers.

It features a seafood starter which takes a traditional staple and adds a contemporary twist with some surprising flavour combinations. The main course has been designed to showcase the superb quality of Scottish meat, while the dessert also promises to surprise, with fresh, seasonal Scottish berries in several cooking styles.


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## **Craigroyston Art Exhibition opens tomorrow**

Every child at Craigroyston Primary should have one work exhibited here. Opens tomorrow Wednesday 27 May 2015.



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# Guide Dogs ride for free on the trams



Just under a year since the first paying passengers got on an Edinburgh Tram now they are welcoming trainee guide dog puppies. (Awww cute!)

The student pooches are to be given free travel on buses and trams as part of their training programme by Guide Dogs Scotland.

Over the course of last week the trainees have familiarised themselves with Lothian Buses, visiting several of the bus depots. Today the puppies took their first steps onto an Edinburgh Tram vehicle at Edinburgh Airport. Providing access to both buses and trams allows Guide Dogs Scotland to ensure that their puppy trainees are able to cope with all different environments and situations, giving their owners the confidence to travel on public transport.

**Councillor Lesley Hinds, Chair of Transport for Edinburgh said:** “Our engagement with Guide Dogs Scotland is key to our continued commitment to create an integrated and accessible transport system for everyone who wants to get around Edinburgh. Both Edinburgh Trams and Lothian Buses are determined to be at the forefront of accessibility to make a real difference to the lives of blind and partially sighted

people.”

**Tom Norris, Director and General Manager, Edinburgh Trams said:** “We want to make travelling on our trams as easy as possible for everyone. Our vehicles have been designed with high visibility handrails, and our passenger alert buttons signposted in Braille for blind and partially sighted tram users. However we are always seeking to help improve the experience for our passengers and I look forward to supporting Guide Dogs Scotland with their training.”

The work with Guide Dogs Scotland complements the recently launched ‘talking app’ which supports people with visual impairment. The app has proved to be popular with around 110,000 people updating their Transport for Edinburgh app to include it.

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## **0X184 – Wood-fired oven, craft beer and whisky**

**0X184**

***Forget fast food, this is real American cuisine.***



Nestled under Edinburgh’s South Bridge, you can smell 0X184 well before you lay eyes on it. Walking down the Cowgate, I prayed the summer BBQ smell drifting down the street was from their wood fired ovens, and was not left disappointed.

Those who are familiar with Edinburgh’s Red Squirrel, Holyrood 9A or The Southern will know that Fuller Thomson is no



stranger in Edinburgh.

Yet OX184 is taking this brand of pubs and eateries to another level. “We think that OX184 is just the next natural progression for our bars” Fuller Thomson’s operations manager informed me.

[tweet\_box design="default"]With a classic feel and stylish décor, OX184 does feel like its own creation[/tweet\_box].

One thing that struck me was that I couldn’t exactly define what this place was. Restaurant, bar or club OX184 seems to be different things to different people. Serving food from 11am-2.30am, it’s clear to be a festival favourite, but with its menu supplying an array of carefully selected meals, OX184 is far from just an afterhours eatery.



Looking for an upmarket meal? You can sample some of OX184’s ribeye steak. Matured for no less than 35 days and produced locally this meat when roasted on the wood fire oven is succulent and tasty, a real winner.



Fancy a wee tipple with your meal? the whisky and whiskey selection is dedicated to providing a user friendly supply of malts arranged by flavour and not geography. Putting some of Scotland’s finest beside American and Japanese whiskies, may surprise some, yet with a selection provided by the Edinburgh Whisky Shop, OX184 is taking care to know its products and present some of the best of Scotland merged both with the USA and the world.



This merger of American and Scottish seems to be the theme of OX184. With the craft beer on tap sourced from Tempest Brew Co in Tweedbank and their locally sourced prime and organic

meat, teamed with American style bacon scones (definitely not to be served with jam) OX184 feels like a modern merger of classics.

Some winners from the menu are the Spiced Quinoa Fritters, the Pork Belly Ribs and of course the classic Smoked Chicken Wings.

One thing is certain at least, you'll be hard pressed to just pop in to OX184 for a drink if the sweet smelling wood fired oven has anything to say about it.

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## **David Gray extends Hibs' contract and is named club captain**



David Gray has agreed to extend his contract with the club until the summer of 2017.

The former Manchester United full-back became Head Coach Alan Stubbs' first signing last summer and made 34 appearances scoring three goals during his debut campaign.

Speaking to Hibs TV, Gray said: "I'm delighted to be in a situation where I've been able to extend my deal with Hibs – I've thoroughly enjoyed my first season at the club.

"As much as it was disappointing not to achieve our goal of promotion, I'm still very excited about the future and I was desperate to be a part of it.

"Next season we need to make sure that we hit the ground

running.

“The manager has spoken to us as a group and told us we need to put down a marker early on and get back to the Premiership as early as possible.”

Stubbs welcomed the news and announced David has been appointed Hibernian’s new club captain.

Stubbs said: “This is great news as we continue to prepare for next season and it will give everybody here at the club a lift.

“I’ve also decided to appoint David our new club captain and I’m sure he will be well equipped for the role.

“Since day one, David has been an important and influential member of the squad and the supporters appreciate the qualities he brings to the team.

“David is a big part of my plans for the future and his experience and ability will be valuable as we aim to achieve promotion next season.”

Leeann Dempster said “We are delighted that David has committed to the Club for a further year.

“It is important that we build continuity at the Club and that supporters understand that their contribution whether from season tickets, buying shares or joining HSL can make a huge difference and allows myself and Alan to plan the shape of the team.”

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# Liam Craig disappointed to leave Hibs



Liam Craig has left Hibs. The 28 year-old captained the club for a season-and-a-half after moving to Easter Road from St Johnstone in the summer of 2013.

He made 74 appearances and scored 12 goals,

Earlier today Craig told the club website: "Naturally I'm disappointed to leave Hibernian, but I would like to wish everybody associated with the club all the best for the future.

"The reaction from the crowd at the end of Saturday's game was absolutely magnificent and I believe Hibernian will now build on the progress made over the course of the season.

"I always wanted to finish on a high at Hibs, but unfortunately that wasn't to be, nevertheless it's a special club with great supporters and I was very proud to captain the team.

"There is a good dressing room and coaching staff at the club and I wish Hibs every success going forward."

Head Coach Alan Stubbs thanked Craig for his contribution and wished him well for the future.

Stubbs said: "I would like to thank Liam for everything he has done for the football club – he is a model professional and has been a great ambassador for Hibernian.

"His contribution over the season was appreciated and we wish him all the best as he embarks on the next chapter in his career."

# **Pedestrian dies following collision with cyclist in West Lothian**



Police have confirmed that a pedestrian has died following a collision with a pedal cyclist in Livingston at the weekend.

The collision happened around 9am on Saturday morning (23rd May) on the Loan Footpath at its junction with Fergus Avenue.

Peter Craig (49), from Livingston who had been jogging, sustained a head injury in the collision and was taken to St John's Hospital and then the Western General where he died.

Sergeant Gary Taylor of West Lothian police said: "This was a tragic accident and our thoughts go to Peter's family at this very sad time."

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# **Curious cat found at University library**



The Scottish SPCA is seeking the owner of a curious cat who

sat outside a library for seven hours.

Scotland's animal welfare charity was alerted when the feline was spotted on a windowsill at the University of Edinburgh's library in the city's George Square.

The neutered male, who has been nicknamed Oscar, is now in the care of the Scottish SPCA's animal rescue and rehoming centre in Balerno.

Animal rescue officer Colin Arthur said, "I think Oscar is most likely a house cat who has escaped from home as he was really scared to be outdoors and hadn't moved from his spot outside the library for seven hours.

"He is in very good condition and is a lovely, friendly boy.

"Hopefully someone will recognise Oscar and get in touch so we can reunite him with his family. If not we'll find him a nice new home."

Anyone who recognises Oscar is being urged to contact the Scottish SPCA's Edinburgh centre on 03000 999 999.

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## Three more arrests as part of Police Operation RAC



Police have arrested three more men during Operation RAC enforcement activity within the city.

On Wednesday 22nd April a flat in Royston Mains Crescent was broken into and a computer games consol, computer games, jewellery and handbags were stolen from within.

An address in Wardieburn Road was then also subject to a housebreaking on Thursday 30th April, where various electrical items were stolen along with jewellery and a three-figure sum of cash.

Community Investigation Unit officers conducted enquiries into both incidents and executed a search warrant at a home in Wardieburn Terrace where various pieces of property from the break-ins were recovered.

Two men aged 25 and 21 were subsequently charged and are due to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court today (Tuesday).

As part of proactive Operation RAC patrols undertaken in the East of the city yesterday, the CIU identified a man wanted on a warrant offence in Greendykes House.

The 31-year-old will also appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court today.

Superintendent Phil O’Kane said: “In addition to the continued investigation of housebreakings across the city, which has resulted in more arrests, officers regularly conduct proactive patrols to detect and deter criminal activity.

“Housebreaking has been identified as a local policing priority and we are using a range of tactics to target the criminals committing these offences, who clearly show no respect for the property of others.

“Local communities can be reassured we are prioritising all of the specialist resources available to us to arrest the offenders and prevent further crimes occurring.

“The public can help us in our crime prevention efforts by always ensuring their homes, businesses and outbuildings are appropriately secured and to utilise additional security measures such as alarms and lighting where possible.

“Further advice on safeguarding your properties is available

by speaking with your local policing team or by visiting our website at [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk)."

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## Man reported to Procurator Fiscal following break-ins at Edinburgh churches



A 27-year-old man will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal for a series of housebreakings to churches in Edinburgh.

As part of Operation RAC the male was detained on 4th May in connection with a break-in and theft from a home in Cambridge Avenue.

He was subsequently charged with this incident.

Following further enquiry into three housebreakings at Wardie Church, St Columbas Church and St Patrick's Church, which occurred between 12th and 19th February, the same male will now be subject of a report to the Procurator Fiscal.

In addition to these offences, the male is also being reported for a similar incident at a disused church in Lorne Street, where an attempt was made to gain access via the roof on 12th February.

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# Christmas and Hogmanay celebrations in the capital return a profit



At this morning's [Culture and Sport Committee](#) councillors heard that a profit share would be paid to the city of just under £29,000 from the two festivals at Christmas and Hogmanay.

Ticket sales at Edinburgh's Christmas were up by 40% over the previous year and the number of visitors in St Andrew Square and Princes Street increased from 2.6m to 3.6m. A range of discounts was made available to locals with the EH postcode area and may have accounted for some of the improved figures.

[tweet\_box design="default"]Hogmanay had its most successful year for seven years with all events selling out in advance. 64% of the street party audience at Hogmanay comes from outside Scotland. Tickets for this year's Hogmanay event were bought by people from 70 countries. [/tweet\_box]

While it is clearly a positive outcome financially, the three year contract awarded to a consortium of Unique Events and Underbelly was worth just under £4m when it was entered into in 2013/14 so we asked Councillor Richard Lewis the city's Culture Convener and Festivals Champion if he considered that a satisfactory return:

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

The Green Group had lodged an amendment to the committee asking that the council also took into account the policing costs of £107,000 which was completely unbudgeted and unprecedented and which was paid out of the council's

Corporate Governance purse. (See below for the text of the report and the amendment which was adopted in full) The Greens were keen to ensure that the Finance Committee takes this into account when entering into any new contract.

Chas Booth, Green spokesperson for Culture and Sport, said: "Edinburgh's winter festivals are an important part of the city's cultural offering and brought in over £160m of income into the city last year.

"Greens want a transient visitor levy to ensure the economic benefits are shared with the city, but in the meantime our amendment sought to limit the council's financial exposure to the festivals. We're glad the administration accepted our proposal."



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# Edinburgh Food Trail now launched



We know Edinburgh has loads of good places to eat but now the connection has been drawn between the capital's buildings and our food heritage.

The Edinburgh Food Heritage Trail was launched today, revealing some of the hidden links between the city's unique built heritage and its food traditions, and offers visitors a new way to experience the city's World Heritage Site.

Some of the historic locations highlighted include the Georgian House in Charlotte Square with its fully-equipped eighteenth century kitchen, the banqueting house where Mary, Queen of Scots would entertain her guests with a private dessert course, and Parliament Hall which hosted Edinburgh's most lavish dinner in 1822 in honour of King George IV. The trail also shows how visitors can experience some of the city's food traditions today at places such as the Edinburgh Farmers' Market, and dine in historic style at venues like the seventeenth century Cannonball House.

The trail also reveals some little-known areas of the city's food history. For example, Edinburgh produced a series of celebrity chefs from the mid-1700s, each running their own cookery school and publishing their own best-selling recipe

book. The city was also once famed for the quality and quantity of its oysters from the Firth of Forth, to the extent that 'oyster cellar' parties were a uniquely fashionable entertainment in the city.



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The trail is available in hard copy and online at [www.ewht.org.uk](http://www.ewht.org.uk). In the autumn, a series of videos will also be produced to support the trail along with a programme of guided tours, highlighting more hidden aspects of the city's food history.

**Adam Wilkinson, Director of Edinburgh World Heritage said:** "The way to our hearts is through our stomachs, and the food heritage trail offers a completely new angle on the World Heritage Site, which the people of Edinburgh hold so dear. This trail highlights the links between our city's historic buildings and its gastronomic traditions. The aim is to encourage visitors to explore off the beaten track, to discover some of the nooks and crannies of the World Heritage Site, and to experience the city's food history on the way. Edinburgh is famed for its landmarks buildings, but this trail will show that the city's heritage is more than skin deep – our culinary traditions also helped to put Edinburgh on the map."

**Manuela Calchini, VisitScotland Regional Partnership Director, said:** "This fantastic project is certain to whet the appetite of visitors to Edinburgh, particularly in the Year of Food and Drink 2015. Edinburgh is a hotspot for tourists but it is vital the Capital continues to grow and develop its tourism offering if we want to keep attracting visitors. The Year of Food and Drink Growth Fund is designed to help businesses, with an interest in this area, to work together. With such a rich culinary history, I'm sure this self-led tour, coupled with the amazing variety of eating experiences on offer throughout Edinburgh, will help make the Capital a 'must' for foodies."

Led by Edinburgh World Heritage, the trail is a unique partnership project, bringing together a range of public, charitable and private sector partners to showcase the city's built heritage and food traditions. The project is supported by the VisitScotland Year of Food and Drink Growth Fund.

The project partners are Edinburgh World Heritage, the National Library of Scotland, the National Trust for Scotland, Victor and Carina Contini, Essential Edinburgh, the Edinburgh New Town Cookery School, Ondine Restaurant, Welch's Fishmongers, the Fudge House, Edinburgh Castle, the Palace of Holyroodhouse, and the Gardener's Cottage.

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## Tuesday in Edinburgh – What's On Today

✖ **Putting Pictures to Words: Jessica Stafford Cameron and Sir Roy Cameron.** The father-in-law and daughter-in-law duo write and illustrate children's books, including *A Highland Boyhood in Ardnamurchan*, *I Once Had a Chimpanzee* and *The Tale of Jessie the Highland Cow*. At this event they will discuss their collaboration, read from their books and show original examples of Jessica's illustrations. 6.30-7.30pm, George Washington Browne Room, [Central Library](#), George IV Bridge. Free tickets may be obtained via [eventbrite](#).

**Druids, Knights and Fairy Folk: Scottish Art and the Celtic Revival** ✖ **Dr Frances Fowle** (University of Edinburgh/Scottish National Gallery) will give a talk focusing on artists such as **EA Hornel**, **George Henry** and **John Duncan**, who drew their inspiration from Celtic myths and legends, archaeological discoveries and stylised forms of insular manuscripts like the *Book of Kells*. For adults only. 10.30am, [Lauriston Castle](#), 2a Cramond Road South. £8 per person including a tour of the castle, coffee and cake; tickets must be purchased in advance from the [Usher Hall Box Office](#), in person, by calling 0131 228

1155 or online [here](#).

✘ **LGBT Age: Hidden Gardens Tour.** An easy walk with **Greenyonder Tours** in the **Old Town**; behind the historic buildings find hidden nooks and crannies, each with a story to tell. 6.30-8.15pm, starting at the [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#), 43-45 High Street. The tour costs £2 per person and booking is essential; please email [lynda@lgbthealth.org.uk](mailto:lynda@lgbthealth.org.uk). LGBT Age is a project run by LGBT Health & Wellbeing for people aged 50+: it offers a befriending service, a social programme and information sessions.

**Islamophobia, War and the Middle East in Chaos – the legacy of Bush and Blair:** a public meeting with **Lindsey German** (Stop the War Coalition UK), **Moazzam Begg**, **Aamer Anwar** and **Safeena Rashid** from Muslim Women's Association of Edinburgh. 'A chance to hear some great speakers and participate in a discussion about the way forward'. 7.30pm, [Augustine United Church](#), George IV Bridge. All welcome. Organised by **Edinburgh Stop the War Coalition**.

✘ **100 Masterpieces from the National Galleries of Scotland:** **John Leighton**, NGS Director General, discusses his new, lavishly illustrated, book containing one hundred of the NGS's greatest and best-loved treasures. 12.45-1.30pm, Hawthornden Theatre, [Scottish National Gallery](#) (Gardens Entrance), The Mound. Free and unticketed.

**Cameo Silver Screen:** if you are aged 60+, join the Silver Screen Club – it's free to join (ask at the Box Office), and allows you to buy tickets for the special weekly screenings at just £5, with free tea/coffee and biscuits provided. ✘ Today's screenings are: ***A Girl Walks Home Alone At Night* (15)** showing at 3.30pm, ***Moomins on the Riviera* (U)** showing at 1.30pm and ***The New Girlfriend* (15)** showing at 1.10pm and 3.40pm, [Cameo](#), Home Street. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Box Office on 0871 902 5723 or online.



✖ **Looking Glass Books Presents Gavin Francis: Adventures in Human Being.** The Edinburgh-based GP and award-winning author takes you on a voyage of discovery through the human body as he discusses his latest book; drawing on his own professional experience, he blends first-hand case studies with reflections on the way the body has been imagined and portrayed over the millennia. 'A sober and beautiful book about the landscape of the human body: thought-provoking and eloquent'. (**Hilary Mantel**). 7pm, [Looking Glass Books](#), 36 Simpson Loan, Quartermile. Free tickets may be obtained in person from the shop, by calling 0131 229 2902, emailing [hello@lookingglassbooks.com](mailto:hello@lookingglassbooks.com) or via eventbrite [here](#).



**Leith Folk Club: Wendy Carle Taylor.** Best known for her moving and beautiful interpretations of contemporary and traditional songs, Wendy performs through a range of languages and genres, from folk to chanson, jazz and blues. With support **Reece Hillis**. 7.30pm, [Victoria Park House Hotel](#), 221 Ferry Road. Tickets cost £9 and may be purchased online [here](#) or via the club's text booking line on 07502 024 852.

**Edinburgh Napier University TV Graduate Show (15):** Napier's ✖ students display their much anticipated final projects on the big screen. 6pm, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Box Office on 0131 228 2688 or online

[here](#). The Filmhouse is showing the best new work from film, TV, media and animation students at Edinburgh's colleges and universities during May and June: work by **Edinburgh College** and **Edinburgh College of Art** students will follow, with the next event taking place on 2nd June – see listings.

✖ **Dementia Awareness Week 2015: Information Drop-In.** Teresa Straczynski, Dementia Adviser with Alzheimer Scotland, will be available to offer advice, put you in touch with local sources of support, help you plan for the future and assist you in navigating health and social care. 11.30am-1.30pm, [St Bride's Centre](#), Orwell Terrace. All welcome: no booking required. The Drop-In will be followed at 2pm by a **Dementia Awareness Workshop**; again all are welcome but if you would like to attend the workshop, please call St Bride's in advance on 0131 346 1405.



**Edinburgh Napier University Photography Lecture Series: Laurence Winram.** The Scottish photographer splits his time between commercial and personal projects, working for clients as far afield as New York and Singapore. 5.30pm, Lecture Theatre B2, [Edinburgh Napier University Merchiston Campus](#), 10 Colinton Road. Free, but if you are not part of the university and would like to attend, **please RSVP to Sophie Gerrard**, Lecturer in Photography, at [s.gerrard@napier.ac.uk](mailto:s.gerrard@napier.ac.uk).

✖ **Edinburgh All Comers Writers Club:** local writers get together to share/read their work and get positive feedback and constructive advice. 7.30-10.30pm, [Sofi's Bar](#), Henderson Street.

**#artcore LIVE:** Edinburgh's freshest young bands in a night of exciting unsigned acts from **Verden Studios' DEMO project**. See performers from **North Edinburgh Arts**, **WHALE Arts Agency** and **Verden Studios** take to the stage as part of the Bongo Lives! Festival. Line-up: **Zep-Tepi**, **The McRibs**, **Rachel** ✖

**Alice Johnson Arts, Pessimist, The Factory and Sugar Panthers.**  
7-10pm, [The Bongo Club](#), 66 Cowgate. Tickets cost £3 and are available via eventbrite [here](#) or on the door (sta).

**Cello in the Church: Tim Cais** (*cello*) and **Chris Harding** (*piano*) play JS Bach *Gamba Sonata No 1* and Mendelssohn *Variations Concertantes Op 17* and *Cello Sonata No 2*.  
1.45-2.45pm, [St John's Episcopal Church](#), Princes Street. Free admission.

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# Five things you need to know today



**Westminster gets down to business**

**Year of Food and Drink Scotland 2015**

**Edinburgh Dungeon are recruiting**

**Learn how to sew!**

**Forth Bridge to be considered for World Heritage Status**

The State Opening of Parliament will take place tomorrow. The House is expected to meet at 11.25am for the Queen's Speech after which the real business of the new parliament begins.

You can read more about it by clicking [here](#).

Some of our Edinburgh MPs took their oath or affirmed in the House of Commons last week

You can see two of their number Joanne Cherry QC and Michelle

Thomson [here](#) at 11.43 onwards.

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Two events taking place in Scotland's capital this summer are to benefit from funding granted through the second round of events funding awards for the Year of Food and Drink Scotland 2015.

**The Royal Highland Show** (18-21 June) has received £7,000 and the **Edinburgh Food Festival** (29 July -2 August) has been awarded £8,000.

With a potential audience of almost 200,000 people, the Royal Highland Show's funding award will support the development of 'Food to Go' maps to promote the availability of quality local food and drink available this year at the Ingliston event.

The Edinburgh Food Festival, which takes place at George Square Gardens, will be featuring a food area, street food vendors and a market place in the Spiegeltent as well as a daily programme of entertainment and theatre with live cooking demonstrations and debates.

The enticing menu of food and drink events taking place across the entire country during the Year of Food and Drink Scotland 2015 includes a series supported through a dedicated food and drink events fund, from which the latest awards – to support events from June to December – were announced last week by Tourism Minister Fergus Ewing.

\*\*\*

Edinburgh Dungeon are recruiting for people to come along and help them with their entertainment. Deadline is 1 June 2015.

*Come and join the performance team at the Edinburgh Dungeon, one of Scotland's top tourist's attractions.*

*We are currently recruiting for our busy summer 2015 season. As Edinburgh becomes the hub of creative energy during the*

*summer months, we too open our doors to all those visiting and locals who want to see some top notch theatre.*

[More information here.](#)

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*Posted by [The Edinburgh Sewcial Club – Sewing Classes](#) on [Thursday, 21 May 2015](#)*

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We already know that the Forth Bridge is a fabulous iconic structure. Now people all across the globe may become even more aware of that as the UNESCO World Heritage Committee meets next month to discuss adding it to the list.

[Read more here.](#)

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



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

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# Paul Martin – Seawrack Rising: An Exhibition at The Warburton Gallery

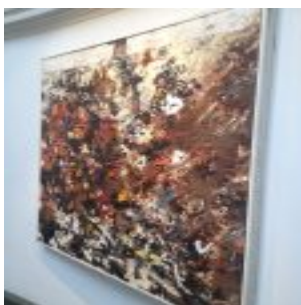
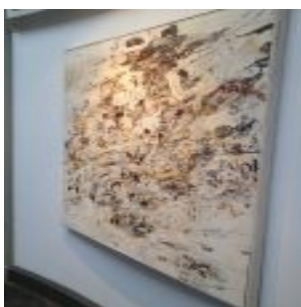


Image copyright Warburton Gallery

'I am interested in the patterns, the indentations, the writing not done by human hand...the glory of the inner workings of the place'.

In a fascinating and illuminating film accompanying this new exhibition, the artist **Paul Martin** explains the thoughts behind his some of his paintings. He's been looking, he says, at the nature of nature; what is in it? how is it made up?...what does it mean? He's interested in the qualities of wind, rain, rocks and seasons, and in depicting these in a non-naturalistic way. What gives a cloud its essence, its being? His most recent work also looks at the mystery and phenomenon of colour in connection with the material qualities of things.

The titular pieces, ***Seawrack Rising***, form a series that follows the changes in the sea as the waters churn and the plants surface, only to disappear again. The series was started on **Iona**; Martin likes to use found materials in his work, and so he arrived on the island with only a pot of varnish, sourcing his pigments and materials from nature. The first painting is white and cream with small patches of brown; a calm sea but with a hint of coming turbulence; in the second we see more brown as the seawrack starts to rise.





Martin talks of 'the rhythmic intensity...the vigour of the sea and wind...the detritus of seaweed and shells...the marks..and also the poetry...the coolness of the wind, the sticky sliminess of the weed'. Brown and black dominate the third painting; everything seems to be moving faster. As the seaweed comes to the fore, so also does all manner of detritus – bits of coloured plastic, a tiny model of a figure on a motorbike, shards of glass, old wires, string. Words are half seen; some are indecipherable but '*ACTION*' is clearly legible. In the fourth painting, the sea starts to calm again; it is still brown, but there are fewer extraneous objects, just a few squiggles of white.

✘ Martin is not making any comment on pollution, on man's despoliation of the world; the bits and pieces that wash up with the weed are instead evidence (good or bad) of our relationship with nature, 'further examples of quiddity' – the essence of the thing, the life within the landscape. ***As Above, So Below*** is a painting started in East Lothian; its base is the black sand found on one of the area's beaches, and this is studded with bottle tops, shells, small bones and rocks – things, Martin explains, that we're used to 'looking at but not seeing'. In ***Sea Swell*** blue vertical lines suggest the dynamics of the ocean, 'things more than we see', the tide patterns, the pull of the moon. 'Forget about beautiful sunlit expanses of land or sea – think about the elements of geography and geology, and the way that life springs from these cold labels'. The washes of white in ***Sounds of the Silent Sea*** convey energy and movement, a feeling of constant change, of waves washing back and forth. And again there are the words, the enigmatic 'even if it so...'


Another theme in this exhibition is maps. The wonderful ***Mundi*** looks at 'ways of thinking about where we are, locating ourselves, describing our distance from something else'. The reds and browns of the painting are scratched with many words; 'drift', 'oscillation'; more shapes are hidden – tiny

birds, the head of a cow or perhaps a dog, a basket, dragonflies. Martin speaks of **Yeats' Byzantium**, 'our distance from something mythical'.

A recent visit to **Strontian** has been the inspiration for  several paintings. It is a place whose 'atmosphere and even sounds were green and deep red and blue'. A place full of legend, history, storylines and traditions. **Faerie Road** explores the ancient idea of a valley path along which the spirit world travels; black pinhead trees and white clouds against glorious reds, blues and oranges. In **Sig Rerum** Martin again seeks the specific essence of the place; the location appears similar but now light streams down through the clouds, the brown hills are lined to reference their geology, numbers and letters appear; Martin is very interested in **Plato's** view that 'a place exists before the thing is made', and so he strives to create a satisfying painting whilst also conveying the physical and the metaphysical qualities of place. The valley, Martin found, 'seemed to trap the light' – a phenomenon he captures in **The River** and **The Corrie**.

 **The Warburton Gallery** is a superb place to show these paintings, and also to experience the accompanying music, **Orpheus Sings: A Soundscape**, a collaboration between Martin and his son **Ben**, inspired by Martin's readings of **Rilke's Sonnets to Orpheus**, and by the Orpheus myth in general. The sounds, created to reflect the dynamics of our relationship with nature, are at times reminiscent of orca whales calling to one another; Martin describes them as 'primordial'.

**Paul Martin** began his studies in the late 1960s; he has exhibited widely all over the world and is the recipient of many awards, including The British Institution Prize for Printmaking and the Royal Academy Awards for Painting and Printmaking. **Ben Martin** is a percussionist with the group **North Atlantic Oscillation**.

The Warburton Gallery is a not-for-profit organisation 



founded with the aim of fostering the imagination, facilitating the creation of new art of the highest quality and enabling artists to experiment and takes risks in their artistic practice. The gallery seeks out interesting, historic or unusual properties that are sitting empty or waiting to be redeveloped and can in the meantime be transformed into high quality exhibition spaces. It is currently housed in the magnificent domed atrium of the **India Buildings** at the junction of Victoria Street and the George IV Bridge and is open 10.30am-5.30pm Wednesday to Sunday. **Stag Espresso** (Dovecot) runs the adjacent gallery cafe, which is open 10.30am-5.30pm daily.



Paul Martin. Image copyright Warburton Gallery

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## Look out your old teddy bears!



***You are invited to look out your favourite childhood toys and have them photographed for a new exhibition.***

Simon Moorhouse's Nostalgia exhibition features photos of adults with their favourite childhood toys and memorabilia, exploring their attachment and the stories behind the strong bond they feel with these items.

Simon graduated with distinction from an HND Professional Photography course at Edinburgh College, and now works as a learning assistant in the college's photography department.

Simon got inspiration for the exhibition when he was looking through old belongings and found the first cuddly toy that his mum had knitted for him, Charlie the monkey.

He said: "I thought to myself, I've gone through so many moves over the past few years, from Sheffield to Edinburgh, and it has always moved with me for some reason. I never really knew why.

"That intrigued me a little bit, because we live in this sort of throwaway society where we're quite happy to buy new TVs, new printers and everything like that. Back when I was younger we used to send our TV to the repair man, or have one come round to the house to fix it. Now it is so easy to throw them away and get a brand new one, but we always seem to keep these little trinkets. I wanted to find out why.

The most interesting item Simon has photographed so far was an old chemistry set from the 1960s. He said: "Some of the stuff you would get in a chemistry set then would be illegal in a chemistry set today. The owner, Stewart, has stuff missing from the set. But some of the stuff, like the chemical powders, were just very peculiar. Stewart went on to work in science, he had the kit from being about four years old, he loved science and went on to become a science technician and work with children at a science centre. Now he's an actor, but he still holds on to the chemistry set!"

Now that the exhibition has taken shape, Simon wants to expand the project outside of Scotland. First, he wants to go back to Sheffield, his home town, then carry on further down the country to photograph his connections in London and Cambridgeshire.

Simon is also keen for anyone with a nostalgic childhood item to come forward and share their stories through the Edinburgh College Facebook page and Twitter, and is offering a free professional photo shoot at the college for one lucky winner.

Post a photo of your own item and tell us in one sentence why it is important to you. Simon will choose his favourite entry.

Nostalgia will be on show at Creative Exchange, 29 Constitution Street, Leith, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH6 7BS from 18 May – 5 June. Creative Exchange is open Mon-Thurs 9am-5.30pm and Friday 9am-4.30pm. Admission is free.

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## **Tollcross Primary School entertain Spanish guests**



Paula Bolivar(12), Mairie Barr(11) and Laura Vazquez (11) teaching each other Spanish and English at Tollcross Primary School during the visit of Colegio Joaquim Blume pupils to Edinburgh.

This week Tollcross Primary School becomes the first City of Edinburgh Council primary school to entertain language exchange students during a week long visit.

The Edinburgh Reporter met all of them on Monday morning when the Spanish schoolchildren had just arrived and found them exchanging some details about each other by way of an ice breaker. But this is not the first time the children have met each other as they have regularly conversed by video link or in writing over the internet in the last two years.

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

Lynn Brand, Principal Teacher at Tollcross Primary School is already very good friends with her Spanish colleague Miriam Pastor who teaches at Colegio Joaquim Blume in Madrid.

There are great plans for this week's visit. Lynn said: "This is a big experience for us having the Spanish students come here as we get to meet them in the flesh. We are including them in our sports day in The Meadows, there is an open top bus tour, we are putting on a ceilidh party on Tuesday evening, joint teaching plans on Wednesday, a presentation by the Spanish children on Thursday at school assembly and a film evening on Friday as we think everyone may be a bit tired out by then!"

✖ The very final part is to sum up and write the report on the whole project and Lynn Brand is returning to Spain with the school group so that she can contribute to that.

The Comenius funded project is a local authority level partnership scheme with the Comunidad de Madrid education authority. There have been reciprocal visits for teachers in the past but this is the first time that any pupils have visited. Teachers have learned Spanish and taught joint lessons learning how the other country approaches language learning.

This is part of the City of Edinburgh Council 1+2 languages strategy to develop a real life experience of using languages.

Tollcross have not yet gone to Spain but there is every chance that may happen in future.



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## Two Edinburgh criminals

# ordered to pay back more than £1m



Two prominent Edinburgh criminals have today been ordered to pay back more than £1million from their illegal activities.

Confiscation Orders have been issued to Margaret Paterson and Robert Munro under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA). In 2013, they were sentenced to five years in prison after being convicted for brothel-keeping, money laundering and living on the earnings of prostitution.

However, under the POCA, enforcement authorities have the powers to track down and recover the profits of crime from individuals deemed to have benefited from a criminal lifestyle.

As such, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, has secured an order against Paterson and Munro to pay back £1m and £96,836 respectively.

Detective Chief Inspector Kenny Gray said: "These Confiscation Orders are some of the largest in Police Scotland's history and they send out a very clear message to organised criminals everywhere that we will do everything in our power to ensure they do not benefit from illegal gains.

"Organised crime can cause untold harm on our communities and Police Scotland is committed to tackling serious crime and associated offences.

"If criminals believe their money is safe once a sentence has been handed down then they are wrong. We will work tirelessly to ensure that we can reclaim criminal earnings and put them to good use in our towns and communities across Scotland."

The money seized under the POCA will be redistributed to communities across Scotland under the Cashback for Communities programme.

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# Man charged following indecentcy offence in Morningside



Police have arrested and charged a 25-year-old man in connection with a public indecency offence that took place in the Morningside area last year.

The man was arrested following the release of CCTV images last week.

Officers issued a statement thanking the public for their assistance during this inquiry.