

# Zoo 'urged' to cancel 'Zoo Nights'

✖ The animal welfare organisation People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has written to the Chief Executive of Edinburgh Zoo asking that they cancel their popular Zoo Nights.

The campaigners say that the partygoers at the events create a loud stressful environment for the animals on display.

PETA Director Mimi Bekhechi said : "Putting animals at risk for the sake of making a few pounds should make the public question Edinburgh Zoo's priorities. PETA are calling on Edinburgh Zoo to do what's best for the animals – and that means cancelling the stressful 'Zoo Nights' events."

A spokesperson for the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland said:

"Edinburgh Zoo Nights visitors have never shown behaviour of this nature, which we totally concur is unacceptable. Although alcohol is available in moderation, there is absolutely not a 'drunken' atmosphere. The events, of which there are only four, are planned in conjunction with our animal experts. Our keepers are very careful to monitor our animals' behaviour at any evening event and these events are tailor-made to ensure there is no disturbance to them, with all entertainers and bars situated away from animal enclosures, even our disco is a silent one. Simply put, there is no one that cares more about the animals in our care than our keeping staff. The animals can also enjoy the added stimulus of visitors to the park with enrichment activities, evening feeds and later access outside in some cases. We would like to reassure you that we are confident that there are no welfare complications and the animals are always our priority.

“As a charity that receives no public funding we rely on gate attendance, events and sponsorship for our resources to care for animals and manage conservation, research and education programmes. This does mean exploring ways to increase our income in a world with escalating conservation challenges. We are also very much about education and Edinburgh Zoo Nights is very popular with younger people who enjoy being at the Zoo and are fascinated by the animals and engaged with keepers and other staff about our work.”

The letter reads:

*12 March 2015*

*Dear Dr West,*

*I am writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) UK – one of the biggest animal-protection charities in the country – as well as our hundreds of thousands of UK supporters to ask that you abandon your plans to host “Zoo Nights” at Edinburgh Zoo. During similar evening events held at London Zoo recently, members of the public were apparently able to disturb the animals and were reported to have crushed butterflies on the ground. It was reported that a person tried to pour beer on a tiger and that another person undressed before attempting to enter the penguin enclosure.*

*Scientific research shows that during normal opening hours, the presence of zoo visitors can have a detrimental impact on the animals’ welfare. “Zoo Nights”, which take place outside normal opening hours, while animals would normally be resting, are likely to have an even greater negative impact on animal welfare, particularly if the visitors behave in a manner that stresses the animals.*

*Zoos are responsible for the safety of the animals in their*

*care, and they must make that a priority. Allowing these late-night events – in which visitors will be permitted to consume alcohol in a “relaxed atmosphere” and enjoy other after-hours entertainment to “kick start” their Friday nights – does not demonstrate adequate consideration for animal welfare, as it puts profits before the animals’ well-being.*

*We urge Edinburgh Zoo to cancel “Zoo Nights”. We’re keen to hear back from you on this important issue. I can be contacted at [KirstyH@peta.org.uk](mailto:KirstyH@peta.org.uk) or on 0207 837 6327, extension 227.*

*Kind regards,*

Image courtesy of Edinburgh Zoo Ivon Bartholomew

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## **FLASH COMPETITION – Win a prize from M&S for your mum here!**

If you feel that your Mum is extra special then take two minutes to enter our flash competition here to win a great prize courtesy of M&S which will be delivered to her this weekend.

 **Treat your Mum this Mother’s Day with an M&S hamper!**

Haven’t bought your Mother’s Day gift yet? Don’t despair! The Edinburgh Reporter has teamed up with M&S to give one lucky reader a chance to treat their mum with an extra special gift this Mother’s Day.

We are offering one lucky winner the opportunity to win a fabulous Mother's Day Sparkling Rosé Hamper which is sure to brighten up any mum's day. The hamper is made up of beautiful Pale Pink Roses, Sparkling Rose Wine and tasty Caramel Coulis Truffles.

If you don't want to leave it to chance, why not head to M&S Edinburgh or M&S Gyle to see what other gorgeous Mother's Day gifts are on offer.

Choose from colourful bouquets to delicious chocolates and cakes. Or, why not let your mum relax and put her feet up by serving up the M&S roast deal for the whole family? Find inspiration here: [www.marksandspencer.com](http://www.marksandspencer.com)

Best of luck and Happy Mother's Day!

### **Terms & Conditions**

Please note that your Email & the delivery address including postcode for the hamper are required to redeem this prize.

Over 18s only.

**Closes midnight Friday 13 March 2015.** The order for the hamper will be made on Saturday morning 14 March 2015 for delivery this weekend.

[COMPETITION NOW CLOSED]

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## **EICC free lecture series**

*CHIEF SCIENTIST AND ROYAL COLLEGE PRESIDENT TO DISCUSS  
INNOVATIONS IN HEALTH CARE RESEARCH IN FREE PUBLIC LECTURE  
SERIES*

Professor Andrew Morris, Chief Scientist at the Scottish Government Health Directorate and Professor Derek Bell, President of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh will lead the discussion on innovation in health care research at this month's InnovationNation free public lecture at Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC).

Both speakers will present their views in 20-minute lectures before joining forces to lead an open forum discussion. The early evening event on Thursday 19 March 2015 starts at 6.30pm (registration from 6pm) and refreshments will be provided. Registration to attend is through EICC's website <http://www.eicc.co.uk/innovationnation>.

Andrew Morris is Chief Scientist at the Scottish Government Health Directorate and Professor of Medicine, Director of the Institute of Population Health Sciences and Informatics and Vice-Principal for Data Science at The University of Edinburgh. Professor Morris is also co-founder of informatics company, Aridhia. The Edinburgh and Glasgow based company develops technology and capability that supports the management of chronic diseases, precision medicine and biomedical research through the use of biomedical informatics and analytics.

Derek Bell is President of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and Professor of Acute Medicine at Imperial College London. A University of Edinburgh graduate, Professor Bell has held senior clinical posts in the NHS in both Scotland and England. The department he oversees at Imperial College London includes a £10m research programme on the acceleration of research into practice. Other areas of research interest are the organisation and delivery of healthcare in relation to patient outcomes and the role of patient and public involvement in research.

Submitted by [Rory Archibald](#)



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# Investment at the King's and Festival Theatres to make theatre 'dementia friendly'



A major investment from a charity set up with money from the Big Lottery Fund has just been announced whereby the Festival and King's Theatres in Edinburgh will become 'dementia friendly'.

The two theatres want to create dementia friendly venues so that people with dementia and those who care for them can continue to be part of the theatre-going community, enjoy participating in the arts and mix with their peers.

The two theatres plan to use the funding to make the building environments safer and more welcoming for people with dementia, to programme a series of shows specifically for those affected by dementia, and adapt existing theatre programmes to be more dementia friendly.

They will also provide dementia training to all their staff, as well as visiting theatre companies, and will recruit dementia champions.

With the support of the funding, the Festival and King's Theatres want to become exemplars so that other theatres and similar venues remain accessible to people whose lives are affected by dementia.

Funding has come from the Life Changes Trust, an independent charity set up with a Big Lottery Fund endowment of £50 million to improve the lives of two key groups in Scotland: people affected by dementia and care experienced young people. The Trust will be investing £3million in 14 different dementia friendly communities over the next three years.

Duncan Hendry, Chief Executive at the Festival and King's Theatres said: 'We are delighted that our application to the Life Changes Trust to create a Dementia-friendly community across our two theatres has been successful. We look forward to working with people with dementia and their families to address what the barriers to accessing venues like ours might be, so that we can create welcoming and supportive social environments in our theatres. Our staff fully support the creation of a dementia-friendly community at our venues and we are keen to take an industry lead in Scotland to encourage other theatres to adopt dementia-friendly practices.'

Anna Buchanan, Director of the [Life Changes Trust](#) dementia programme said 'Many people living with dementia stop taking part in activities that may have given them great pleasure in the past, or which allowed them to mix with their peers. Initiatives like these bring people together in a dementia friendly community of interest where they have opportunities to be part of something that is meaningful to them. This funding will support the theatres to create an environment where people affected by dementia feel welcome and included; a place where the door remains open and does not close just because someone has dementia.'

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# Employees at John Lewis celebrate profit share



John Lewis the retail giant which is at the heart of many an Edinburgh home has announced its full year profits today. The store is owned by its employees who will all get an 11% bonus as a result of today's good news of joint profits in John Lewis and Waitrose of just under £500m. In Edinburgh we have not only the John Lewis at St James Centre which will remain in place despite the large scale development proposals for the area, but also two Waitrose stores in Stockbridge and Morningside.

The 93,800 Partners will receive a bonus of 11%, equivalent to nearly 6 weeks' pay. And for the first time in 15 years, as a result of the new legislation that puts Employee Ownership on a similar footing to other forms of ownership, no Partner will pay tax on their Bonus up to £3,600.

**Barry Blamire, head of branch, John Lewis Edinburgh, said:**

"Over the past year we have seen a strong performance at John Lewis Edinburgh. We've seen an increased demand for furniture, home furnishings and accessories. Our new Hotel Chocolat café has proved very successful as did the introduction of foreign currency. Fashion sales in Edinburgh remained strong, with growth in beauty, accessories and branded womenswear.

"I would like to thank all 738 of our Partners (staff) who continue to provide the high standards of service and shopping experience our customers have come to expect."

How will that work out personally for some of the Edinburgh



employees?

### **Jonathon McAvoy, 17, apprentice**

Jonathon joined John Lewis Edinburgh in September so this will be the first year he receives the annual Partner bonus. Jonathon's girlfriend lives in Chicago and he will be putting his bonus towards a long-awaited trip to the Windy City.

He said: "The annual Partner bonus is a huge benefit of working for John Lewis Edinburgh. Because of the distance my girlfriend and I don't get to see too much of each other, but my bonus means that I can book an extra trip across the pond to see her this year. As well as seeing the sights of Chicago we've also booked tickets to a music festival – I can't wait for my trip!"

### **Fern Findlay-Greene, 27, Customer Support**

Fern has been working at John Lewis Edinburgh for twelve years. Last year she put her bonus towards her dream wedding and this year will be spending it on a perfect honeymoon.

"My husband and I are planning a trip to the Bahamas and the Virgin Islands for some much needed sun, sea and sand.

"Working in the bureau de change means I get to chat to customers about the amazing destinations they're jetting off to and it's great to be able to tell them where I'm going too!"

### **Helen Mackness, 30, Section manager (Womenswear)**

Helen has been a Partner at John Lewis Edinburgh for eight years. She will be using her annual bonus to furnish her new flat.

"Over the past few years I saved my bonus away for the deposit on my flat, which I finally bought last year. This year I'll be investing in some quality furniture to really make the

place my own.

“Working in John Lewis Edinburgh means I get to check out all the latest home trends and furniture styles. There are a few items in the home department that I’ve got my eye on and can’t wait to place my order!”

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# **North Edinburgh News Cooperative – Bring your mum along to get a Mother’s Day photo!**

At Muirhouse Community Shop on Saturday 14 March 2015 bring your mum along to get a family photo taken to commemorate Mother’s Day.

All for free as part of the launch event for the *North Edinburgh News Cooperative* a joint venture between The Edinburgh Reporter, North Edinburgh Community News and Tenants and Residents in Muirhouse (TRIM).



# The Edinburgh Reporter in conversation with The Handsome Family



You may know them as a multi-genre folk act for their obscure lyrics and admiration for animals; or you may know them because of the *True Detective* theme song.

It's a question the husband and wife duo clearly dread being asked, how the song came about, when they were just simply told that HBO were thinking about using their song. 'Far From Any Road' accompanies the southern Gothic nature surrounding *True Detective*. The song has taken the pair to new heights and it's over ten years since was released. It has allowed the act to comfortably tour the UK and they prefer that to playing shows over the pond.

"Everything tastes better here," said Rennie. "Better wine. Everything is better here."

Their previous album, *Wilderness*, was released in 2013, influenced by certain animals – "some ugly that are actually beautiful," as the band once mentioned. It moves from alternative country to folk, all the way to blues. 'Frogs' dabbles with a bluesy lick and an awe-inspiring solo. It stick out like a sore thumb where the songs it sandwiches – 'Frogs' and 'Eels' – dip into their usual Americana style. Wife Rennie Sparks talks about the transition of genres as a natural progression rather than purposely aiming for a different style of track.

"We don't think about it at all, we just try to write songs. Songs decide what they want to be. You can't be forced to pigeonhole songs – exactly what you want it to be never

works.”

For a band who have made ten albums, they understandably write a lot of material, including many poetic and fluent lyrics that have made the band what they are today. Therefore the band have a lot of throwaway songs with only certain tracks making the cut. “You need an emotional connection the song. If you didn’t really care about it, you would play it for two years and not really feel anything,” said Rennie. “The first song is always the easiest to write, there’s so many things to choose from. You try to feel something, something important.”

The Handsome Family are now writing new material for the eleventh album, which they hope to have released by the end of the year. “We’re writing songs that have a quarantine,” said Rennie. “We’re writing a lot at the moment. All the songs have a strong colour – there’s gold, silver, green, red, clear, yellow.”

“As for recording them, my husband controls everything. He just wants to do it all by himself, it takes a long time. I’d call it obsessive. He wants to think about everything. He doesn’t do everything fast – he’s from Texas.”

The Handsome Family’s folk/country sound means that they don’t listen to any modern music, and even then nothing would tickle their fancy. “We don’t listen to new music, just old stuff,” said Rennie. “We’ve been listening to our support act Daniel Knox a lot. His music has a deep resonance, it is gorgeous.”

*The Handsome Family are on a UK tour for the entire month.*  
[Tour dates can be found here.](#)

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# Councillor raises money for Western General



Councillor Ronnie Cairns had his shaved for charity earlier this year, and last week he returned to the Western General to hand over the cash.

The SNP representative for Drum Brae/Gyle ward had the misfortune to attend the Edinburgh Cancer Centre last year following his cancer diagnosis.

He handed over £1,000 to wards 56 and 57 at the Western General Hospital who might use the funds for audio books and the Edinburgh Cancer Centre who will use the money for staff training.

The photos show Councillor Cairns accompanied by Councillor Denis Dixon and members of staff at the Western General Hospital Karen McLean Clinical Nurse Specialist, Charge Nurse Avril Brown and Ward Sister Janice Moutter.

You can watch him having his mop shaved off [here](#)!



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# Alan Stubbs' verdict on Hibs' victory over Livingston



Hibs' Head Coach Alan Stubbs raised a few eyebrows last night with his four changes to the starting line up that beat Berwick Rangers on Sunday.

With vice-captain David Gray injured, Stubbs decided to rest popular midfield duo Scott Allan and Dylan McGeouch and striker Dominique Malonga.

Hibs dominated throughout and the game looked to be heading for a 1-0 victory but the changes looked to have backfired when Livingston equalised with four minutes remaining.

Thankfully for Hibs however Franck Dja Djedje grabbed the winner 25 seconds after the restart when he got on the end of a fantastic Lewis Stevenson cross which secured the three points leaving the Easter Road side with their fate in their own hands.

After the game Stubbs told Cliff Pike of Hibs TV: "I didn't think the changes tonight affected the team at all at times. The strength in depth of the squad is good. It's about us trying to keep the players fresh. That's the most important thing. We want them fresh and hungry for the run in and when we feel that we can maybe rotate the squad a little, and it's not going to affect things too much we will decide to do that.

"We've created quite a few chances and apart from Jason's (Cummings) ones, we've had a lot of balls flashed across the box where we have nearly got someone on the end of them, good balls and with a little more care with the ball into the box and better runs but the most important thing is that we are creating chances.

"We were in control for the majority of the game. At 1-0 in football things can happen but I didn't see Livingston opening us up. If anything we could have put the game to bed with one of the chances and it just eases everybody's feelings and nerves around the stadium. I thought the reaction to going level was a measure of how far we have come.

"It was a brilliant finish from JJ (Franck Dja Djedje) and it was a goal worthy of winning any game but as I said the most important thing is that we have got three points, we've ticked another game off and that's what you have got to do at this stage of the season. You have to find a way to get across the line.

"We are not always going to play entertaining football. We want to but we are showing a different element to us now. There is a determination and a desire to really see the job out to the best of our capabilities.

"It's not easy when teams are trying to stay in this division and they have a lot of pride and are still fighting for the club. They can be just as hard games as playing against the teams at the top, sometimes even harder because they will make it very difficult and play for that one or two opportunities in the game that they can get.

"At 1-1 they are probably thinking that they have snatched a draw from something that probably never looked likely in the game but it wasn't to be.

"Overall, I am really pleased. We are getting the job done at this moment in time and it's great.

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# RSNO go Back to the Future

*Tickets will go on sale tomorrow for this important cultural offering involving the EIFF and the RSN0!*

Edinburgh International Film Festival (EIFF) and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO) are celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EIFF's UK Premiere of Robert Zemeckis' legendary BACK TO THE FUTURE in 1985, accompanied by Alan Silvestri's dazzling score performed live by the RSN0, on Saturday 27 June at the Festival Theatre Edinburgh.

Fans old and new will experience the thrill of BACK TO THE FUTURE like never before – on the big screen with a full symphony orchestra. This presentation will include a newly expanded score by Alan Silvestri with approximately 15 minutes of additional music being prepared by the composer.

Tickets will go on sale Friday 13 March from 10am, and can be bought from the Festival Theatre Box Office, 0131 529 6000 or visit [edtheatres.com](http://edtheatres.com).

A global cultural phenomenon, BACK TO THE FUTURE was executive produced by Steven Spielberg, Kathleen Kennedy and Frank Marshall and directed by Robert Zemeckis. Starring Michael J. Fox as time-traveller Marty McFly alongside Christopher Lloyd, Lea Thompson and Crispin Glover, BACK TO THE FUTURE became the highest grossing film of 1985 and launched one of the most successful franchises in Universal's history.



This special screening will mark the start of a programme to celebrate EIFF's heritage and legacy over the past 70 years, and has been made possible through the kind support of Sir Ewan and Lady Brown.

Mark Adams, Artistic Director of the EIFF commented: "This live event will delight and enthrall in equal measure. As well as being a major event in its own right, this also marks the beginning of a new set of relationships with Scotland's National Performing Companies, where we are placing film within the context of other artforms."

RSNO Acting Chief Executive Kenneth Osborne commented: "To be involved in the 30th anniversary celebrations of this iconic film is quite an honour. BACK TO THE FUTURE is a modern classic, and Alan Silvestri's dramatic score will be a joy for our orchestra to play. There's a delightful symmetry to the event also, as we and the audience, in 2015, enjoy a movie about a young man in 1985 travelling back in time to 1955. It promises to be a very special night."

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## **Witness appeal following firearms incident in south of city**



Police are appealing for witnesses following a firearms incident in the south of Edinburgh in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

The incident happened at around 4.15am when a firearm was

discharged at an address in Kenilworth Drive.

Police are now appealing for help in tracing a man who is described as white, 18-25 years of age, wearing a grey hooded top and grey trousers.

Detective Inspector Stuart Harkness said: "Fortunately, no one was injured however that does not take away from the serious and reckless nature of this incident.

"There will be additional officers patrolling the area in the coming days, and we will continue to work closely with the public in order to bring the perpetrators to justice.

"We are appealing to members of the public or delivery drivers who may have been in the area at the time to get in touch if they witnessed any suspicious activity or vehicles."

Anyone with information is asked to contact 101, speak to their local officer, or provide that information in confidence to the registered charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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## **TER Live! – Council meeting 12 March 2015**



Today when the council meets there are a few changes. First of all the SNP group have a new leader Councillor Sandy Howat who represents Meadows/Morningside Ward, who also steps up to Deputy Council Leader at the same time.

[Councillor Steve Cardownie](#) stepped down as SNP group leader and Deputy Council Leader earlier this week, saying he wants

to give someone else a chance and also that he wants to spend more time with his family.

This is also the first meeting of the council after the budget meeting in February, although we do not enter the new financial year until the beginning of April 2015.

Follow today's events here with some chat from Twitter, some insights into what is being said and done as a result of today's proceedings. The full council papers for the meeting are [here](#) on the council website, and you can also watch the proceedings live or as a recorded version by clicking [here](#).

Our live blog is also on Facebook [here](#). Why not like us while you're over there?

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## Gordon Aikman meets Edinburgh council leader over taxi issues



In an embarrassing moment for Edinburgh, former director of the Better Together campaign, Gordon Aikman, was unable to get a taxi with wheelchair access to take him to the EICC last weekend to speak at the Scottish Labour Party Conference there.

Aikman who has motor neurone disease now uses a wheelchair since his diagnosis last year, and had been asked to introduce the Labour leader, Ed Miliband when he appeared in Edinburgh

to speak to politicians and party members.

Council Leader, Andrew Burns and Convener of the Regulatory Committee, Cllr Gavin Barrie met with the MND campaigner earlier this week to discuss his concerns about the accessibility of taxis in Edinburgh.

They had been told that Mr Aikman struggled to find a taxi that was able accommodate his wheelchair, and missed his opportunity to speak at the conference after two taxis he called were unable to pick him up – one because the electric ramp was not working and the other because he ‘took too long to come down’.



Council Leader –  
Andrew Burns

Cllr Burns said: “What happened to Gordon is of course completely unacceptable and the purpose of today’s meeting was to discuss what we can do to make sure this doesn’t happen again. We have identified steps that we can take as the licensing authority for taxis in the city, to ensure that these vehicles are accessible to wheelchair users.

“For example, we will be cracking down on drivers who fail to stop for disabled customers and increasing the number of spot checks to check that the taxis’ ramps are operational. We will also be calling for taxi companies to review their allocated waiting time for collections with a view to extending this for people with mobility issues.

“We want to make sure that wheelchair users in Edinburgh have a positive experience when using taxis and I would like to thank Gordon for highlighting this very important issue.”

Other actions agreed include a review of the current driver training arrangements to improve accessibility training and

looking at introducing refresher courses. Taxi drivers who are exempt from manually loading wheelchairs for health reasons may also be asked to display a prominent sign on their vehicle indicating that they are not accessible.



Councillor Gavin  
Barrie Convener  
Regulatory  
Committee

The agreed measures will now be taken forward by the Council, led by Councillor Gavin Barrie as Convener of the Regulatory Committee.

Welcoming the outcome of yesterday's meeting, Gordon Aikman said: "This crackdown is very welcome. Wheelchair or not, each and every one of us should be able to get into a cab and get from A to B without any hassle.

"I've only been in a wheelchair for a couple of weeks, but have been shocked by the treatment disabled folk have to put up with.

"I'm confident this Access Action Plan will help make taxis in our capital more accessible. I hope other councils follow Edinburgh's lead. This is not about special treatment – it is about equal access. No disabled person should have to put up with second rate service."

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# Trade waste bins to be

# removed from Edinburgh streets



Edinburgh council is now acting on its plans to remove trade waste bins from the capital's streets under new arrangements which will come into force next month.

Businesses will no longer be permitted to permanently store their waste containers in public, and will be required to present rubbish and recycling during timed collection windows.

The initiative, which aims to improve the appearance of the capital's streets, [has been trialled in a number of city centre locations](#) over the last year. Participating streets Rose Street (and its lanes), Leith Walk and High Street experienced, on average, an 81% drop in the number of bins permanently outside business properties.

Now the policy will be introduced to traders across the city on a phased basis, beginning in April with around 5000 businesses in the centre. This will be followed by areas like Leith, Southside, Fountainbridge and Portobello.



Convener of  
Transport &  
Environment –  
Lesley Hinds

Environment Convener, Councillor Lesley Hinds, said: "Keeping the city clean and attractive will benefit residents, visitors and businesses alike, and removing unsightly trade waste bins from the streets is one big step towards achieving this.

"It is extremely encouraging to see such positive results from

the pilot areas, and there is no doubt the scheme will continue having an impact on our environment as it rolls out across the city.”

After being approved by councillors in October 2013, the Trade Waste pilot was introduced to trial areas between January and March 2014, and has since seen bin numbers reduced from 390 to 103 on Rose Street, 116 to 12 on Leith Walk and 37 to eight on High Street.

Throughout the process, officers have worked with businesses to ensure compliance with collection windows, which were agreed after consultation on suitability, and to address difficulties over storage space, timing and cooperation from trade waste companies.

Gordon Minnis, owner of Rose Street North Lane restaurant Calistoga, is delighted with the impact of the Rose Street trial. He said: “The lane looks a lot smarter with only a dozen or so small bins whereas before there were over 40 large containers. It’s also led to a reduction in litter and fly-tipping.

“Our customers are delighted as they have a much better view when dining and don’t need to navigate their way round large waste containers to get to our restaurant.”

Andrew Watson, owner of the Princes Street franchise of McDonald’s, was also part of the Rose Street lanes trial. He said: “The overall cost of the process is more or less the same as it was before, only now it’s much easier to manage and looks a lot better on the street. My city centre store is in such an iconic location, sitting in the shadow of Edinburgh Castle, that keeping the streets around the stores clean and tidy is hugely important to the business.”

As the scheme is rolled out, Environmental Wardens will continue to support behaviour change, helping businesses to adapt and ensuring enforcement, in order to gain the maximum

benefit.

Businesses will receive letters to inform them when the changes are being introduced to their area.

Find out more about the Trade Waste pilot [on the Council website](#), including guidance, a map of phase one and more case studies.

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## Thursday in Edinburgh – What's On Today



**Maggie's Edinburgh Book Launch:** following the success of *Lights in the Constellation of the Crab*, **Angus Ogilvy** will launch his new book of poems for Maggie's *House Clearing by Moonlight* with readings and a signing session. 'Angus has been prolific and highly generous with his poetry. His remarkable gift for words evokes deep emotions and gives space for calm reflection...The sales of his first book have generated over £3,000 for Maggie's, and we are so grateful for his ongoing support...' (**Andrew Anderson**, Centre Head, Maggie's Edinburgh). 6-7.30pm (gathering from 5.30pm), [Maggie's Edinburgh](#), Western General Hospital, Crewe Road South. Please let Maggie's know if you plan to attend: email [amy.robertson@maggiescentres.org](mailto:amy.robertson@maggiescentres.org) or call 0131 537 3131 9am-5pm Monday to Friday.



**Easel Sketching in the Gallery: March.** Led by artist **Damian Callan**; a different subject every month, sometimes with a model. All materials supplied. 2-4pm, Main Gallery



Floor, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free: no booking required. Also at same times on Friday 13th March.



**Blackwell's Edinburgh Presents John Lister-Kaye:** one of Britain's best known naturalists and conservationists launches his new book ****Gods of the Morning: A Bird's Eye View of a Highland Year****. Sir John Lister-Kaye runs the world famous **Aigas Field Centre** in the Scottish Highlands; his new book follows a year through the turning of the seasons at Aigas, exploring the habits of the Highland animals – and in particular the birds, his 'gods of the morning' – for whom he has nourished a lifelong passion. 6.30-8pm, [Blackwell's](#), South Bridge. Free tickets are available from the shop's front desk, or by calling 0131 622 8218 or emailing [events.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk](mailto:events.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk). Tickets can also be obtained from eventbrite [here](#).



**Benji the PlayTalkRead bus will be at Pennywell Shops, Pennywell Road today!** Songs, stories and play sessions for young children and their parents and carers. 10am-1pm and 2-4pm, Pennywell Shops, Pennywell Road. Free.



Image :

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

**Mayfield Salisbury Thursday Club: Honeysuckle Swing**, with **Diana Saunderson** and **Gus Carmichael**. 2-4pm, Upper Hall, [Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church](#), 18 West Mayfield. Visitors of any age very welcome: tea 50p, annual membership £3. For more information please contact Florence Smith on 0131 663 1234.



**Fountainbridge Library is 75!** A library has stood on the Dundee Street site since 1897 – the first neighbourhood library was funded from the estate of philanthropist **Thomas Nelson**, but by the 1930s the building needed to be replaced. **JAW Grant** was appointed to be architect of the new library, with sculptor **Charles D’Orville Pilkington Jackson** commissioned to provide the carving to surmount the main doorway; Jackson’s original plans included ornate carvings of a fountain and a bridge, so he was understandably dismayed when he learned of a planned change of name to ‘Dundee Street Library’ – luckily the plan was dropped, and despite delays caused by the war, the new library was opened in 1940. To celebrate this anniversary, the library has arranged a week of events; today it’s a **Birthday Bookbug** – so come along in your party outfits, and have your best singing voices ready! 10.30am, [Fountainbridge Library](#), 137 Dundee Street. There will also be an exhibition of photos and memories of the last 75 years.



**Crops In Pots:** in time for spring, come along for an interactive evening of planting and discussion. All ages welcome to come and talk about growing food in an urban environment. 7pm, [Area C Coffee House](#), 239-241 Leith Walk.



**Storytime:** for 3-5 year olds. 10.30-11am today and every Thursday, [Central Children’s Library](#), George IV Bridge.



**Cafe Voices: Sheroes.** Who is your ‘shero’? Join storyteller **Ruth Kirkpatrick** – whose ‘sheros’ include **Billie Jean King, Mo Mowlem, Grace Darling...**and her **Great Granny** – for an evening celebrating great heroines. This is the Centre’s monthly storytelling session, with an **open-floor section** where you can

‘tip your hat’ to your own heroine by telling a story about her. Stories, songs, music, poems – and even a wee dance – are all welcome. 7pm, Storytelling Court, [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#), 43-45 High Street. Tickets cost £5 and can be booked online [here](#) or by calling the Box Office on 0131 556 9579



John Byrne and  
His Guitars by  
Mark Mulholland,  
copyright Mark  
Mulholland.

**Portrait Gallery Curator’s Talk: BP Portrait Award 2014.** A chance to chat to the Portrait Gallery curators about current exhibitions: this month Chief Curator **Julie Lawson** will talk about the BP Portrait Award. 5.30-6pm, [Scottish National Portrait Gallery](#), 1 Queen Street. Free: no booking required.



**Pennywell New Housing Phase 2 Community Information Event:** find out more about the new housing planned for Pennywell – timescales, outline design and plans. 1.30-4.30pm, [Craigroyston Community High School](#), Pennywell Road.



**Italian Film Festival:** curated by **Allan Hunter** and **Richard Mowe**, the 22nd Festival continues today. ‘An exciting and diverse line-up of contemporary and classic Italian cinema, including hilarious comedies, insightful dramas, seat-edge thrillers and classics from award-winning directors’. All films are subtitled in English, Today: ***China is Near (15)*** ‘Marco Bellocchio’s lovingly-restored black comedy anticipates the upheavals of May 1968 and remains a splendidly caustic excursion into class conflict and sexual politics’. 8.45pm, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Tickets can be

booked online via the [website](#) or by calling the Box Office on 0131 228 2688.



**The Drawing Room:** an informal, artist-led drawing session, developed by a contemporary artist and reflecting concerns in that artist's work. All materials supplied, no experience necessary. 5.30-6.45pm, [Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art TWO](#), Belford Road. Please note venue: this session takes place in the *Two Roberts* exhibition. Free but please book by contacting the Education Department on 0131 624 6410 or emailing [education@nationalgalleries.org](mailto:education@nationalgalleries.org).



Photography by  
Philippa Oliver

**Edinburgh University Shakespeare Company Presents *The Merchant of Venice*:** it is the summer of 1939 and Britain is travelling headlong towards one of the most devastating and transformative periods of its history. Oblivious to the oncoming storm, the London elite sit smoking their cigars and enjoying the fruits of their inheritance. 7.30pm today-Saturday 14th March (with 2.30pm matinee on Saturday 14th), [Assembly Roxy](#), 2 Roxburgh Place. Tickets cost £10/£8/£6 and can be purchased online [here](#).



**Edinburgh College of Art Thursday Research Seminar Series: Dyeing, Bleaching, Printing – Morris and Abundance.** This seminar will be chaired by **Professor Caroline Arscott** (Courtauld Institute) and followed by a drinks reception. Lecture Room 1, [Minto House](#), 20-22 Chambers Street. Free and open to all: no booking required.



## Saltire Society

**Caesura #29 and the Scottish Poetry Library:** 'experimental poetry wonder night...the home for sound poetry, found poetry, text-based performance art and all manner of linguistic innovation'. This month's performers are poet **Sarah Kelly**, writer **Maria Fusco**, poet and editor **Anthony Autumn** and poetry and prose writer **Jim Ferguson**. 7-10pm (doors open 6.30pm), [The Saltire Society](#), 9 Fountain Close. Tickets cost £5/£4 and can be booked via eventbrite [here](#). For further information please contact [jennifer.williams@spl.org.uk](mailto:jennifer.williams@spl.org.uk).



**Spark Lunchtime Concerts:** Music by Ravel and Poulenc played by students from the **Reid School of Music**, University of Edinburgh. 12 noon-12.45pm, [Greyfriars Kirk](#), Greyfriars Place. Free, no booking required.



**Stills Film Screening: *Looking for Light*.** Stills presents a moving portrait of the late photographer **Jane Bown** and the many iconic photographs that span her 6 decade career, including portraits of **Samuel Beckett**, **Mick Jagger**, **HRH Queen Elizabeth II** and **Bjork** and interviews with **Rankin**, **Edna O'Brien** and **Don McCullin**. Directed by **Luke Dodd** and **Michael Whyte**. 6.30-8.30pm, [Stills](#), 23 Cockburn Street. Booking is required but tickets are **free**, and can be obtained via eventbrite [here](#).



**Ecumenical Friends at St John's: John Munro – Lent Meditation.** 1pm, [St John's Church](#), Princes Street (please note different time and venue). All warmly welcome: bring your own packed lunch, tea and coffee are provided. £1.50 per person, These events are organised by Edinburgh City Centre Churches

TOGETHER.

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# Five things you need to know today



**Council meeting today**

**At Parliament today**

**Kilomathon**

**Edinburgh Yarn Festival**

**Birthday parties on a Frozen theme**

The full council meets this morning at 10.00am. You can follow our live coverage on Twitter and perhaps watch online at the same time. The council's webcast service is [here](#).

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Today at General Questions in the Scottish Parliament some of the Edinburgh MSPs have lodged a range of questions on a variety of subjects:

**4. Alison Johnstone:** To ask the Scottish Government what recent discussions it has had with representatives of the European Commission. (S40-04097)

**9. Neil Findlay:** To ask the Scottish Government which contractors named by the Scottish Information Commissioner as having used the services of The Consulting Association have been awarded public contracts since 20 November 2013.

(S40-04112)

**7. Sarah Boyack:** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on how long patients with type 1 diabetes should have to wait for access to an insulin pump. (S40-04120)

**8. Gavin Brown:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the Spring Budget Revision. (S40-04121)

In addition to lodging questions MSPs can also lodge motions which bring particular matters to the attention of the parliament. This one is from Edinburgh West MSP Colin Keir:

**\*S4M-12530 Colin Keir: Congratulations to North West Carers Centre**—That the Parliament congratulates North West Carers Centre on receiving a £4,000 grant from Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland; understands that this grant will enable the charity to support some of the most vulnerable people in the Edinburgh Western parliamentary constituency and across the city; considers that the fund is a lifeline for local charities in this tough financial climate, and believes that the charity will continue providing the highest quality advice and support to carers of all ages in the community so that stress and isolation is reduced and carers are able to maintain their caring role.

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Macmillan Cancer Support is urging people to look out their trainers and sign up to support them at the Kilomathon on 29 March.

Participants can take on 13.1k or 6.5k making it the perfect race distance for those progressing from a 5k or 10k and the 2.62k junior race is a great opportunity for junior runners to participate in a fully chip timed race.

The route is picturesque and traffic free along Edinburgh's scenic cycle routes and finishes with a bang at Murrayfield

Stadium.

Fundraising Manager for Edinburgh, Jayne Forbes, said: "Running is a fantastic way to support Macmillan and the Kilomathon has a race distance to suit everyone."

"Knowing that every mile you cover is raising money for people affected by cancer will give you real motivation to keep going with your fitness programme."

"Whether you're taking part for the first time or are a seasoned runner, we'll be with you every step of the way."

"We provide comprehensive training, nutrition and kit advice, as well as very simple ideas to raise money."

All the money raised from the run will be used to fund Macmillan's vital cancer services, from specialist nurses and doctors, to help and advice for people who have financial problems as a result of their cancer.

For more information on taking on a run for Macmillan please contact [fundraising@macmillan.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@macmillan.org.uk) or 0300 1000 200. Please see all the running events at [www.macmillan.org.uk/running](http://www.macmillan.org.uk/running)



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Children are invited to meet and greet Elsa and Olaf from Frozen, sing and dance to all of the Frozen songs and sit down at frosty tables filled with delicious cakes and treats in true Frozen themed tea party style – and all funds raised on the day will go to children's charity Barnardo's Scotland.

The Frozen events take place on 29 March at the Holiday Inn, Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh at 12pm, 2pm, and 4pm. Tickets



are £12 with 60% of ticket sales going to Barnardo's Scotland.

Other attractions include a candy cart, candy floss, nail bar and glitter tattoos. For more information or to book tickets go to [www.events2you.co.uk](http://www.events2you.co.uk)

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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## **Celtic Renewables announce new investment**



Celtic Renewables is a company spun out of Edinburgh Napier University which is going from strength to strength.

Professor Martin Tangney, the effervescent Irishman who came up with the original idea, was delighted to welcome invited guests to the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC) this evening to tell them about the new investment of £500,000 partly from Scottish Enterprise and partly from their private investors.



Paul Lewis of Scottish Enterprise spoke at the celebratory event

The award winning company is now valued at £10m and will be moving towards building a manufacturing facility at

Grangemouth for which they will seek new capital of around £25m.

The company takes the waste from whisky making and turns it into bio butanol.

In a distillery, only 10 percent of what flows out of a still is future whisky- the rest is Draff and Pot ale.

The whisky industry annually produces 1,600 million litres of pot ale and 500,000 tonnes of draff which could be converted into biofuel as a direct substitute for fossil-derived fuel, thereby reducing oil consumption and CO2 emissions, while also providing energy security – particularly in remote/rural areas where the whisky industry is prevalent.

The Celtic Renewables Ltd production process also produces other sustainable chemicals, acetone and ethanol, as well as high grade sustainable animal feed.







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# The Edinburgh Reporter in conversation with Gun



Gun were the Scottish glam rock band in the 90s who could have taken over the world. They supported The Rolling Stones on their Urban Jungle stadium tour in Europe, and also had the opportunity to share the stage with Bon Jovi and Def Leppard soon after. Gun split in 1997 after poor sales leading to a decline in the band.

But after reforming in 2008, there is still demand for the band who have a new album, *Frantic*, coming out on 23 March. Their newest song dips into pop-rock and drifts away from their renowned hard rock sound. 'Labour of Life' is the first single off the new album and sounds as fresh as Gun did when they started.

The band are looking to appeal to a new audience as well as pleasing their dedicated fan base. "We kind of got lost, doing more pop than we were ever doing," said Dante Gizzi. "I think it is a bit of both, though. We scrapped a lot of songs, it was two years in the making. These songs come from the heart. Rock or pop, whatever genre, we just wanted the right songs

that we could listen to and play all the time.”

*Frantic* is the first album since 2012’s *Break the Silence*, which was also the first album to feature original bassist Dante Gizzi on vocals. Dante described the album as a “challenge” with the band recording roughly four songs in three locations: Sam Studios in London, ICP in Brussels and Gorbals Sound in Glasgow.

“We were thinking about the fans, we have a huge following,” said Dante. “You don’t want to get caught up in the history. We couldn’t come out with another *Taking on the World* album. Jules [lead guitarist] and I listen to contemporary stuff that is happening right now all the time. It’s really hard to write out rock songs. We’ve never been a band that could pigeonhole being a certain rock band. We spent a lot of time working out the direction.”

Gun have been active on the live circuit prior to the promotion for the new album. The band played a three-night residency at Glasgow’s King Tut’s in November and will play two more Scottish dates around the album’s release. As well as playing Edinburgh’s Liquid Room, they will also play the legendary Barrowlands, a venue Gun are almost masters of playing – even though on March 28 it will be the first time the band have played the venue since the late 90’s.

“I suppose we’re subdued and emotional about playing there,” said Dante. “We used to live a stone’s throw away from it. I used to go there on a Saturday morning and spend most of my pocket money on the puggy. I played it at 17, that was an incredible experience. You just reminisce about playing there. We’ll play a mixture of new and old songs, we just can’t wait to perform.”

Playing Edinburgh, on the other hand, isn’t as memorable for them but they still have some memories of playing a couple of certain shows back in their heyday.

"We did the New Year's Eve party, I remember doing that. That was back in about 1996, or maybe just before. It was a mental gig, just totally crazy. Jules came through on the minibus that night while I was meeting my girlfriend's father in Edinburgh – I was sober as a judge. Jules may have emptied a bottle of Jack Daniels before the gig, and it was just screw-up after screw-up. I remember it so well."

When supporting The Rolling Stones on their stadium tour in 1990, Gun built up a small fan base in mainland Europe, which still hasn't diminished to this day. The band have been fortunate enough to go over to different countries and play to sizeable audiences in the last few years. "We were lucky," said Dante. "We got a bit of success in Germany, Spain, Portugal and even Holland. It was great going over there and playing shows. Playing Madrid to capacities similar to over here. You get a fantastic response, and we'll probably be going over there this year with the new album and doing festivals."

The main thing for the group now is focusing on the promotion of the new album. As for what the band are up to after the UK tour concludes, it's their duty to reintroduce the band while maintaining and capitalising on what they already have. "I don't see this being a short-term thing," said Dante. "I see it as a long-term campaign. We'll keep working this album for the course of the year, then do festivals in the summer, maybe another British tour around October and some touring around Europe. It will be a busy year for the band."

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# South Edinburgh charity wins a red plaque



Edinburgh charity recognised for delivery of vital services to young people

Health Opportunities Team, working across the Portobello/Craigmillar & Liberton/Gilmerton areas of Edinburgh, has become one of more than 2,100 organizations across the UK to receive a brand new 'Red Plaque' in recognition of its vital work, supported by Comic Relief funding. Health Opportunities Team (HOT) is an independent charity committed to improving the social, emotional and sexual wellbeing of young people in Edinburgh. We can be found in schools, in the community, or in one of our Drop-Ins. HOT has just introduced a new service called the Substance Misuse Project. The aim of the project is to provide therapeutic group & 1-1 support for vulnerable young people, aged 12-25, who are struggling with their own substance misuse, or are affected by their parent's substance misuse.

HOT's Substance Misuse Project is one of 16,800 UK projects which have received funding from Comic Relief since the charity began in 1988. The Substance Misuse Project has been awarded and will receive nearly £68,000 over three years (2014-2017) in order to meet the goal of reducing the impact of personal and parental substance misuse on young people in South Edinburgh.

Round and red to echo Comic Relief's iconic Red Nose, the plaque features this quote from one of Comic Relief's supporters Billy Connolly:

"All the silly nonsense of Red Nose Day is about the serious business of helping people change their lives" -2003

The plaque is placed proudly at the front door of H0T's home base at 1a Queen's Walk.

Councillor Maureen Child said: "There are huge pressures on young people and growing exposure to a range of psychoactive substances, as well as the ones we already know about like alcohol. We need to help ensure youngsters make the right choices, keep safe, and enjoy their young adulthood."

Avesha DeWolfe, the Substance Misuse Project Worker at H0T said: "It is so important for young people to have this locally accessible substance misuse service and, thanks to Comic Relief's support in partnership with Lloyd's PDI; we are thrilled to be able to offer it."

Submitted by [Avesha DeWolfe](#)



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## Hibernian 2-1 Livingston



Hibs moved five points clear of Rangers in the race for second place in the Scottish Championship tonight with a dramatic 2-1 win over Livingston at Easter Road.

Head Coach Alan Stubbs made four changes to the starting XI that beat Berwick Rangers on Sunday, with Keith Watson, Martin Boyle, Liam Craig and Franck Dja Djedje replacing David Gray, Scott Allan, Dylan McGeouch and Dominique Malonga.

The Easter Road side went into the game knowing that second place is now in their own hands following Rangers draw last



night with Queen of the South which leaves them two points behind with a game in hand.

Stubbs elected to play a 5-3-2 formation with a back three of Watson, Liam Fontaine and Paul Hanlon with on-loan Martin Boyle employed as a right back.

Hibs started brightly and Jason Cummings could have scored two in the opening five minutes after being set up by Djedje, but his first effort was blocked and his second went narrowly wide.

The teenager must have thought that it wasn't going to be his night when Craig put him through on goal but he pulled his shot wide of the target.

On 30 minutes however his luck turned when Craig sent a fantastic through ball into his path and the teenager calmly rounded the Livingston keeper before sliding the ball into the net.

Livingston started the second half strongly and dominated possession for the first ten minutes without looking like scoring.

On the hour mark, a long ball from Watson found Cummings in the penalty box but he was impeded before he could shoot but the referee waved away his appeals to the fury of the supporters.

Although Hibs looked to be in control they were always vulnerable to a Livingston break away and in the 68<sup>th</sup> minute Paul Hanlon produced a superb last ditch tackle to prevent Ibra Sekajja from levelling the score.

Three minutes later, substitute McGeouch set up Boyle but his low cross just missed Djedje at the back post.

With time running out, Livingston equalised against the run of

play. A long throw into the box caused the Hibs defence some confusion and Sekajja poked the ball home.

Straight from the kick off, Hibs attacked and the ball was passed to Lewis Stevenson on the left wing. Stevenson looked up and sent in inch perfect cross into the danger area and Djedje outjumped his marker and headed the ball into the corner of the net sparking jubilation amongst the home fans.

Hibs: Oxley, Watson, Hanlon, Fontaine, Stevenson, Boyle, Roberson, Fyvie, Craig, Djedje, Cummings. Subs: Perntreou, Forster, Stanton, Handling, Allan, McGeouch, Malonga

Livingston: Jamieson, Sives, Talbot, Cole, Fordyce, Jacobs, Jacobs, Gallagher, McKenna, Sekajja, Pittman. Subs Walker, O'Brien, Hippolyte, Praprotnik, Beaumont, Glen, Mullen.

Referee Stephen Finnie

Attendance 7857

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## **CBI Scotland director addresses finance summit**

**CBI Scotland director to address key Summit on financing growth firms**

Daily Business, the fast-growing news website, and Lending Crowd, the leading Scottish crowd lender, have secured Hugh Aitken, the recently-appointed director of CBI Scotland, as the headline speaker at an inaugural Summit to be held in Edinburgh next month.

It will be one of the first public speeches given by Mr Aitken, who took up his position in January. He will be joined by a number of speakers addressing the issue of fund-raising for growth firms.

Other confirmed speakers are Stuart Lunn, chief executive of Lending Crowd, Simon Farrell, managing director of branding company Tayburn, and Paul Farley, chief executive of Tag Games.

The Summit entitled Financing the Future: How can we grow Scottish brands and businesses? will be held at the offices of legal practice Burness Paull in Lothian Road, Edinburgh.

Booking details and further information are available at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/financing-the-future-how-can-we-grow-scottish-brands-and-businesses-tickets-16082426972>

Terry Murden, Editor and Director of Daily Business, said: "It is a great coup for Daily Business and LendingCrowd to secure Mr Aitken as a speaker at our inaugural public event. I have known Hugh for some time and I am sure he will be a great draw for the business community.

"His acceptance of my invitation to speak is a great endorsement of the progress being made by Scotland's most innovative media project and the fast-emerging attention surrounding LendingCrowd and the crowdfunding phenomenon. I am sure it will be a fascinating session."

Mr Murden is a former Business Editor of The Scotsman and Scotland on Sunday, and previously Editor and Business Editor of The Sunday Times Scotland.

Stuart Lunn, CEO of LendingCrowd added: "We are pleased to co-host the event with Daily Business which will be our inaugural summit. Accessing finance and growing brands has never been more important for small businesses in Scotland and the wider

UK. We have arranged an engaging line up of speakers which we expect will provoke thoughtful and lively discussion amongst the delegates present.”

Submitted by [Terry Murden](#)

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# Government inquiry into historical child abuse to meet in Edinburgh next week



**Public to help shape remit of Inquiry into historical abuse in care.**

Survivors of historical abuse in care or in institutions in Scotland are being asked to help shape the recently announced Inquiry into historical abuse at events in Edinburgh in the coming weeks.

Additional meetings in Edinburgh and Glasgow are being arranged by the Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland (CELCIS) and will give more people the opportunity to have a say in the remit of the Inquiry and what skills they would want in a chairperson or panel, as well as considering other commitments the Scottish Government has made to support survivors of abuse.

Education Secretary Angela Constance pledged that survivors of abuse would have the chance to feed into the process before the scope of the inquiry and the appointments of a chair or panel were confirmed when she announced there would be a statutory inquiry into historical child abuse in institutional

care.

Places for the engagement sessions – taking place in Edinburgh on March 17<sup>th</sup> and in Glasgow on March 19<sup>th</sup> – need to be reserved in advance and the meeting by visiting the website or calling the number below. These meetings will not be open to the public. Meetings have already been held in Perth, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

People can also submit their views in writing to the address below or through the Scottish Government website. A phone line 0808 800 0031 has also been set up to answer questions people may have about how to share their views.

Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, said:

“The initial feedback from those who have been able to attend the meetings has already been very helpful and the Inquiry team are receiving information by phone and in writing from across Scotland and beyond. I greatly appreciate that survivors of abuse have taken the time to share very personal and painful memories and experiences to help us set the right terms for this Inquiry.

“This Parliament must always be on the side of victims of abuse and we want to make it as easy as possible for people to come forward and put their views on the record. I would really encourage anyone who has a view about how we can ensure that victim’s voices are heard to take a look at the webpages, call for more information or try to come to a meeting if they are able.”

The Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland – CELCIS – is providing logistical support, research and advice throughout the Inquiry process.

Professor Andrew Kendrick of CELCIS continued:

“The announcement by Scottish Government of a public inquiry and other commitments to survivors of historic abuse moves us closer to achieving justice for survivors. We hope that through these events, survivors will influence how the inquiry and other commitments are taken forward so that their needs are fully addressed.”

Helen Holland, survivor and Chair of In Care Abuse Survivors (INCAS), said:

“This is a significant step forward in achieving justice for survivors. It is important that we get to the truth about how some children were treated in large institutions and this is an opportunity for survivors to share their views on the range of commitments made by the Scottish Government.

“The Inquiry could provide the answers as to why this abuse was allowed to happen and how we will ensure we safeguard children today. It is important that providers take responsibility and accountability is explored through this process.

“I would encourage survivors to take part and to have their voices heard in a safe and protected environment.”

The Inquiry will be statutory under the Inquiries (Scotland) Act 2005 and will have the power to compel witnesses to attend and give evidence, if needed.

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## **Council still in talks about an Edinburgh bike hire scheme**



The city council is to engage in talks with advertising giant JCDecaux about the possibility of Edinburgh getting a bike hire scheme just like most other large cities around the world. Decaux is the outdoor advertising company which deals with placing ads on bus stops and elsewhere in the urban landscape and recently took over the council's business from Clear Channel. It also describes itself as the number one company for self-service city bike hire, which we think is long-awaited in the capital.

At next week's transport committee meeting the council will be told that talks are imminent and a report will be brought back to the council in October 2015. The matter began with a petition by some Edinburgh students asking why Edinburgh did not have a scheme such as those in other cities. The petition attracted 739 signatures by the time it was considered by the Petitions Committee at their meeting in January 2015.

The Edinburgh Reporter spoke to Transport Convener about the potential timeline for introduction of such a scheme:

Dublin has had a bike hire scheme for five years and it has been so successful since its launch that there have been around 8 million bike journeys on the city's streets in that time. It is growing fast with a major expansion offering a total of 1500 bikes across 100 stations. Although it was initially funded by JCDecaux it is now sponsored by Coca-Cola Zero. Members pay a small annual fee to get a card which makes using the bikes much simpler, although tourists can also hire bikes with a credit card.

In London there is an annual charge of £90 for annual membership but there is also a Pay as You Pedal scheme which adds a fee of £2 on each first hire of the day. The bike hire scheme was initially sponsored by Barclays Bank but Santander has now taken over that role to offer 10,000 bikes across the capital 24 hours per day. The scheme also extends to cycle

training for community groups.

What do you think? Would you use bike hire in the city?

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# Happy Birthday to Fountainbridge Library!



Fountainbridge Library is 75 this year and they have a full programme of events this week to celebrate including a birthday party this afternoon from 2.00pm.



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# Chess at the Church Hill Theatre



Dancers depict the Chess game between Anatoly Sergievsky (Kenneth Pinkerton) and Freddie Trumper (Ali Floyd).

Edinburgh Music Theatre took to the stage last night to present the first performance of a week's run of Chess: The Musical.



EMT will be performing the musical theatre classic, best known for the popular duet "I Know Him So Well", at the Church Hill Theatre in Morningside until Saturday 14 March 2015.

The musical follows the story of two of the world's greatest chess masters as they battle it out at the world chess championships, but their greatest contest is for the love of one woman. Amidst political intrigue and international conspiracies, the American and the Russian fight to win her heart in a romantic triangle that mirrors the heightened passions of the Cold War.



Reporters surround the Mayor of Merano, the scene of the first international chess championship in Chess: The Musical. L-R Hazel Beattie, Caroline Hood, Lauren Jack, Hamish McCool, David Doherty, Henrietta Linnemann.

Performances of Chess will take place in the Church Hill Theatre from 10-14 March at 7:30pm, with a matinee performance on Saturday 14 March at 2:30pm. Tickets are available through the Usher Hall website and booking line 0131 228 1155.

#### Listing Details:

Edinburgh Music Theatre presents Chess: the Musical.

The Church Hill Theatre, Morningside Road, Edinburgh.

7:30pm (Saturday Matinee 2:30pm)

Tickets: Wed – Sat £14 (£12 conc.). Sat Matinee – all tickets £12.

#### Photo Captions:

All photos: Alan Potter, StagePics.co.uk



Dangerous and difficult times as the American

delegation scheme against the Russians in Chess: The Musical. L-R David Doherty, Scott Kenneway, Christopher Cameron, Hazel Beattie, Katie Schoenberg.



Dancers surround the Arbiters as they lay down the law in Chess the Musical. L-R Lauren Stewart, Anna Deery, Jennifer Good, Eilidh Charles, Colin Richardson, Toni Liddell, Lauren Gracie, Anna Spence. (Front Row) Lauren McAnna, Sophie Cogle.

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## Edinburgh's 20mph network racing ahead



The council agreed in January 2015 to implement a network of 20 mph speed limits to reduce traffic speeds across the city, and at next week's [Transport Committee meeting](#) they will explain the process by which they will do this.

The council propose to introduce one Speed Limit Order to implement the new network rather than a piecemeal process on a street by street basis. It is still going to be a lengthy procedure and the earliest estimate is that the new limits will be brought into force this time next year. The council will have to put up notices on every street to be affected, there will be press advertising presumably in the Edinburgh Evening News and the council will have full details on their

website.

Not all streets will become 20mph zones and it is important to note that the arterial routes in and out of the city will remain at either 30mph or 40mph as before. There is an interactive map below.

There was a public consultation carried out last year but Edinburgh residents will have another chance to have their say during the statutory process to introduce a Speed Limit Order.

The Edinburgh Reporter spoke to Transport Convener Councillor Lesley Hinds about how the scheme will be introduced:

A pilot project in South Edinburgh was deemed very successful by the council and did result in reduced speeds through the area.

It is hoped that all the changes can be introduced by signage rather than speed bumps or chicanes which would be more expensive to install. The council says it has already cut £300,000 off the design cost by removing some side streets, such as short cul-de-sacs off 30mph roads, from the network.

The only way that the whole city could be covered by a blanket default 20mph speed limit would be to have legislation introduced at Holyrood, and this would also take much longer to achieve. Edinburgh is the first city in Scotland to introduce the 20mph network and the Scottish Government will be asked to contribute to the costs of its introduction as it will provide useful information for any future schemes. Sustrans the charity which supports travel by foot, bike and public transport is also likely to contribute to the costs which are expected to be around £500,000 each year for the next three years. Half of the cost is expected to be paid for by Holyrood who have previously shown support for the move.

The council is mindful that the speed limits will have to be

monitored and enforced by Police Scotland and say that “Police Scotland recognise speed management is an important element and will continue to enforce 20,30 and 40mph speed limits across the city road network”. The Transport Convener confirmed that the enforcement of all speed limits is included in the Service Level Agreement which the council had entered into with Police Scotland. But there is an admission that the changes will mean a complete change in driving culture across the city and that this is more difficult to introduce.

The council recommended the speed reduction on some streets to make them safer for all road users including car drivers, pedestrians and cyclists. It is hoped that by making traffic slow down in certain areas there will be a reduction in numbers and severity of any road casualties on these streets.

The proposal is to introduce the scheme in phases over three years, and the first area to be affected will be the City Centre and Rural West districts.

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## **Council to add on-street charging points for electric cars**



The Lord Provost the Rt Hon Donald Wilson has taken delivery of a new electric BMW car to replace the old one thus fulfilling a promise he made some time back to get a more eco-friendly car. He has no problem in getting this car charged of course as there is a charging point in the quadrangle at the

City Chambers. (And he hasn't sold the private number – we believe it just hasn't been changed over yet!)

The council is to approve the installation of new electric charging points in the Marchmont and Sciennes area of the city where there is apparently more demand than anywhere else in Edinburgh.

This will be a pilot scheme and will help the council reduce emission of all the noxious gases associated with ordinary cars. The council know that there were 121 electric cars registered to owners in the city as at last September, but with an expectation that this number will rise, they feel it is time to look at how best they can introduce the charging points which will be necessary. Marchmont and Sciennes has a high proportion of two car households and it is apparently more common to replace the second car with an electric one. The council hope to make this easier for all residents and promote the use of low emission vehicles by installing on-street charging points for residents and visitors.

The Transport Committee will examine the details again in Summer 2015 when they hope to have details of locations, the costs involved, the parking charges for charging bays and a programme for rolling out the trial.

Transport Scotland will be involved in the project which will follow a local consultation, and it is hoped to introduce charging points at parking bays and city car club spaces in the second half of 2016. It will take until then to establish what the council should do and then put all the Traffic Regulation Orders in place.

The next phase would then introduce charging points for electric buses and taxis across the city.

If you have an electric car then here is already a network of public charging points available across the city on the map below:



The council already has an electric car which we spotted in the quad the other day.













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# Announcing the North Edinburgh News Cooperative

The Edinburgh Reporter and North Edinburgh Community News along with Tenants and Residents in Muirhouse (TRIM) are delighted to announce a new collaboration – North Edinburgh News Cooperative.

The Cooperative will allow both organisations to work together to provide the North Edinburgh community with an up to date independent news outlet.

As well as continuing to provide news, at no cost to the tax payer, we will be offering FREE training for local people and

organisations.

Speaking at the launch Phyllis Stephen, Editor of The Edinburgh Reporter said "I am really pleased that we will have more of a presence in North Edinburgh due to our collaboration with North Edinburgh Community News and TRIM. A lot of really good newsworthy things take place there, and we want to ensure that none of it is overlooked. I realise that the area is under stress from the effects of crime, food and energy poverty but I think that all of this needs focus and attention, and we want to help tell the stories to do just that."

Thomas Brown, Editor at North Edinburgh Community News said "I was delighted when we sat down with Phyllis and discussed the Cooperative.

"We have been providing community news in North Edinburgh for around two years and over this time we have been humbled by how well this has been received.

"Our new partnership with The Edinburgh Reporter will strengthen our position and we are all looking forward to working with Phyllis and her team."

Robert Pearson who is Chair of TRIM and the Muirhouse community shop manager said:

"I was absolutely delighted to be part of this new collaboration which only began a few weeks ago. I know that both The Edinburgh Reporter and North Edinburgh Community News are very reputable and supporters of all things community,

"I am happy to welcome them in to our community shop on 14 March 2015 with the first event when families in the area are urged to bring their mums in to get a family photo taken. It is all free!"



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# Wednesday In Edinburgh – What's On Today



**Haiti Street Art:** an exhibition to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the 2010 Haiti earthquake. Come and buy to support the country five years on. 9-5pm Wednesday to Sunday (closed Mondays and Tuesdays) until 19th March 2015, [Bon Papillon](#), 15 Howe Street.



**Fountainbridge Library is 75!** A library has stood on the Dundee Street site since 1897 – the first neighbourhood library was funded from the estate of philanthropist **Thomas Nelson**, but by the 1930s the building needed to be replaced. **JAW Grant** was appointed to be architect of the new library, with sculptor **Charles D'Orville Pilkington Jackson** commissioned to provide the carving to surmount the main doorway; Jackson's original plans included ornate carvings of a fountain and a bridge, so he was understandably dismayed when he learned of a planned change of name to 'Dundee Street Library' – luckily the plan was dropped, and despite delays caused by the war, the new library was opened in 1940. To celebrate this anniversary, the library has arranged a week of events; today it's an **Anniversary Celebration Day**, with coffee, cake and a chance to see the library in days gone by. Drop in and help the staff celebrate whilst adding your favourite memory to the birthday tree. 2pm, [Fountainbridge Library](#), 137 Dundee Street. There will also be a **Birthday Bookbug** on Thursday 12th March, plus an exhibition of photos and memories of the last 75 years.



**Painted Ladies: Renaissance Beauty and Cosmetic Practices.** **Farah Karim-Cooper** (Head of Research, Globe Theatre, London) will explore the idea of beauty in early modern Europe and England, and examine some of the era's 'social media' (texts, theatre and images) that created these ideals. She will also uncover some of the cosmetic recipes and beautifying practices of early modern women. 12.45-1.30pm, Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed.



**Bookbug Rhymetime:** for young children and their parents and carers. 2pm today and every Wednesday, [Piershill Library](#), Piershill Terrace.



**Botanic Cottage Updates and Stories:** an informal talk to find out more about the Botanic Cottage as it is re-built stone by stone. For ages 10+. 1-1.30pm, Blue Shed, Demonstration Garden, [Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh](#), Inverleith Row. Free: no booking required.



**Morningside Coffee Morning:** 10-11.30am today and every Wednesday, Church Halls, [Morningside Parish Church](#), Braid Road/Cluny Gardens. All welcome!



**Benji the PlayTalkRead bus will be at Gate 55 today!** Songs, stories and play sessions for young children and their parents and carers. 10am-1pm and 2-4pm, [Gate 55](#), Sighthill Road. Free.



**Flatland: Jean-Philippe Dordolo and Kadie Salmon.** An exhibition of new work produced by the artists during their recent micro-residencies. Preview 5.30-8pm tonight, then 11am-5pm Thursday to Saturday (or by appointment), [Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop](#), 21 Hawthornvale.



**Terry Alderton: All Crazy Now.** Come and be part of the audience for a brand new Radio 4 show, due for broadcast this summer. Terry Alderton, multi-award-winning comedian and star of ***Eastenders***, will perform stand-up, stories, characters and sketches, and the show will also feature the mercurial comedian **Boothby Graffoe** on nose flute and vibes. 8pm, Netherbow Theatre, [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#), 43-45 High Street. Tickets are **free** and can be booked online [here](#) or by calling the Box Office on 0131 556 9579.

**Lunchtime Concert: Magee Secondary School** – chamber choir and string orchestra. 12.15pm, [St Giles' Cathedral](#), High Street. Free.



**Italian Film Festival:** curated by **Allan Hunter** and **Richard Mowe**, the 22nd Festival continues today. 'An exciting and diverse line-up of contemporary and classic Italian cinema, including hilarious comedies, insightful dramas, seat-edge thrillers and classics from award-winning directors'. All films are subtitled in English, Today: **First Snowfall (15)** 'a tender tale of the shared humanity in two lost souls. A melancholy, sensitively-handled drama, graced by the luminous cinematography of Luca Bigazzi who captures the staggering beauty of the changing Alpine seasons'. 8.45pm, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Tickets can be booked online via the [website](#) or by calling the Box Office on 0131 228 2688.



**Let Sunshine Into Your Heart: a University of Edinburgh *Let's talk about...understanding disease* lecture.** Exciting new research has shown that sunshine can lower blood pressure. Good news for those who suffer from high blood pressure associated with cardiovascular disease – but what about medical warnings regarding sun exposure? Speakers: **Dr Richard Weller** (MRC Centre for Inflammation Research, University of Edinburgh) and **Dr Darren Shaw** (Royal Vet School, University of Edinburgh & The Roslin Institute). 4.45pm, [Queen's Medical Research Institute](#), Little France Crescent, EH16 4TJ. Free and open to all; please book via eventbrite [here](#).



**Bookbug:** for children aged 0-4 and their parents and carers. 10.15 or 11.15am today and every Wednesday, [Portobello Library](#), 14 Rosefield Avenue. These sessions are very popular, please arrive early. There is also a session at 11.30am every Saturday.



**One Health: intergenerational design strategies for engaging children with nature in cities.** Professor Robin Moore and Dr Nilda Cosco (NC State University), international authorities on the design of children's play and learning environments, will propose that a crisis of culture can only be addressed by engaging children with nature from birth, in the places they and their families use in everyday life. How this may be accomplished will be illustrated through the work of the **Natural Learning Initiative** and recent case studies. 6pm, Hunter Building Lecture Theatre, [Edinburgh College of Art](#), Lauriston Place. This is a free public lecture: booking is required and may be made via eventbrite [here](#). For more information contact the organiser, Professor Catharine Ward Thomson, via the eventbrite booking page.



**Wiff Waff Wednesday:** a monthly ping pong night for all ages with music, plus great food and drink available to purchase from the Drill Hall Arts Cafe. 'Friendship first, competition second.' 6-10pm, [Out of the Blue Drill Hall](#), 36 Dalmeny Street, Leith. Free admission.



**Morningside Parish Church Baby and Toddler Group:** for children up to about 3 years. A friendly and informal way for parents to meet and children to have fun with the large selection of toys. All welcome, no pre-registration needed – just turn up. 10-11.30am today and every Wednesday and Monday, [Morningside Parish Church](#), Braid Road/Cluny Gardens. £1.50 donation per session.



**Morningside Justice and Peace Group: Why is there a conspiracy to silence charities?** Chief Executive, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations **Martin Sime** addresses this question, followed by a Q & A session. 10.30-11.30am, [The Open Door](#), 420 Morningside Road. £1 per person. For more information contact Barbara Darcy on 0131 228 1807 or [b.darcy20@gmail.com](mailto:b.darcy20@gmail.com).



Nalini Paul: image –  
Scottish Poetry Library

**Poetry Association of Scotland: Mary Johnston & Nalini Paul Reading.** A Doric poet, winner of the Callum MacDonald Memorial Award 2014 for her pamphlet *The Angel and the Aipple*, teams up with an Indian poet who has just had her illustrated poem *Hrafn Floki* purchased by the National Gallery of Modern Art. 7.30pm, [The Saltire Society](#), 9 Fountain Close. Admission £5/£4 (free for members of the Association): no advance booking needed. For further information please contact Mario Relich: [dmr.lit@fsmail.net](mailto:dmr.lit@fsmail.net).





**LGBT: Just for Men.** A relaxed social opportunity for men who want to meet other gay, bisexual or transgender men in one of Edinburgh's newest LGBT-friendly bars. For over-18s only. 6.30-8.30pm, [Woodland Creatures](#), 260-262 Leith Walk.



**The Old Edinburgh Club: Professor Stana Nenadic – Artisans, Design Education and the Scottish Luxury Trades 1780-1914.** 7pm, [Augustine United Church](#), George IV Bridge. Admission £5 (members free). The Old Edinburgh Club was founded in 1908 with the aim of recording the vanishing evidence of Edinburgh's history, its buildings and its past inhabitants from prehistoric times onwards.



**Common Weal Edinburgh North & Leith: Poetry & Spoken Word Open Mic.** A celebration of local spoken word hosted by local poet **Jenny Lindsay (Rally & Broad)**: 5 minute open mic slots available for spoken word of any kind. To sign up for a spot email [commonwealenl@gmail.com](mailto:commonwealenl@gmail.com) or note your interest on the event's [Facebook page](#). 7-9.30pm, [Area C Coffee House](#), 239-241 Leith Walk.



**Jammin at Voodoo:** monthly jam session with some of Scotland's leading musicians playing lounge grooves from many genres. Blues, soul, funk, ska, rock, reggae, jazz and country; musicians play by invitation to set a good standard. For over 18s only. 9-11pm, The Ballroom, [The Voodoo Rooms](#), 19a West Register Street. Free admission.



**Edinburgh University Shakespeare Company Presents *The Merchant***



**of Venice:** it is the summer of 1939 and Britain is travelling headlong towards one of the most devastating and transformative periods of its history. Oblivious to the oncoming storm, the London elite sit smoking their cigars and enjoying the fruits of their inheritance. 7.30 today-Saturday 14th March (with 2.30pm matinee on Saturday 14th), [Assembly Roxy](#), 2 Roxburgh Place. Tickets cost £10/£8/£6 and can be purchased online [here](#).

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# Five things you need to know today



**Great year for Edinburgh attractions**

**At the Usher Hall for Mother's Day**

**Spring concert at Rosslyn Chapel**

**Film night**

**Photography at the Botanics**



There was a staggering rise of 39% in visitors last year to the National Galleries of Scotland according to the Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions (ASVA) 2014 Annual Visitor Trend Report.

The figures show that as well as attending major events like the Commonwealth Games, The Ryder Cup and the Year of

Homecoming, visitors were also discovering and exploring some of the great attractions to be found in capital.

**Sir John Leighton, Director-General of the National Galleries of Scotland, National Galleries of Scotland, said:**

“2014 was an exceptional year for the National Galleries of Scotland. A strong programme of exhibitions led by GENERATION: 25 Years of Contemporary Art in Scotland was extremely popular with both international and local visitors and a dedicated marketing campaign targeting visitors to the city worked exceptional well and enabled NGS to capitalise on the huge success of the Commonwealth Games, Ryder Cup and Homecoming. We are confident that we can continue this success in 2015 and look forward to welcoming even more visitors to all three Galleries across Edinburgh.”

Other city attractions such as the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, which joins the Scottish National Gallery as one of Scotland's Top 20 most visited attractions which attracted 19% more visitors than last year. Positive increases were also recorded through 2014 at St Giles' Cathedral, The Scotch Whisky Experience and Our Dynamic Earth

**Regional Director, Manuela Calchini, said;**

“Last year was an exceptional year for Scottish tourism, it was the year we welcomed the world. These figures show that as well as attending major events like the Commonwealth Games, The Ryder Cup and the Year of Homecoming, visitors were also discovering and exploring some of the great attractions to be found in Edinburgh”.

“In 2015, we will build on the energy and excitement of last year, using strengths, such as our city's food and drink and quality visitor experiences, to take Scotland to the world and enhance our reputation as a must visit, must return destination.”

More information on the Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions can be found on [www.asva.co.uk](http://www.asva.co.uk)

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Camerata Salzburg puts collaborating with the best musicians in the world at the heart of everything they do and here they team up with the incredible Nicola Benedetti on Sunday 15 March 2015 at 3pm.

*They are said to be many things including 'full of energy', 'uncompromisingly individual', 'daring and modern'. Their distinct musical style has formed over a period of six decades. Through their collaborations with the great musicians and leading soloists of our day, such as Sir Roger Norrington, András Schiff, Anne-Sophie Mutter and Mitsuko Ushida, they cover a wide variety of music from string quartets for a small chamber group to romantic symphonies and 20th century classical works for a large orchestra.*

*British conductor Ben Gurnen has worked with the orchestra to award-winning effect and conducts here where each work complements the next in a packed but perfectly balanced programme.*

[More details and tickets here.](#)

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The chamber choir of Heriot-Watt University has been performing for sixteen years. Join the choir as they perform in the amazing, quite unique, acoustic of Rosslyn Chapel, an intimate candle lit setting.

Out of the thousands of British folk songs this evening concert will visit the various corners of the country, the colours, stories and settings conveyed. Each song has been

arranged with loving care, attention to the text and also the grouping and mix of the choir.

The concert will last for approximately 1 hour and there will be drinks served afterwards.

**The doors will open at 7pm and the concert starts at 7.30pm.**  
**[Ticket details here.](#)**

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Get along to the Botanic Gardens to see the fabulous photography exhibition at the John Hope Gateway which opened earlier in the week. The photographs have to be seen to be believed. (we particularly like the one with the butterfly)

One of the entries is of the Alnwick Garden in Northumberland which was planned out by the Duchess of Northumberland, formerly Jane Richard who was brought up in Edinburgh.

*International Garden Photographer of the Year is an outdoor photographic exhibition that reveals the diversity and beauty of our green planet. See a selection of the winning entries from the world's leading garden photography competition by both amateur and professional photographers. Supported by Water Gems.*

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