

COMPETITION – Win tickets to Inspiring Women in Business conference



The Inspiring Women in Business conference will be held at The Balmoral on 5 March 2015.

Tickets are selling fast but **you can win two tickets worth £250 each** here for you and a friend or colleague.

The conference will include speakers like Kirsty Wark and Erica Moore of Eteaket Tea in Frederick Street and you are invited to go along and meet like-minded women all seeking practical advice and networking opportunities.

There will be talks about success and setbacks. The question will be asked “Can you really have it all?” Start-up stories and advice from the country’s highest flying women will make for an inspiring day.

If you would like to win two tickets worth £500 then you simply have to answer this question below before 6:00pm on Sunday 22 February 2015.

[COMPETITION NOW CLOSED]

If you have any queries about this competition please get in touch!

theedinburghreporter@gmail.com



REVIEW – Prides at Liquid Room



2014 was the year of Chvrches, 2015 is the year of Prides. Chvrches rose from supporting the likes of Two Door Cinema Club and Depeche Mode, while making a deep impression on the American music scene whom have taken a serious admiration to the Scottish trio. Prides played at the Commonwealth Games Closing Ceremony and have played with Blink-182, while headlining the BBC Introducing stage at Reading & Leeds Festival along with dipping their toes into America. Who knows what the next year brings for Prides?

All we know so far is the hard-hitting melodies and emphatic live performances are just a minuscule yet pivotal part in Prides' impressive musicianship.

Selling out three medium-sized Scottish venues without releasing an album is already an incredible feat in itself. Liquid Room is rammed with all ages, the noise mostly drowned out by young teenagers who have followed the band around incessantly for the last two years. The Prides logo and LED lights set the stage with a simple set-up for the band to energetically throw themselves around like rag dolls.

The songs are played with effortless precision – almost like the recording is stuck on the PA and the band aren't played. But they are playing, and doing it well. From the opener 'I Should Know You Better' all the way to an hour later when

'Messiah' closes the show, encouraging comments fill the venue of how much an impact the band have made on an Edinburgh crowd.

On top of the six songs that are currently accessible to everyone, Prides also included some of their newer songs that will be included on their upcoming debut album – due out around Summer – which also received some enthusiastic feedback. The band also used their profound production skills to place a mixtape into their set. Stewart Brock said before that the last time they played it, it sounded horrendous but were going to give it a try anyway. The mix took a rollercoaster ride from Sam Smith to Catfish & the Bottlemen, and Iggy Azalea to The 1975.

The polite and exciting trio used the hour slot they had at Liquid Room to prove they are to be a massive deal in pop music.

As long as they follow the route of Chvrches, nothing can stop them.

Review: Fifty Shades of Grey (Sam Taylor-Johnson, 2015)



Echoed breaths and riding crops; stylish nudity and a submissive woman – the caustic ingredients for Sam Taylor-Johnson's cinematic adaptation of E.L. James' Fifty Shades of Grey. Let's not pretend we had terribly high hopes for it. The source material was, of course, a twisted and renamed version of an eroticised Twilight fan fiction. In its translation to

the screen, it bares resemblance to the gaunt, unfulfilling nature of its inspiration. Fifty Shades of Grey feels more fantasy than erotica. The result of Taylor-Johnson's hard work? A two hour, tame insight into a relationship that seems more degrading than appealing.

When a student of literature approaches a wealthy businessman for an interview, she wasn't entirely sure what to expect from him. As an attraction grows, the man unveils the sexual vulnerability in her and she is shaped into the woman she didn't think she was capable of being.

There's a major, pressing issue at the centre of Fifty Shades of Grey: the manner in which it degrades women. Outside the bedroom, protagonist Anastasia Steele (a woman majoring in English lit, for Christ's sake) is reduced to a babbling, socially awkward HBO-like creation. When Anastasia is inside the bedroom, she's ceaselessly stripped, bound and spanked like some sort of animal in a manner that's presented as titillating. It's nonreciprocal, entirely objectifying and uncomfortable to watch. She's a grotesquely created character – the epitome of backwards progression for women in cinema. That's not the only questionable moral instance of the film – we're treated to the revelation that our leading man's obsession with BDSM comes from his abuse as a teenager at the hands of his mother's friend. It's brushed off as a succeeded childhood fantasy; not an act of paedophilia.

She's one dimensionally performed by Dakota Johnson – an actress who manages to stumble her way through the film's overlong run time, thinking constantly about her perverted suitor. Jamie Dornan plays the elusive Christian Grey with a little more understanding of his role. Their paired screen time is rarely enjoyable – with one small exception. A scene in which they meet to discuss amendments to a contract that lists what the Dominant (Grey) is permitted to do to the Submissive (Steele). It displays strong willed femininity with glimmers of hope that Fifty Shades turns itself around in a

moment of great screenwriting and commendable performances. It doesn't.

Credit can go to the Irish great Seamus McGarvey, for making the film at least look great. Wide shots of expensive penthouses and admittedly well edited 'play room' scenes make it visually appealing. The score by Danny Elfman, is accompanied by a plethora of modern music's most interesting names lending their sound to the film. The rearrangements of Crazy in Love and Haunted by Beyoncé make the senseless sex scenes a little more sumptuous, whilst R&B artist The Weeknd's smooth vocals seem destined for this sort of story.

It's a shame that E.L. James' stringent hand over the film's production results in a visual interpretation of her absurd, sexist story that doesn't dare to try anything different. In the end behind its glossy, sumptuous setting, Fifty Shades of Grey acts as some sort of gross metaphor for domestic violence. Conceptually tired, insensitive and poorly scripted, this could be 2015's highest grossing dud.



Fifty Shades of Grey is released in UK cinemas nationwide on February 13th

St Columba's has a Valentine's gift for you!



Poor old St Valentine may be over-commercialised these days; many of us march straight past the supermarket displays of

hearts, flowers and pinkness – but St Columba's Hospice has come up with a novel way of sharing the love with you. *'There's nothing new under the sun!'* I hear you cry – but no, I didn't say *new*....

If you travel on Lothian Buses this weekend, look out for one of St Columba's packages. Tied with pink string and adorned with hearts, they will contain romantic novels and collections of love stories – St Columba's hopes that you'll read them and either leave them for the next person to enjoy, or pass them on to your friends. All the books come from St Columba's Bookshop in Montague Terrace, Goldenacre. Trading Company Coordinator Barbara Brockie hopes that the free parcels will help raise awareness of St Columba's, make people's journeys a little more interesting, and encourage them to visit the bookshop, saying 'We have such a huge variety of books at Goldenacre – it makes sense to share them!' Lothian Buses, she adds, have been hugely supportive of the idea – in fact the charity has been leaving these little gifts on buses every few months or so for a while.

So if you find a book on your bus this weekend – enjoy! And if you miss your stop, don't worry – the bus will turn round and come back in the end. No.s 23 and 27 even go to Inverleith Row, handily enabling you to call in at the shop, where most books sell for just £1 and there is also a selection of new toys and gifts.

St Columba's is a charity offering treatment and support to people with life-limiting illnesses and their families. It has six shops dotted around Edinburgh and the Lothians; the bookshop is open 10am-4pm Monday to Saturday, and from 1st March it will also be open 1-4pm on Sunday afternoons.



The Edinburgh Reporter in Conversation with James Ward Byrkit, the director of Coherence



On a warm night in June at the Edinburgh Film Festival, I sat down, admittedly shattered, to watch a film I hadn't heard much about. I knew it was supposedly science fiction, and I knew that the concept sounded interesting. What I didn't expect was to see one of the most mind-boggling pieces of cinema I had seen in years.

It follows a group of friends who meet one night over dinner. As a comet passes overhead, the power goes out along with every point of connection to the outside world. Eager to discover exactly what's going on, they head across the street to the only house left with their lights on. What's inside and what occurs makes for some truly riveting cinema.

It marks the cinema directorial debut of James Ward Byrkit – the man behind the story for the Oscar winning Rango, a film that is altogether bares little resemblance to his latest work. From cowboy reptilians to mystifying doppelgängers, this is one bold cinematic transition that works incredibly well.

We spoke to James ahead of the UK release of Coherence, where he discussed the project's fruition, his diverse writing style and the projects he's planning.

When and how did the concept of Coherence come to you?

As I was finishing up work on *RANGO*, I really wanted to direct my own project, a microbudget movie of some sort. My writing cohort Alex Manugian and I started brainstorming ideas that we could make for no money. We realized we had to work with whatever we had. Namely, a camera, some friends who could act... and a living room. So the question was how to make a living room feel like more than just a living room. How to give it cosmic significance? And I pictured reality starting to fracture during a dinner party. The creepiness of getting lost in a night of twists and puzzles. An unraveling sense of identity that comes from things being not quite right. And that was so instantly compelling, we knew we had our starting point.

You worked with Gore Verbinski on the story for the Academy Award winning *Rango*. How different was that experience compared to *Coherence*, which feels like a much more independent project? Is it difficult to write a story so multifaceted and keep track of it as you are writing?

Rango was similar in that we unleashed our creativity and worked at top gear the entire time, not unlike *COHERENCE*. The difference is, of course, that in making a microbudget movie, you are working without a net. You gain freedom and lose support in the form of money. I wanted to push the limits of what had ever been attempted before—namely, creating one of the most complicated puzzles ever seen and not giving the actors a script. The improvisational nature of *COHERENCE* is really the big difference. And the most exciting.

It was difficult to keep track of it all, and diagram it all out, and keep the puzzle pieces meaningful, and keep the characters grounded in some kind of truth, but that was also the most enjoyable aspect.

The title of the film, many would argue, contradicts the mindbending aspects of it. Was this intentional?

Yes, certainly. Once we found out about the concept of “decoherence,” the opposite of that seemed like a delicious,

almost absurd declaration. It's the first clue to a lot of deadpan sassiness going on. I love that word, not just because of the layers of meaning it connotes within science, and the "co-here" aspect of the word itself, but the idea of reality itself being coherent. It was clear that a movie named *COHERENCE* would of course have to at some point build to complete incoherence to deserve the irony. We applied tremendous discipline plotting something with internal logic that on first viewing would be spaghetti, but on repeated viewings might reveal itself to follow its own rules precisely.

It's fairly difficult to place Coherence into a specific 'genre', as it covers so many cinematic bases. Is there a genre you are drawn to as a filmmaker and as a viewer?

I think "mindbender" is the best category for it. I'm drawn to anything that lets us take a ride into the unknown and the farflung unexplored regions of the brain. Life is so much bigger than just our daily routine, and science fiction stories provide a much needed head trip. Humans crave connection to cosmic ideas, and the best stories take us there.

You're working on a comic book entitled Oxygen – what can you tell us about it?

That's another wild ride... only this time there is a really simple concept at the heart of the story where a robot and a human find themselves locked in a Hitchcock-inspired thriller. I'd love this to be my next film, so the comic is just one step to see if a production company is brave enough to join us in bringing it to life.

Coherence has its UK release on February 13th 2015

Edinburgh's No1 luxury hotel teams up with Harvey Nichols

The Chester Residence launches exclusive Harvey Nichols Pamper Package

Five-star hotel, The Chester Residence, has teamed up with Edinburgh's luxury fashion retailer, Harvey Nichols, to offer its guests an exclusive pamper package after being named as 'The UK's No1 Luxury Hotel' in the TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice Awards 2015.

The Indulgence Pamper Package includes a three course lunch or dinner, prepared by Executive Chef Stuart Muir, in Harvey Nichols' award winning Forth Floor Restaurant. In addition, guests will then indulge in some pampering. Ladies can enjoy an express manicure at the Nails Inc. Champagne Nail bar, where they will be offered a glass of Champagne, followed by an exclusive, Champagne blow-dry in-store at Scotland's only Electric Hairdressing salon.

Alternatively a men's option is also available including a refreshing one hour Hydrafacial by Beyond Medispa. Usually costing £135, this facial is designed exclusively for masculine skin and generates immediate results. It incorporates the latest gadgetry in skincare and includes a deep cleanse, peel, infusion with antioxidants and finishes with LED Light Therapy to promote collagen.

The Chester Residence is offering this exclusive Indulgence Pamper Package to guests for just £70 per person, bookable in advance.

The Chester Residence comprises an exclusive collection of 23 luxurious Georgian townhouse apartments in Edinburgh's stylish West End. Each chic designer suite has been individually designed and customised to include features such as Molton

Brown beauty products, HD TV's, soft robes, and works from Scottish artists and authors. With 17 awards under its belt, The Chester Residence delivers a personalised service to ensure guests have a memorable experience.

General Manager, Jill Darling, said: "We are delighted to launch this exclusive Pamper Package with Harvey Nichols. Many of our guests love Harvey Nichols so we thought we would make them feel extra special by offering this fantastic opportunity which can't be found anywhere else. We want our guests to enjoy every minute of their stay and we all enjoy a bit of pampering at this time of year."

Submitted by [Stacey Dent](#)



School for Social Entrepreneurs offers training and grant funding

Bank of Scotland and the School for Social Entrepreneurs are calling out to motivated entrepreneurs in Edinburgh and East Central Scotland with a desire to inspire social change!

The programme provides practical facilitated learning in addition to financial grants to help new entrepreneurs develop their social enterprise idea. The Start-up programme offers a £4,000 grant, a year of dedicated training and assigned 'business mentor' to aspiring entrepreneurs.

A free taster session on the programme will be held at the offices of PwC at 144 Morrison Street Edinburgh EH3 8EX on

Tuesday 17 February 2015 from 10am – 12pm

Students from the Programme have so far developed scores of unique and exciting enterprises that have helped make significant benefits in their communities and further afield.

Chris Hellowell founder of the Edinburgh Tool Library, an Edinburgh-based charity offering a tool borrowing and training service, commented: "Having been inspired to support community learning in Edinburgh, the opportunities offered by the Bank of Scotland Social Entrepreneurs Programme has given me the chance to kick start the Edinburgh Tool Library and bring to life our vision, offering a tool lending service in Edinburgh and deliver training and development opportunities for our members to learn new skills. Both the grant and training opportunities offered by the programme have helped my personal development and in turn helped with the charity's contribution to the communities we work in."

The Bank of Scotland Social Entrepreneurs Programme plays a vital role in the Bank of Scotland's business strategy to Help Britain Prosper, and is dedicated to supporting social entrepreneurs in communities across Scotland to help stimulate economic growth and regeneration. Since 2012 more than 700 students have graduated from the Programme and the Bank maintains commitment to support 1,300 social entrepreneurs by 2017.

Philip Grant, Regional Ambassador at Bank of Scotland, said: "I have seen first-hand the positive impact that social entrepreneurs have in our society, and know of the immense benefit in nurturing their commitment to making a social impact through entrepreneurship. Our partnership with the School for Social Entrepreneurs sits right at the heart of our business strategy to help Britain prosper and we are eager to hear the new ideas to inspire social change that will come from this year's recruits."

Alastair Wilson, CEO of the School for Social Entrepreneurs, said: "Working in partnership with Bank of Scotland has enabled us to support hundreds of the most inspiring social enterprises in the UK. This year we're thrilled to be supporting even more individuals with a desire to impact social change and look forward to seeing how their enterprises develop and grow."

Entrepreneurs can find out more about the Programme, and register to attend a taster session at: <http://www.yourideastartshere.co.uk>.

Submitted by [Donna McGrory](#)



Rangers 0-2 Hibernian



Hibs moved into second place in the Championship with a hard fought 2-0 win over Rangers at Ibrox tonight.

Goals from Scott Robertson and Lewis Stevenson secured the three points and gave Alan Stubbs his third win over the Glasgow side this season.

Head Coach Stubbs made three changes to the starting XI who beat Arbroath last Saturday and changed the formation as well and amazingly, every Hibs' player in the team has scored this season.

Skipper Liam Craig, and new signings Franck Dja Djedje and Fraser Fyvie all dropped down to the bench to be replaced by Keith Watson, Dylan McGeouch and Dominique Malonga, as Stubbs played a 5-3-2 formation.

Rangers made six changes to their starting line up due to a mixture of suspensions, injuries and poor form including the return of former Hearts captain Marius Zaluska.

The Ibrox side started brightly and Kris Boyd had a shot on goal within 20 seconds then Liam Fontaine did well to head a goalbound Kenny Miller strike off the goal line.

Hibs continued to look dangerous however and David Gray sent a great low cross into the six yard box but Paul Hanlon was just unable to get on the end of.

Six minutes later, Hibs took the lead when Robertson started a move which resulted in a fine strike from Jason Cummings. Lee Robinson did well to save the youngster's shot, but was unable to hold onto the ball which fell to Robertson and the former Dundee United midfielder was able to slot the ball into the unguarded net for his sixth goal of the season, much to the delight of the travelling 952 supporters.

Miller was forced to leave the field due to an injury on 30 minutes and was replaced by Nicky Clark.

Four minutes later Clark went down in the box but the referee correctly waved play on.

Both sides had chances as the game flowed from end to end, but it was Alan Stubbs' men who went in with a goal advantage at half time.

Rangers started the second half strongly and Mark Oxley did well to tip over a Sebastien Faure header then Boyd should have equalised two minutes later when he peeled off his marker but his free header from Nicky Law's cross flew well over the bar.

On the hour mark, Stubbs replaced Cummings with Martin Boyle hoping that the on loan striker's speed would cause problems, but Rangers continued to dominate possession.

Five minutes later, the ball spun off Fontaine's foot and Oxley picked it up but referee Steven Mclean amazed everyone in the ground by awarding a free-kick inside the box for a back pass. It was obvious that Fontaine had miscontrolled the ball and justice was done when Boyd's shot was blocked by the Hibs' wall.

Zaliukas was then shown a yellow card for a blatant foul on Gray and Scott Allan was inches away with a curling free kick which flew into the side netting.

Allan's strike was his last act on the pitch as he was immediately replaced by Fyvie.

Rangers also made changes with ex Hibs' midfielder Dean Shiels and Jon Daly replacing Harris Vuckic and Boyd.

With Rangers trying to find an equaliser, Hibs added a second on the break when Fyvie dinked the ball into the path of Lewis Stevenson (pictured) who drilled a fine volley into the far corner of the net.

With five minutes remaining Dja Djedje replaced Malonga and Hibs held on for their well deserved win.

Rangers: Robinson, Faure, Zaliukas, McGregor, Wallace, Hutton, Murdoch, Vuckic, Law, Miller, Boyd. Subs: Kelly, Aird, Black, Daly, Clark, Shiels, Halkett

Hibs: Oxley, Gray, Watson, Fontaine, Hanlon, Stevenson, McGeouch, Robertson, Allan, Cummings, Malonga. Subs: Cerny, Forster, Craig, Stanton, Boyle, Fyvie, Dja Djedje.

Referee Steven McLean

Attendance 29,769

Photo by John Preece

How to celebrate Valentine's Day in Edinburgh

This is the guide for the sweet, the sexy and the downright cynical!

Valentine's Day: loved by makers of cards, growers of roses and sellers of all sorts of short-lived heart-shaped items, loathed by every teenage girl who hasn't got a partner, or even worse, receives a well-meant card from her Dad. Fortunately, in the capital there are lots of ways to celebrate this questionable saint without the need for a Significant Other, or even significant amounts of cash; some events also give you the chance to help a charity. And for those of you who really are In Love, there are plenty of romantic options too; read on....



Racking your brains for a place to propose to your beloved? **The Edinburgh Dungeon** could be your unlikely solution. All you have to do is submit your ideas for a dream proposal; the most ambitious and creative will be chosen to receive the full backing of the Dungeon's performance team. Last year's winner was **Kevin Wells**, who planned a musical proposal inspired by his hero Charlie Simpson; as he says 'without the support of everyone at the Edinburgh Dungeon it wouldn't have been half as amazing as it was. The Dungeon will always hold a special place in our relationship' – for not only did girlfriend **Laura** accept, the couple are now expecting their first baby in July! So if you've got a great idea with which to sweep your partner of their feet, email Edinburgh.Dungeon@merlinentertainments.biz or follow @EdinDungeon on Twitter and send your proposal for a proposal to them via a direct message. All entries must be received by 14th February 2015.

Or perhaps you'd like to pop the question over tea and stickies rather than blood and guts? **Cafe Modern Two** at the **Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art** could be your perfect place – they can serve you a mouth-watering afternoon tea for two for just £30 if you book in advance.



Doesn't it look delicious? Anyone who put that lot in front of me would be on the right track... If you'd like to book a table, contact the **Heritage Portfolio** people at the cafe or book online [here](#). You can always burn off all that pastry by walking back along the Water of Leith. Or not.



Or maybe you've already proposed and now you're embroiled in plans for the Big Day? Although customs come and go, rings remain somewhat popular; if you'd like something a little bit different, why not head to [Coburg House Studios](#) in Leith?

There you can work with one of the resident jewellers to design something special – or you can make your own wedding rings with **Donna Barry** and **Hannah Louise Lamb**, who will guide you through every step of the process in a fully equipped professional workshop, of which you'll have sole use for the day. For more details see www.makeweddingrings.co.uk. Another Coburg House artist, **Lorna Hewitt** can not only design your rings, she can also remodel a treasured antique piece – so if you have inherited a ring but feel it needs an update, contact Lorna via her website [here](#). And if you haven't quite made it to this stage yet.....jeweller [Julie Allison](#) has just the thing; a pendant engraved with 'Will You Marry Me?'



Valentine's Day falls on a Saturday this year; if that's your usual shopping day – or even if it isn't – you might want to head to **Princes Mall**, where **Roaming Romeos** dressed in tuxedos will be handing out **heart shaped chocolates**; you can find plenty of gift ideas while you're there, plus an outfit for that romantic dinner. Just don't eat *too* many chocolates after you've bought it...



One thing you definitely don't need a partner for is the cinema; gone are the days when the only place courting couples could get any privacy was in the back row. If you'd like to enjoy some romance by proxy, the **Filmhouse** is offering ***Casablanca* (U)** and ***Wild At Heart* (18)** for one day only (14th February, durr...).



Casablanca, starring **Humphrey Bogart** and **Ingrid Bergman**, is 'a classic wartime melodrama...all the more romantic because it doesn't exalt romantic love at all'; it's showing at 5pm. Later – and the 10pm start may give you a clue as to its content – comes *Wild At Heart*, **David Lynch's** 'gloriously dark

and twisted romantic melodrama, with a story of true love at its dark core' starring **Nicholas Cage** and **William Dafoe**.



Variety magazine describes the film as 'joltingly violent, wickedly funny and rivetingly erotic'. So now you know. Tickets for both films can be purchased [online](#) or by calling the Filmhouse box office on 0131 228 2688. Meanwhile at 1pm on Sunday 15th February the **Cameo Cinema** is showing ***Breakfast At Tiffany's* (PG): Audrey Hepburn** stars as Manhattan good-time girl Holly Golightly in this adaptation of **Truman Capote's** novel.



The lovely **Sutton Gallery** in Dundas Street is one of the sponsors of the **Edinburgh Iranian Festival**. With inspired timing it has chosen Valentine's Day to host **an evening of Persian poetry, music and visual art** in conjunction with its Festival exhibition of the work of **Hassan Meshkinfam**. Hassan's mixed-media creations interpret and illustrate the poetry of **Nima Yushij** through arresting, dreamlike images. Yushij (1896-1960) is often regarded as the founder of modern Persian poetry and has inspired many artists and musicians. Members of the Festival committee will read Yushij's poems in Persian and English, with songs from musician **Majid Mokhberi**. There will also be a drinks reception courtesy of the Gallery. The evening will begin at 8.30pm and you can indicate your intention to attend on the [event's Facebook page](#).



Meanwhile on Friday 13th February the **Usher Hall** is offering ***Latin Passion***, as the RSN0, with conductor **Jean Claude Picard** and harpist **Xavier de Maistre**, present a concert of De Falla, Rodrigo, Ginestera and some of the greatest movie love themes ever composed, with music from Cinema Paradiso, Superman and Out of Africa. The evening begins with a pre-concert talk at

6.45pm and tickets can be purchased online [here](#) or by contacting the box office on 0131 228 1155.



And after all that, maybe what you're really looking for is a party – with or without Mr/Ms Right – in which case you're going to be spoiled for choice (all of the following events are on **Saturday 14 February** unless otherwise stated)...



Teesh, the 'all you can eat mind buffet' regular club night is holding a **Valentine's Day Dance with DJ Cupid at Sneaky Pete's** in the Cowgate. Entry is £5 (+ booking fee), the fun starts at 11pm and carries on till 3am, Yes, it's one of those things for Young People. You can buy your tickets online [here](#).



Feeling jaded? Fancy sharing the misery? At **Henry's Cellar Bar** in Morrison Street they've got **Full Moon Freaks** (macabre surf, psychobilly junkyard blues), **Norman Silver and the Gold** (morose country and western) and **Temple of the Dead Moth** (sadcore), catering for 'the unrequited and the recently dumped with music specially honed for the bitter unmatchable'. This 'fully unromantic' evening starts at 7pm and tickets cost £5: more details on the event's Facebook page [here](#). Or for something slightly more sedate, what about a **Gin and Piano Evening?** Celebrate Valentine's Day with cupcakes, piano and Daffy's gin at [Sofi's Bar](#), 63 Henderson Street. Starts 7pm.



There's more partying at **Cabaret Voltaire's Think Twice! Valentine's Party**, with **Lay-Far**, **Craig Smith** and **Gary Sbr Ellis**. 11pm-3am, [Cabaret Voltaire](#), 36 Blair Street. Tickets £7/£6/£5. **The Forest** is planning a big night too, with **Robert Sarazin Blake** 'The Beloved and Beardy Troubadour of the

Pacific North West', guests **Billy Liar** and **Faith Elliot**, plus **The Lonely Hearts Club Jam** and an installation, **All The Lonely People**, by **Suky Goodfellow** upstairs. 7pm, [Forest Cafe](#), Lauriston Place, Tollcross. Free admission: BYOB.



Meanwhile, Scotland's first recovery cafe, **Serenity**, is holding a **Valentine's DJ Night**: 70s and 80s old school disco with **DJ Mario McMurriel** and guest **DJ Karen Stevenson**, and live performance and singalong with the **Serenity Singers**. 8pm-12 midnight, [Serenity Cafe](#), 8 Jackson's Entry, The Tun, 111 Holyrood Road. £4 per person. Serenity is run by people in recovery for people in recovery, and for public customers who want good value, good quality food in a relaxed space. All events are drink and drugs free.



For something a little different, **Greenpeace Edinburgh** are asking you to **Make Love Not War!** Go totally hippy and embrace the Greenpeace message at a **70s Disco for Valentine's Day**. Get your funky thread on – Greenpeace will paint your face with rainbows, flowers and hearts so that you can strut your funky moves with the polar bear. 8pm, [The Counting House](#), West Nicolson Street. £5 per person on the door or in advance from [eventbrite](#).



And on Friday 13th February one exclusively for the grown-ups – **LGBT History Month: Dive Presents Broken**: a Valentine's ball complete with caged bar, visual art, performance, blood artistry and burlesque. Strictly for over 18s only: includes strobes, nudity and body art. 'It'll break your heart to miss it'. 9pm-3am, Small Animal Hospital, [Summerhall](#), 1 Summerhall. Tickets cost £12/£10 and can be booked online [here](#) or by calling the box office on 0131 560 1581. For more about LGBT History Month read The Edinburgh Reporter's article [here](#).

Finally, if you'd like to support a very worthwhile cause whilst reeling your socks off, what could be better than **The Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home Valentine's Ceilidh** on Saturday 21st February?



Share the love and have a great evening at Summerhall – which used to be the Dick Veterinary Hospital, where many of the Dog & Cat Home's residents were taken for treatment. Dance the night away with ceilidh band **The Cannongate Cadgers** in this impressive building; all profits will go to help stray and unwanted animals. 7.30pm-12 midnight, [Summerhall](#), 1 Summerhall. Tickets cost £8 (+ booking fee) in advance from [eventbrite](#) or £10 on the door. For more information please call EDCH on 0131 669 5331.

And if you *still* want cards...how about this beautiful paper-cut version, made by Emma Westwater, who grew up in East Lothian and still lives in Dunbar. Her company is Source Design and her website is [here](#).



Or these colourful creations from local artist **Aimie Brown**, on sale at the [Skylark Cafe](#) in Hamilton Place, Stockbridge:



Cards by Aimie Brown

So whether you want to celebrate True Love, wallow in self-pity, or just have an excuse to party, there should be something for you here. And don't forget that afternoon tea; I can be bought...

Hibs' quarter final tie to be played on Sunday 8 March



Hibs' upcoming William Hill Scottish Cup quarter final tie against either Spartans or Berwick Rangers will take place at Easter Road on Sunday 8 March, kick off 12.45pm (live on Sky Sports).

This means that the Scottish Championship match against Livingston at Easter Road has been moved to Wednesday 11 March, kick off 7.45pm.

Ticket information for these fixtures will be announced in due course on hibernianfc.co.uk.

In other fixture news, Hibs' Development squad face Rangers in the SPFL Development League at the Bet Butler Stadium (Dumbarton) on Monday evening, kick off 6pm and Hibs' under-20s' Big Shots Scottish FA Youth Cup tie against Queen's Park at Easter Road will take place on Sunday 22 February, kick off 1pm.

Admission is via donation and access will be available to the West Stand lower.

Valentine's day message from firefighters



Firefighters have urged the public to make sure they don't risk tragedy if they plan to turn up the heat on Valentine's Day.

With people throughout Scotland set to enjoy a romantic evening with someone special, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) is reminding everyone how they can prevent distraction leading to disaster.

Assistant Chief Officer Lewis Ramsay, the SFRS director of prevention and protection, said: "Many people will be marking Valentine's Day with a romantic meal at home so it's important that they aren't leaving themselves and their loved ones at needless risk from fire.

"Kitchens are the most common starting point of house fires and someone getting distracted while they're cooking is a very common cause.

"It only takes a moment for a fire to start and if you're not concentrating then cooking even the simplest meal can lead to a serious incident.

"The chance of a fire happening dramatically increases if a person tries to cook while they're under the influence of alcohol – we all need to accept these things just don't mix."

People should never walk away from a cooker while the grill or hob is on.

As householders look to set a romantic atmosphere SFRS is also making clear that even the small flame from a candle can lead to a home, or lives, being lost to fire.

ACO Ramsay added: "Candles are very popular decorations but they're also a significant fire risk and anyone using them needs to make sure they do so safely.

"It's vital lit candles aren't left unattended or placed where they could be accidentally knocked over or set fire to things

like furniture, curtains or clothing.

“The fact is fires tend to start when our attention stops. Understanding the hazards and choosing to take a few very easy steps to address them really does save lives.”

Where fires do start, early warning is crucial if people are to get to safety, with working smoke alarms known to save lives, prevent injuries and minimize damage to property.

Householders can also install heat alarms in kitchens as these devices will detect a fire early without being activated by smoke produced from cooking.

Fresh appeal to trace missing teenager



Police have issued a fresh appeal for information to help trace an Edinburgh teenager who has been missing for over a week.

Emma Mooney, 15, was last seen in the Moredun area of the city on Thursday 5th February at around 12:30pm.

Police and social workers from the City of Edinburgh Council are growing increasingly concerned for her welfare.

Emma is described as white, 5ft 4in tall with shoulder length dark hair. She was last seen wearing light blue skinny jeans, Nike Air Max blue, white and grey trainers, and a dark coloured body warmer with a fur hood.

She is also known to have strong links in the Edinburgh and Fife areas.

Police are keen to speak to anyone who can assist them with their enquiries.

Area Commander Chris Scobbie from Police Scotland said: "It has now been eight days since any confirmed sightings or contact and we grow increasingly concerned for Emma as do the Social Work Department and her family.

"I am appealing to anyone who may have seen Emma, spoken to her or indeed knows where she may be.

"Emma is 15 and has been missing for over a week, people are worried about her, and my officers and I, working with our partners are doing all we can to bring her home safely, if you can help in doing that then it is time to assist. Please contact police immediately on 101 or anonymously through the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

Caledonian Sleeper trail could win you a trip to London



The new Caledonian sleeper service sets off down the tracks to London in April 2015. There is now a chance for you to win a luxury dream trip on board the new service to London or one of five other cities. What do you have to do to win?

100 exclusive branded luggage labels, emblazoned with the

mythical white stag of the Caledonian Sleeper brand, have been squirrelled away at well-known sites across the city and residents are invited to use their detective skills to locate a label, take a picture of themselves with it and upload the image to social media channels with the hashtag #stagchase.

Treasure hunters can seek out the lucky labels at sites across the city on a voyage of discovery or re-discovery of some of the city's highlights. Delve into Scotland's artistic heritage at Edinburgh Castle, visit the pandas at Edinburgh Zoo or take a saunter through the fragrant Royal Botanic Gardens.

Labels will be hidden across five cities across the UK – Inverness, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and London. Each of the UK cities represents a hop off point on the world-renowned train service.

The winning sleuth will be whisked away on a dream trip – an exclusive prize for two including first class Caledonian Sleeper tickets and an overnight stay in a hotel in one of the five cities featured in the competition.

City slickers can discover the international flavour of London, sample the festival delights of Edinburgh, discover the Granite City of Aberdeen, or enjoy Glasgow's famous west coast welcome. While nature lovers can explore the great outdoors and the rich Highland heritage of Inverness. What will you decide? There are no easy antlers!





Launching the competition, Peter Strachan, Managing Director for the new Caledonian Sleeper said: “We wanted to raise awareness of the transformation of the service in a fun way which would allow us to engage with potential customers, as well as introducing improvements to existing guests.

“Our new booking and reservation system, sleeper.scot allows passengers to plan and book their travel up to 12 months in advance, a first for any UK rail operator. We hope the competition will generate a buzz around the new service and look forward to welcoming guests onboard from April.”

In addition to the five cities featured in the competition, the Caledonian Sleeper reaches a network of fantastic destinations across the UK including Fort William, Perth, Stirling, Gleneagles Aviemore and Crewe.

For more information about the Caledonian Sleeper visit www.sleeper.scot

Music – Interview with Prides



Out of the blue, Prides were asked to play during the Commonwealth Games when their song 'Messiah' was acclaimed as representing the sporting event most appropriately.

The band had been writing and touring under different names and genres before that. With such hype surrounding this performance, Prides should be headlining venues similar to Catfish & the Bottlemen who are selling out two nights at London's prestigious Brixton Academy. They have sold out all their Scottish dates on the tour in Aberdeen, Inverness and Edinburgh's Liquid Room, which shows the band are on a trajectory worthy of their talents.

The album has been a long time coming – what are the plans for it?

To do an album [laughs]. It's pretty much done. The DIY magazine put up the other day that we've done a Kanye approach, which we kind of liked. While we have the time to write, we'll just write. If we come up with something better than we've got already, well then maybe it's not finished. But at the moment, it's finished. The plan is to get it out before the summer. Fingers crossed.

So if you're continually writing, will you have enough material for another album?

Yeah, you always want to have more than you need. Whether that means we've got something to sit on for another album or EP or b-sides or all that that kind of stuff, it's always good to have as much material as you can.

If we keep songs now that we've written now, they'll sit for ages and when we come to do a second album, we'll probably all

get up and say: "We should rework this", and we'll rework it for ages. Then we just end up writing new songs.

Is there another EP release due or are you leaving all new songs exclusively for the new album?

We've got two singles that are to come out before the album. Well, 'Higher Love' has just come out and then we'll probably do one more into the album, but that's the plan.

So will there be b-sides on those EPs as well?

'Higher Love' is just the one track. We don't really do b-sides actually. Digital has just gotten rid of that, really. We have some b-side type tracks. The other thing is, we need to sort out our first American release, so we might put out songs on that they've haven't heard before.

Apart from the album release, what other plans is there for Prides?

Big thing is probably is just playing as much shows as we can. We want to get out and do all the festivals and we look to get over to America again pretty soon, and just see where the year takes us.

You've played the Commonwealth Games, you've toured with some of the hottest bands in the country – are you receiving any other attractive offers?

Well we've got some things in the pipeline, but we don't want to give too much away.

Obviously your music is heavily influenced by the 80s, but is there anything modern influencing you?

All of it. There's loads of really good music out just now, loads of good bands, good pop music. We listen to Radio 1 all the time and think that there is loads of good tunes. It's a bit of everything, really. Depends what you're into. Like, we

have not stopped listening to One Direction's new album. You'd be surprised where some of the ideas come from. It's sort of like, 'Yeah, I heard this really cool riff on a Gloria Gaynor track!' Cool, that'll do.

How is the songwriting process pursued? Is it jam sessions or songs written on guitar?

We don't jam! No, we're sort of like a backwards band. Usually you get together and jam in a rehearsal space, bash stuff out and try different things, make sure everyone is happy. Then you go into a studio and you refine it. It's completely the other way: we go into the studio and then we have to learn how to play it in the end. We end up going to shows and not knowing any songs [laughs]. They're very coffee-induced.

We started working on a track the other day on a flight to Philadelphia from San Francisco. We have a couple of hours and see what comes out of it.

We must say that we have never jammed an idea, it has never come about in that scenario. The closest that comes to when we are sitting in one of our houses while one of us watches the TV and the other plays the piano. Then the person watching the TV goes, 'I like that bit!' It's like a verbal jam. Do that bit longer. Yep, that's it.

Most, if not all of your songs, are upbeat numbers – how do you arrange a setlist?

It's a bit of a weird one, especially when you're playing shorter sets, it's just full on. You do half an hour and it's non-stop. But we have enough songs now that we've got a little bit more of a dynamic. So you just have to bookend it with the biggest ones. Just play the first and the last one really well, nothing else matters!

If there is one venue in the world you want to play, what is it?

Barras. It's up there. The SSE Hydro. We played the Webster Hall in New York, which was amazing. We didn't headline, we just supported. If we could go back there and headline then that would be cool. Brixton Academy as well is another one on the list, a bit like one of those iconic places to play.

Surely you're on your way to the Barrowlands?

Maybe. If not this time then maybe next time.

You put out a lot of remixes of other artist's songs, was that an influence based on Bastille?

Not really. We produce a lot of music so people ask us to remix. It's a similar vibe. It's actually quite a good thing to do. We would never ask Catfish & the Bottlemen to do a Prides remix, but that's because most bands don't have a producer. We've sort of got an in-built DJ function.

It is impressive that you have sold out certain venues like Liquid Rooms Edinburgh without releasing an album. How do you think you have managed it?

We have just tried to release the best songs we've got. At every stage we've just tried to put on the best performance. Do everything we can: posting stuff online, be really involved with people, and let people be involved with what we are doing. Just trying as hard as we can.

We've played loads of gigs, even before we started Prides. A lot of people come to shows and say, 'We saw you at this and that', and it's like, 'You've seen us this many times already?' It feels like we haven't actually played that many gigs in total. People say they've been to 22, and it's like, 'What the hell?'

Obviously everything has had amazing support from the likes of Radio 1 and XFM, and we've had Commonwealth Games and FIFA. So we've been really, really lucky with the kind of exposure we

have had. So at the moment, we're just trying to get as much out of it as possible.

Letter from Scotland

Like the Queen of the Celts, Boudica, Nicola Sturgeon rode her chariot into the heart of the establishment in London on Wednesday and told the posh boys in blue suits that their austerity programme wasn't working. "It's morally unjustifiable and economically unsustainable," she lectured. The budget deficit, she went on, is not the cause of our problems, it's a symptom of a badly managed economy.

Her argument is that government debt is rising (by £99bn last year) because the tax-take is low and the welfare bill is increasing. And that's because more people are being pushed into poverty, with low wages and only part-time work. Prosperity and social justice (equality) go hand in hand is her argument. And in my view, she's quite right.

✖ Ms Sturgeon went on to outline her plan for recovery – increase government spending by £180bn over the next five years (an increase of 0.5 per cent) and reverse the cuts in welfare and the public services. Presumably this would be paid for by the increase in tax revenue that would result, if we follow her Keynesian logic.

It's a clever tactic because it puts the SNP to the left of the Labour Party (which supported another £30 bn of austerity cuts in a vote in the Commons last month) and gives the nationalists another lever in any negotiations after the general election in May. It also rides the wave of anti-austerity protests across Europe which saw the left-wing

Syriza Party win power in Greece and has put Podemos in front in the opinion polls in Spain.

As evidence of her willingness to continue spending on public services, Ms Sturgeon went to a school in Dundee earlier in the week to announce £100m over the next four years for schools in deprived areas to help them close the “attainment gap”. But alas, things did not go so well for her when trade unionists turned up outside local council budget-setting meetings on Thursday to protest against council cuts. They argued that the council tax freeze, which the SNP government has imposed since 2007, is making the Westminster government’s austerity cuts even worse.

It’s also, they said, against the SNP’s promise of more autonomy for local councils. This tied in fortuitously with a Labour Party announcement on Monday that it wants “devo-max” for Scotland’s cities. The party leader Jim Murphy said: “I want to turn our twin cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow into the economic powerhouse they should be, an economic hub to rival London.” It’s a large ambition and a plan that has been tried before. But this time Labour is talking about devolving a part of income tax and allowing councils to raise other taxes, such as a tourist charge or a congestion charge.

Scotland lags behind many countries in Europe when it comes to local autonomy. Personally, I’d like to see local councils take charge of the health service, colleges and universities, fire and police, water, pollution control etc. And I’d like to see more independent councils in our larger towns and islands. Simply because I think local people would do a better job.

There might, for instance, be an end to the high-salary/bonus culture which we learnt this week still very much exists in the national quangos and the larger councils. A “Scotsman” newspaper investigation found that Glasgow University, for example, paid out £148,000 in bonuses last year, NHS Tayside paid out £3.7m, Edinburgh council £1.7m, and even Audit

Scotland, which is supposed to be keeping an eye on extravagant spending, paid out £133,000 in bonuses.

But if you want to get away from all this materialist comfort, you can apply to the latest Shackleton expedition. In the words of the original 1915 newspaper advertisement it promises “a hazardous journey, small wages, bitter cold....but honour in the case of success.”

Polar explorer Charlie Paton, from Aberdeen, is inviting applications from members of the public to be part of his team to complete Ernest Shackleton's attempt to cross the Antarctic from coast to coast, via the South Pole, starting in September this year. The final team member, he says, could be a man or woman. But he or she must be able to tow a sledge weighing 100kg for a hundred days in temperatures as low as minus 60C and also have compassion and a sense of humour, virtues we might need as we watch the politicians pull their sledges of election offers towards that other Poll on May 7th.

Photo courtesy of The Scottish Parliament.

Friday in Edinburgh – What's On Today

Snowdrop and Early Spring Walk: join a Garden Guide on a walk to discover the Garden's wonderful collection of specialist snowdrops. You can also see other early flowering plants that herald the onset of spring. For ages 14+. 11am-12.30pm, John Hope Gateway Reception, [Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh](#), Inverleith Row. Also at same time on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th February. £5 per person, no advance booking required.



Creative Release: a multi-media exhibition of new works by **SmART CRAFT** from **WHALE Arts Agency**. Open preview 6-8pm tonight, then 11am-5pm Tuesday to Saturday, [Gallery On The Corner](#), Northumberland Street. Until 28th February 2015.

Easel Sketching in the Gallery: led by artist **Damian Callan**, with a different subject every month and sometimes a model. All materials supplied. 2-4pm, Main Gallery Floor, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed.



Mr Wuffles Crafty Friday: part of **Mr Wuffles Week** with Corstorphine Primary School. 2.30pm, [Corstorphine Library](#), 12 Kirk Loan. Free and open to all.

Storytime: for ages 4+. 2pm, [Blackhall Library](#), 56 Hillhouse Road. Free but please book on 0131 529 5595 or by calling in to the library in advance.

Son et Lumiere: enjoy two hours of sound and silence, light and darkness. Space and time to sit, to wander, to think, to be. 6-8pm, [St Giles' Cathedral](#), High Street. £3 on the door.



2015 Iranian Film Festival: a season of classic and contemporary films from Iran, including a number of Scottish premieres, shown as part of the **Edinburgh Iranian Festival**. Today: **Kami's Party (15)** 6.10pm, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Tickets can be booked online [here](#) or by calling the box office on 0131 228 2688. Prices vary: there are deals for purchasing multiple tickets for this season. The 2015 Iranian Film Festival is curated by **Dr Nacim Pak-Shiraz** and sponsored by The Sutton Gallery, Arts & Business Scotland, the School of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies of the University of Edinburgh, and the Filmhouse.

Karlheinz Stockhausen: *Hymnen Electronic Music*. Stockhausen's 1967 4-channel tape piece uses many different national anthems as base material with all manner of electronic transformations, re-interpretations and manipulations to create an epic and intense two-hour electronic and concrete work. With sound projection by **Sean Williams**. 7.15pm, [Playfair Library](#), Old College, University of Edinburgh, South Bridge. (There will be a pre-concert talk at 7.15pm.) Free but booking required via [eventbrite](#). Supported by the Leverhulme Trust.



Edinburgh Iranian Festival: Persian Music – Lecture, Performance and Workshop. Dr **Parmis Mozafari** is a research fellow at the Institute for Iranian Studies, University of St Andrews; she is a **Santur** player who has taught music in Iran and ethnomusicology and Persian music in the UK. Today she will give a historical overview of **female musicians and dancers in Iran**, followed by a short performance on Santur and an introductory workshop on traditional Iranian instruments, including an opportunity for participants to get hands-on experience. There will also be a drinks reception courtesy of The Sutton Gallery. 8-9pm, [The Sutton Gallery](#), 18a Dundas Street. Free admission.

Poussin's Seven *Sacraments of the Catholic Church*: Poussin's *Seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church* is a group of complex paintings displayed as a self-sufficient installation within the Scottish National Gallery, and undoubtedly represents one of the outstanding masterpieces on show. Many viewers, however, find them austere, even somewhat forbidding, images. Art historian **Andrew Paterson** will give an introduction to the erudite but passionate world of Poussin's art. 12.45-1.30pm, Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free: no booking required.



Lunchtime Concert: Kist of Musick – the 2015 Reid Memorial Concert. **Hector Scott** (violin) **Alastair Hardie** (violin) **Tim Paxton** (cello) and **James Hardie** (harpsichord) play 18th century Scottish instrumental music, including works by General Reid, James Oswald and the Earl of Kelly. 1.10pm, [Reid Concert Hall](#), University of Edinburgh, Bristo Square. Free and unticketed.



Pancake Weekend at Joseph Pearce's! Stacks of them every day for three days, with more toppings than you can shake your golden syrup at! Children welcome every day till 5pm, [Joseph Pearce's](#), 23 Elm Row. For more information and to book a table, call 0131 556 4140.



Greenpeace Edinburgh – Make Love Not War! Go totally hippy and embrace the Greenpeace message at a **70s Disco for Valentine's Day**. Get your funky thread on – Greenpeace will paint your face with rainbows, flowers and hearts so that you can strut your funky moves with the polar bear. 8pm, [The Counting House](#), West Nicolson Street. £5 per person on the door or in advance from [eventbrite](#).

LGBT History Month: Dive Presents *Broken*: a Valentine's ball complete with caged bar, visual art, performance, blood artistry and burlesque. Strictly for over 18s only: includes strobes, nudity and body art. 'It'll break your heart to miss it'. 9pm-3am, Small Animal Hospital, [Summerhall](#), 1 Summerhall. Tickets cost £12/£10 and can be booked online [here](#) or by calling the box office on 0131 560 1581. For more about LGBT History Month read The Edinburgh Reporter's article [here](#).



Woodcut from *Newes From Scotland* 1592,
courtesy Glasgow University Library
Special Collections

Satellites Programme: Georgia Horgan. An exhibition developed from a research programme about the proliferation of the **textile industry** in Scotland and how this affected patterns of **witch-hunting** in the 17th century. The exhibition takes the form of a workroom containing writing, images and artefacts; the space will be used to house a series of events and screenings discussing how **women, the body and labour are implicated in contemporary capitalism**. Preview tonight 6-8pm, then 10am-4pm Tuesday to Sunday, [Collective Gallery](#), 38 Calton Hill. Closes 19th April 2015.



Rachel Parker
Textiles, printed by
BeFab Creative

Kalopsia and BeFab Be Creative present Printed & Co: a showcase exhibition evoking questions, answers, thoughts and discussions on the place of material within our history and even more importantly within our culture, and how we value its worth. Preview 6pm tonight, then 10am-6pm Monday to Saturday, 11am-5pm Sundays, [Kalopsia](#), Ocean Terminal, Ocean Drive. Kalopsia is a creative agency and textiles collective, now operating as a social enterprise.



Holocaust Memorial Day Concert: Artisan Trio plays Messiaen *Quartet for the End of Time*. Featuring **Jean Johnson** (clarinet), **Aisling O'Dea** (violin), **Clea Friend** (cello) and **Ed Cohen** (piano). 6-7pm, Sanctuary, [St Andrew's & St George's West Church](#), 13 George St. Free: donations welcome.

Portobello Open Door Silent Movie Weekend: tonight *The Black Pirate* with **Douglas Fairbanks**, tomorrow *One Week and Seven Chances* with **Buster Keaton**. The films will be accompanied by music from **The Jane Gardner Trio**. 7.30pm, [The Wash House Community Centre](#), 3 Adelphi Grove. £6/£4: tickets are

available from Popeye's Sandwich Bar, 132 Portobello High Street, and advance booking is recommended. You are welcome to bring food and drink, and children can bring bean bags, but please note all under-12s must be accompanied by an adult.



Assault and robbery at Restalrig Village Store



Police are appealing for witnesses following an assault and robbery which happened at around 1.05pm today at the Restalrig Village Store on Restalrig Road South when two suspects entered the shop and demanded the elderly shopkeeper hand over the till. When he refused to do so, the suspects assaulted him and made off with a quantity of scratch cards. The shopkeeper was conveyed to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary to be treated for his injuries.

The first suspect is described as white, late teens, 5ft 10in tall, slim build and wearing a woollen hat, multi toned black, grey and brown gilet and dark bottoms.

The second suspect is described as white, in his late teens, 5ft 6in tall, slim build and wearing a dark blue hooded top with Hollister California written across chest, dark blue beanie hat and dark coloured Fred Perry bottoms.

DS Robbie Wallace said: "This assault and robbery left the elderly victim with a head injury which required hospital treatment. We are urgently seeking anyone who was in the area

of Restalrig Road South at around 1pm this afternoon, or who recognises the description of the suspect to get in touch with police on 101.”

Man due in court following Ferry Road robberies



Police in Edinburgh have arrested a 39-year-old man in connection with two armed robberies in the Ferry Road area.

Both incidents occurred in Ferry Road, Edinburgh. The first incident took place at a BP Garage on Sunday, January 18, while the second incident was at Scotbet on Tuesday, January 27.

He was arrested at Levenmouth Police Station last night (Wednesday, February 11) and is now in custody in Edinburgh. He will appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court tomorrow.

Detective Constable Mark Seymour said “ The culprit was identified after we received information following the release of CCTV stills in the media. I would like to thank the public for their assistance with this.”

Police Scotland seeking public's help to shape future



Police Scotland is looking for the public's experiences and views as they modernise and shape the way you can contact them through their service centres. They are particularly interested in hearing from our diverse, disability communities or anyone who experiences challenges around communication in their daily life.

More than 4.2 million emergency and non-emergency calls, emails and SMS texts are handled by staff each year. Telephone is now the most popular method for members of the public to contact the police and access our service.

Police Scotland is working in partnership with the Scottish Disability Equality Forum to host a number of events around the country to gather the opinions of communities to ensure everyone in Scotland has fair and equal access to contacting Police Scotland through our Service Centres.

Chief Inspector Arlene Smith said: "Our service centres are world class facilities and we receive very positive feedback from our communities about their contact with us. People are already able to get in touch everyday for all manner of police advice or assistance, so it is important that people understand we're looking for their help to enhance existing services and we don't intend to compromise any of the local arrangements already in place.

"We're determined that on each and every occasion any member of the public contacts the service centre, they can do so with ease and in a convenient way that suits their own communication needs. We're really excited about working with our local communities to understand how we can best achieve this.

"Only by involving our users in the design process can we truly meet the vast spectrum of communication needs of people around the country."

Police Scotland, with the Scottish Disability Equality Forum, invite you to have Your Say, Your Way at one of the following workshops where you will be encouraged to give your opinion on

current service provision, and more importantly, how it might be improved in the future.

The events will be held in

Aberdeen –

19 February 2015 11.00am – 4.00pm

Altens Community Centre, Strathburn Street, Altens, Aberdeen AB12 3SE

Inverness –

20 February 2015 11.00am – 4.00pm

Markin Community Centre, Coronation Park, Inverness IV3 8AD

Glasgow –

24 February 2015 11.00am – 4.00pm

Clydesmill Training Centre, Westburn Drive, Cambuslang G72 1AA

Edinburgh –

2 March 2015 11.00am – 4.00pm

Norton Park, 57 Albion Road, Edinburgh EH7 5QY

Fife –

25 February 2015 11.00am – 4.00pm

Scottish Police College Tulliallan Castle, Kincardine, Fife FK10 4BE

Borders –

10 March 2015 11.00am – 4.00pm

The Buccleuch Centre, Langholm, Dumfries & Galloway DG13 0AW

Football Memories Project ongoing at Easter Road stadium



The Hibernian Historical Trust are holding Football Memories meetings inside Easter Road Stadium between 11 am and noon on the first Monday of each month and supporters of all clubs are made more than welcome.

The meetings allow people with dementia and other memory problems to enjoy talking football and looking back at old photographs and memorabilia.

Anyone wishing to attend should have the capability of making their own way to Easter Road Stadium either on their own or accompanied by friends or family who will also be made welcome.

The Hibernian Historical Trust is a supporter led initiative entirely independent from the football club. To find out more about this programme please contact Tom Wright on curator@hibernianhistoricaltrust.org.uk or phone **0131 656 7061**

The meetings which are run by volunteers, are very informal and take place in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. Split into smaller groups, there is usually just a general discussion of the old days (not always football) with the help of photographs, items of memorabilia and occasionally short DVD's of games.

Those attending can either join in the chat or just sit back and listen, there is absolutely no pressure exerted. Everyone appears to look forward to the meetings which often run over the allotted hour, and many of the participants have since become good friends.

All welcome. Tea coffee and biscuits will be supplied.

There is no charge.

(Meet at the main reception West Stand)

Scottish Charity No SC 035683

Hibs' open day for deaf youngsters is success



The Hibernian Community Foundation staged a successful Open Day last weekend to kick-off an exciting new project designed to engage with deaf youngsters, who love football.

An encouraging turn-out – 24 boys and girls aged from Primary 1 to Secondary 2 – attended the inaugural event, which took place at the Training Centre in East Lothian.

The youngsters were then given a tour of the Training Centre and enjoyed a fun football coaching session.

This launched the Hibernian Community Foundation's innovative plans to carry out an upcoming programme, the play to learn approach, and how the Foundation hopes to develop a pathway of support for young people who are deaf, including regular weekly sessions.

Overall the programme is designed to give deaf youngsters an opportunity to build on their football and interpersonal skills and to make new friends.

If you are interested in getting your child involved then please contact the Hibernian Community Foundation:

Email gmilne@hiberniancommunityfoundation.org.uk

Alan Stubbs' selection problem for Rangers game



Hibs' Head Coach Alan Stubbs will have a selection problem for tomorrow's game against Rangers at Ibrox as only Farid El Alagui is unavailable.

Stubbs told Hibernian TV: "Everybody is fit, which is great news. We only have one out and that is the long-term injury to Farid (El Alagui) and he is doing really well.

"Over the last week, he has really stepped up his rehab work, which is great for Farid and it has given him a lot of confidence.

"So apart from that everybody is fighting fit and it's probably the first time this season we've had a clean bill of health.

"There are a lot of boosts – Keith (Watson) and Martin (Boyle) come back into the squad and Dominique (Malonga) is now available for selection too.

"So they are three quality players added to last week's squad – that's great news from everyone's point of view. The competition for places at this moment in time is very fierce."

"We're always purely focusing on ourselves. If you look at our head-to-heads against Rangers then that should fill us with a lot of confidence.

"But this will be a completely different game and, while our previous results certainly won't do us any harm, we can't get too distracted by them because we are preparing for an extremely difficult game."

Michael McGoldrick, John McCusker and John Doyle to play Queen's Hall



Michael McGoldrick, John McCusker and John Doyle three members of the BBC acclaimed Transatlantic Sessions will play the Queen's Hall on Thursday 12 March as part of a unique European tour. With both Mike McGoldrick and John McCusker also having toured for the past year with Mark Knopfler, this is a rare chance to see three of the world's finest musicians share a stage together.

Master of flutes, whistles and Uilleann pipes Mike is a founding member of Flook , and Lunasa and is a current member of Capercaillie. Regarded as one of the greatest flute players of all time, Mike has toured Bob Dylan and Mark Knopfler, as well as with The Afro Celts, RTE Orchestra and Kate Rusby . He has collaborated with the likes of Jim Kerr, Youssou N'Dour, John Cale and Zakir Hussain amongst many others. BBC Radio 2 folk Musician of the year 2006, he was again nominated this year and has just completed his first soundtrack for TG4 and the Smithsonian channel.

John McCusker's unique fiddle playing has earned him a worldwide reputation as one of the most gifted and versatile musicians of any genre. John was also part of the legendary band that toured with both Bob Dyland and mark Knopfler.

Joining the Battlefield band at just 17 John spent 11 years touring the world with the now legendary folk outfit. Renowned for his skill at transcending musical boundaries he has worked

with artists ranging from Paulo Nutini and Jools Holland to Steve Earle and Rosanne Cash and has recorded with Paul Weller and Ocean Colour Scene to name but a few. John's expanding portfolio as a producer includes debut albums by Kris Drever and Idlewild's Roddy Woomble. He's also manned the controls for top folk chanteuses Eddi Reader, Heidi Talbot, Eliza Carthy, Linda Thompson & Kate Rusby. In 2013 John performed as a soloist with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra at Proms in the Park, playing his own compositions live on BBC TV. 2015 will see John Celebrate 25 years as a professional musician, publishing a book of his compositions, releasing a new solo record & embarking on an extensive UK & European tour.

John Doyle's gifts as guitarist, songwriter and vocalist have played an essential role in the ongoing renaissance of Irish traditional music. Now living in the states, John was the recent musical director for Joan Baez and toured with her for 2 year. One half of the stellar duo Liz Carroll and John Doyle, he is also a founding member of the internationally acclaimed Irish group Solas.

TRIO TOUR FEB-MAR 2015

February

8th – Canterbury – Gulbenkian Theatre www.thegulbenkian.co.uk

9th – North Boarhunt -Forest Folk Club
<http://www.focsle.org.uk/SCoFF/forestfolk/>

10th – Fyfield – The Garrett Sessions
<http://www.thequeensheadfyfield.co.uk/The-Garret-Sessions>

11th – Manchester- Mark Radcliffe Session/Radio

12th – London – Kings Place www.kingsplace.co.uk

16th – Aberdeen – The Lemon Tree
www.aberdeenperformingarts.com

17th – Inverness – Eden Court www.eden-court.co.uk

18th – Birnam – Arts Centre www.birnamarts.com

19th – Peebles – Eastgate Arts Centre www.eastgatearts.com

20th – Bury – The Met www.themet.biz

21st – Saltaire – Victoria Hall www.saltairelive.co.uk

24th – Durham – The Witham Hall www.thewitham.org.uk

25th – Findhorn – Universal Hall
www.findhorn.org/universal-hall/

26th – Stirling – The Tolbooth www.tolbooth.stirling.gov.uk

27th – Paisley – Arts Centre www.boxoffice.renfrewshire.gov.uk

28th – Kendal – Brewery Arts Centre www.breweryarts.co.uk

March

1st – Birmingham – Mac www.macbirmingham.co.uk

2nd – Nettlebed – Village Club www.nettlebedfolkclub.co.uk

3rd – Cambridge – The Junction www.junction.co.uk

4th – York – NCEM www.ncem.co.uk

5th – Basingstoke – The Haymarket www.anvilarts.org.uk

6th – St Helens – Citadel www.citadel.org.uk

7th + 8th – Belfast – Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich
<http://www.culturlann.ie/>

9th – Colchester – Arts Centre www.colchesterartscentre.com

10th – Worcester – Huntingdon Hall

www.worcesterlive.co.uk/huntingdon-hall.asp

11th – Nottingham – Lakeside Arts Centre
www.lakesidearts.org.uk

12th – Edinburgh – The Queen's Hall www.thequeenshall.net

13th – Glasgow – St Andrew's in the Square
www.standrewsinthesquare.com

Thursday in Edinburgh – What's On Today



Cafe Voices: Journey Through Love. At the Centre's monthly storytelling session **Wendy Woolfson** leads a journey through the stages of love, inviting the audience to feel their own connections, and share in the familiar feelings that love can evoke. Including traditional tales alongside true stories and songs, this promises to be an entertaining, thought-provoking and uplifting evening. The evening will be split into two halves with an open-floor section for storytellers to tell their own tales in the second half, all in the relaxed setting of the Storytelling Court. 7pm, [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#), High Street. Tickets cost £5 and can be purchased online [here](#) or by calling the Box Office on 0131 556 9579.



Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop Artists' Talk: Jean Philippe Dordolo and Kadie Salmon. Two Sculpture Workshop Micro Residents discuss their practices and the work they have been developing over the course of their residency. 6-8pm,

[Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop](#), 21 Hawthornvale. Admission is free.

Edinburgh College of Art Thursday Research Seminar Series: *Shadows of Herself: Lee Miller's Collage*. Chaired by **Dr Patricia Allmer** (ECA). 5.15pm, Lecture Room 1, [Minto House](#), University of Edinburgh, Chambers Street. Free and open to all.

The Thursday Club: A Musical Afternoon with **George Ross** and friends. 2pm, Upper Hall, [Mayfield Salisbury Church](#), West Mayfield. All very welcome: contact Florence Smith on 0131 663 1234 for more information.

Easel Sketching in the Gallery: led by artist **Damian Callan**, with a different subject every month and sometimes 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 February 2015.



2015 Iranian Film Festival: a season of classic and contemporary films from Iran, including a number of Scottish premieres, shown as part of the **Edinburgh Iranian Festival**. Today: ***The Prince (15)*** 6.10pm, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Tickets can be booked online [here](#) or by calling the box office on 0131 228 2688. Prices vary: there are deals for purchasing multiple tickets for this season. This screening will be followed by a Q & A session with the director. The 2015 Iranian Film Festival is curated by **Dr Nacim Pak-Shiraz** and sponsored by The Sutton Gallery, Arts & Business Scotland, The School of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies of the University of Edinburgh, and the Filmhouse.

Ecumenical Friends at St Cuthbert's: Simon Barrow – Ekklesia: Christian Political Think-Tank. 12.30pm, [St Cuthbert's Parish Church](#), 5 Lothian Road. All warmly welcome: £1.50 per person, tea and coffee provided, bring your own packed lunch. These

events are organised by Edinburgh City Centre Churches TOGETHER.



LGBT History Month: *Out There* Anthology. Writers **Zoe Strachan, Roy Gill** and **Janette Ayachi** present readings from ***Out There: An Anthology of Scottish LGBT Writing***, which includes contributions from Scotland's leading and emerging LGBT writers. 6pm, [Waterstones West End](#), 128 Princes Street: free tickets are available from the shop. Please contact the store or www.lgbthistory.org.uk for more details. For more about LGBT History Month, read The Edinburgh Reporter's article [here](#).

The Friendship Club: a friendly meeting place for senior citizens – all very welcome, with or without any church connection, and whether you would like to attend every week or just occasionally. Tea, home baking, board games, card games, sometimes live music – and lots of chat! The club's aim is to provide a relaxed friendly and welcoming meeting place for senior citizens: 'There is always a smiling face waiting to welcome you'. 2-3.30pm, Ground Floor, Annan House, 10 Palmerston Place. Contact [Palmerston Place Church](#) for more information.



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

The Drawing Room: informal, artist-led drawing sessions, each developed by a contemporary artist and reflecting concerns within that artist's work. All materials supplied, no experience necessary. Please note: this month's session takes

place at Modern TW0 in the *Two Roberts* exhibition. 5.30-6.45pm, [Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art TW0](#), Belford Road. Free but booking is required: please contact the Education Department on 0131 624 6410 or email education@nationalgalleries.org.

Getting Started at the National Library: learn how to register as a reader (please bring ID if you wish to register after the workshop), find your way around the Library, request materials and find out about other services. The workshop includes a short tour of the Reading Room and will last about 90 minutes. 2.30pm, [National Library of Scotland](#), George IV Bridge. Booking essential, either online [here](#) or by calling 0131 623 3734. The next workshop will be held at 6pm on 11th March 2015.



The Jonathan Mills Lectures: Curating in Time. In this age of information and the internet, does the idea of curating become fixed on objects, or in space, or time? Jonathan Mills, composer, festival director and Visiting Professor at the University of Edinburgh, proposes that we consider the temporal as well as the spatial – the musical as well as the visual – potential of the acts of keeping, preserving, archiving, curating. 5pm, Hunter Lecture Theatre, Hunter Building, [Edinburgh College of Art](#), Lauriston Place. This is the second in a series of lectures: the next one **Ethereal Eye – a musical meditation for an unbuilt city** will take place on 19th February 2015.

Reid School of Music Research Seminar Series: Hitchcock, Psycho and the Aesthetic of 'absolute music'. Chaired by Professor John Butt (University of Glasgow). 5.15pm, Lecture Room A, [Alison House](#), University of Edinburgh, 12 Nicolson Square.

eBook Surgery: find out how to borrow eBooks, emagazines and

audiobooks for free. 2-5pm, [Leith Library](#), 28-30 Ferry Road. Please contact the library for more details and to book a 30 minute appointment.



Five things you need to know today



Budget meeting

Volunteering in the city

The Slab Boys are coming!

The Big Dinner

The Big Screen at Boda Bar

Today is a big day at the City Chambers when the council will meet to discuss and approve the new budget for the coming financial year.

Some believe that cuts will be made to Edinburgh Leisure, although it is certainly not in the plans published by the coalition. You can read our article on the coalition plans [here](#).

The council have a plan to reorganise the council in such a way that further savings will be made and they have assured anyone who would listen that frontline services will be protected.

So what will happen today? You can follow the proceedings [here live](#).




Today you could do something good for your community by volunteering in the city. Don't know where to start? Then begin [here](#) with the Volunteer in Edinburgh website.

There are many opportunities with a diverse range of organisations.

In the technicolour confines of the slab room of A. F. Stobo & Co. Carpet Factory in Paisley, young boys have to grow up fast.

Strutting adolescent double act Phil and Spanky are passing the time with an endless verbal tug o' war and merciless ribbing of their workmates and boss. But even the distractions of the annual staff dance, the monthly pay packet or the unattainable Lucille can't stop Phil from dreaming of becoming an artist.

One of the best-loved works in 20th century Scottish theatre, John Byrne's funny and poignant play paints a vivid picture of the tough, rebellious, working-class culture of 1950s industrial Scotland. David Hayman directs this landmark theatre show for the stage in a major new production by the Citizens Theatre.

 And from 10 to 14 March it will be performed at the King's Theatre under the dome designed by the author of the play, the multi-talented John Byrne.

The Citizens Theatre has published a lovely set of photos from rehearsals on Flickr [here](#).

Photo by Colin Hattersley Photography 07974 957 388

Have you signed up to do something for The Big Dinner yet? If not you will want to do something to help after watching this video of the organiser, Olivia Giles.



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.

Concern for missing teenager



Police are appealing for assistance in tracing a teenager from Edinburgh.

Emma Mooney, who is 15-years-old, was last seen in Moredun area of the city on Thursday 5th February, at around 12:30pm.

Police are concerned for her welfare and appealing for anyone who may have information as to her whereabouts.

Emma is described as white, 5ft 4in tall and shoulder length dark hair. She was last seen wearing light blue skinny jeans, Nike Air Max blue, white and grey trainers, and a dark coloured body warmer with a fur hood.

She is also known to have links with the Fife area.

Sergeant Scott MacArthur from Police Scotland said: "We are increasingly concerned for the whereabouts of Emma and would encourage anyone who has any information or who may have seen her to get in touch with police immediately."

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

Crowds of hopeful tenants gather to land their dream Edinburgh flat

Cullen Property met with queues of students at the first of their 100 city flat viewings

Students from around Edinburgh gathered outside the first of Cullen Property's flat viewings this morning, with hopeful tenants queuing up the street. This was the first of 100 flat viewings that Cullen Property will be doing until Friday 20 February.

Cullen Property representatives were on hand to meet with the excited students this morning and show them around the property, before the prospective tenants made a dash to the finish line in order to beat everyone else back to the Cullen Property office and secure their perfect flat. In today's competitive market for quality student properties, students are becoming even more creative in order to stand out and bag their property of choice.

Due to an increasing demand for student properties in the city, Edinburgh student property management and lettings specialist Cullen Property have listed the flats they have available for rent this summer on their website. The viewings will be taken place at properties in the Marchmont, Bruntsfield and Newington areas.

Steve Coyle, Operations Director at Cullen Property, says: “We had a fantastic turnout at our first viewing this morning and we look forward to the next week ahead. The students that turn up to our viewings are always very creative and we are interested in seeing the ideas they come up with in order to secure their flat. Previously, we’ve had semi-professional cyclists outside the property during the viewing waiting for the ‘go’ sign out of the window from their prospective housemate, before pedalling back to our office.

“By listing our properties and viewing dates on our website, students don’t have to contact us and arrange appointments. It makes the process easier for them if they can just turn up on the day and time stated. We always get great feedback from students who come to our viewings and we expect to let all 100 properties within three to four weeks.

Submitted by [Stacey Dent](#)



Tayyab Ahmad sentenced to 5 years for domestic abuse



Police Scotland has today welcomed the jail sentence given to a 29-year-old man who subjected a woman to violent acts of domestic abuse.

At the High Court in Glasgow, Tayyab Ahmad was sentenced to 5 years after being found guilty of domestic abuse offences, including Wilful Fire raising, which occurred in the Oxfangs

area of Edinburgh.

Detective Inspector Dougie Moran from Edinburgh Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit said: "This was an extremely dangerous and reckless act, which caused great distress to the victim.

"Tackling domestic abuse robustly is a key priority for Police Scotland. The sentence handed out to Tayyab Ahmad today reflects the commitment of the Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit, Police Scotland and the Crown Office in removing violent domestic offenders from our communities".

"I would like to reassure the public that we treat all reports of domestic abuse with the utmost seriousness and professionalism and would urge victims of these offences to report their abuse to the police".

Community Opposition to Council Austerity Budget

Edinburgh residents want to persuade the Council that this year's budget will have a bad effect on services and job. There will be a lobby of the Council outside the City Chambers from 8.30 am until 9.45am on Thursday 12 February followed by deputations to explain the damage the £22m of planned cuts will cause.

'We are afraid the Council proposals could mean rapidly increasing poverty and inequality in Edinburgh,' says one Northfield resident. 'In 2012 our Council, the Coalition of the Labour Party and Scottish National Party, promised it would work to reduce poverty, inequality and deprivation and improve amenities and services. However the proposed changes

could mean elderly and disabled people being forced to pay more for care and housing support for homeless people could be cut by 15%.

The cuts that are being made are not inevitable. This is a deliberate policy choice. We want our councillors to keep the pledge they made to us when they took office. This means finding alternatives to food banks and poverty. It's important that Edinburgh is a city which cares for all of its residents and workers and a place that provides high quality care for those who need it. Our representatives have the power to stop the trend towards a two-tier city. We want them to use it.'

Digital Sentinel becomes third pilot in council's news scheme



The council's Communities and Neighbourhoods committee agreed on Tuesday to approve the final tranche of the sum of £50,000 set aside for local news pilot schemes to a third project.

Although the initial sum was to provide funding for news projects in North Edinburgh, Craigmillar and in Gorgie/Dalry the balance of £12,000 has now been given to the [Digital Sentinel](#) which reports news in Wester Hailes and the surrounding areas. This fits with the original plan which was to engender some news reporting in deprived areas of the capital. The news pilot for Gorgie/Dalry did not ever get

underway.

[North Edinburgh News](#) has already had up to £25,000 of funding awarded to it, although it is not yet clear how much of that has been paid over as there are as yet no detailed accounts. The Chronicle project centred around the Craigmillar area has been allocated up to £12,000 of support and now the Digital Sentinel which is already up and running has been given the balance of the £50,000 set aside. (Yes we know there is an underspend of £1,000 but these are approximate figures as we heard at the committee!)

The evaluation report on the three pilots is due in May 2015 in time for the next committee meeting and Councillor Paul Edie had lodged an amendment requesting that no more funds were paid over until the evaluation was carried out. He claimed it would be difficult to assess how the Digital Sentinel used the money: "How can we do an evaluation when the ink is hardly dry on the cheque?"

He received some support in his view from Conservative Councillor Allan Jackson who questioned what could be learned in the short time before the report is due in six weeks' time, but their amendment was defeated and the committee agreed to deliver the funding by 9 votes to 2.



The Digital Sentinel is the online version of The Sentinel newspaper which became the West Edinburgh Times latterly and which then closed due to lack of funds. The media project was launched hand in hand with the Our Place in Time suite of projects which included the digital totem pole which now exists on the canal bank in Wester Hailes. The website has published over 500 articles in the period since October 2013 to date and has a social media presence on Twitter, [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

The Digital Sentinel has already had funding of £10,000 from Carnegie UK Trust as part of its Neighbourhood News project and the final report on the findings can be read below. It was a one year information gathering project and the funding came to an end last year. As well as its online presence paper copies of some articles are printed and displayed outside WHALE Arts Centre and in Wester Hailes Library.

Councillor Nigel Bagshaw requested that details of what the money will be spent on is made clear and Councillor Karen Keil asked if there could be an audit of what is happening around the city after the pilots are complete. She said she would find that very helpful.

The Convener, Councillor Maureen Child, commented that the idea behind the council's Contact in the Community project was to look for sustainable ways of replacing the council's own newspaper Outlook. She asserted that key aspects of the pilots are employability and training, that the North Edinburgh News has offered some local training and that the Digital Sentinel will enter into an arrangement with the Wester Hailes Education Centre whereby their pupils will be trained to become reporters.

Councillor Child continued that she would like to include in the evaluation some input from other publications such as The Broughton Spurtle and Greener Leith although neither of these hyperlocal sites are officially part of the pilot scheme. The Edinburgh Reporter understands that the collaboration between The Spurtle and Greener Leith to develop an app to encourage local shopping which got funding of almost £50,000 from the UK innovation foundation, NESTA, in its Destination Local project came to naught and most of the money was returned to NESTA.

The convener also confirmed in one line that the apparent investigation into the North Edinburgh News project had been concluded. This arose following the claims by some councillors that the way the money was being used to fund a paper rather

than a digital version was not in line with the project's guidelines.

Councillor Lunn who is Vice-Convener of the committee said he especially likes getting the daily email update from the Digital Sentinel and feels this is a project which is leading the way on training. The Sentinel employs one trainee reporter who is funded by an SCVO graduate scheme.

Councillor David Walker suggested that the money being granted now was in recognition of past work and was hopeful the good work would continue in future.

There are already many investigations into local or hyperlocal journalism. One of the most recent was the BBC conference in Salford last year entitled The Revival of Local Journalism when The Edinburgh Reporter was asked to deliver a presentation on the work we do here in Edinburgh. The nature of the conference was to find new ways for the BBC to assist local partners in delivering news. That work is ongoing and the [Future of News report](#) was published at the end of January.

In response to the report's claims that 'one of the biggest market failures in news in the last decade is local news', the Chief Executive of Johnston Press, Ashley Highfield fired a warning shot across the BBC's fairly broad bows.

Highfield, previously of the BBC, told the news broadcaster very firmly to get their tanks off his lawn, and leave local news to local newspapers. He also claimed that the best thing the BBC could do was give away its 'bucket of content' for free to local news outlets. Johnston Press owns The Scotsman and The Edinburgh Evening News which have just moved to a more streamlined editorial model and both papers now share the same 6:00am print deadline in an effort to shave the £360m debt which Johnston Press had when Highfield took over as boss. The full text of his letter is [here](#).

Daniel Radcliffe investigated the hyperlocal journalism

movement across the UK in 2012 when The Edinburgh Reporter was given a mention in his [Here and Now UK Hyperlocal Journalism Today report](#) prepared for NESTA. Radcliffe concluded that although there was a growth of the hyperlocal at least south of the border, there was little evidence of sustainability largely because of the individual nature of the sites. He claimed there is no one size fits all.

Since then NESTA has produced two further reports on its Destination Local funding the latest of which you can read [here](#). This report suggest that local authorities should engage with hyperlocal news websites more fully as it is a cost effective way of reaching some citizens.

[Hyperlocal Scotland](#) is an organisation set up by Mike Rawlins of Talk About Local and Phyllis Stephen of The Edinburgh Reporter to try and assess the true spread of hyperlocal sites in Scotland and find ways of developing those in the future.

The Edinburgh Reporter is also a hyperlocal news website, and our model is one based on advertising and sponsorship, although in common with many other sites mentioned in the Destination Local report we still find it difficult to prove the worth of online advertising to some who prefer to see their advertising in print. Some other sites have produced their news on paper to overcome that barrier.

If you would like to advertise with us or make a small regular donation then of course we would very much appreciate it. See the foot of the site for ways of making donations.

Please read our advertising information [here](#). If you are a charity then all prices are discounted by 50%.



Loading...



Taking too long?

↻ Reload document

| ↗ [Open in new tab](#)

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