

# Serious assault outside Easthouses Miners Club



Police are appealing for witnesses following the serious assault of a 34 year old woman in Dalkeith in the early hours of Saturday 6th December 2014.

The incident happened around 1230am outside Easthouses Miners Club.

The first suspect is described as male, white, aged early 20's, slim build, and wearing a white top and jeans.

The second suspect is described as female, white, aged mid 20's, slim build, auburn shoulder length hair, and wearing a crop top and jeans.

Detective Constable John Fortune said: "This has been a vicious assault leaving the victim with significant injuries. Anyone with information should contact police on 101."

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# Scottish Labour Leadership contest in its final days



The contest for the position of Scottish Labour Leader is drawing to a close with the result to be announced on 13 December 2014.

There have been no televised debates among the three of them,

but all candidates have been keeping media informed as to their ideas and plans.

They have campaign websites and Twitter accounts. Unless you have a vote in the election of the new leader it is perhaps academic as to what the differences between them actually are, but they have various stances and attributes for the job.

If Jim Murphy gets elected then he will have to find himself a seat at Holyrood as he has promised to do, and he says he will then deliver the change that the people of Scotland are 'crying out for'. This is his latest tweet:

*Stuck in traffic in Glasgow city centre now but reason for this 'road closed' sign made me smile.*  
[pic.twitter.com/607moqWSuq](http://pic.twitter.com/607moqWSuq)

– Jim Murphy (@jimmurphymp) [December 7, 2014](#)

If Sarah Boyack wins then the status quo of all female leaders of all parties in The Scottish Parliament would remain, and Labour would be led by one of the original members of the parliament. This is one of her latest tweets:

*Sarah's 100 ideas spreading on Facebook*  
<http://t.co/6uGpLAWFaU> – Sarah Boyack MSP (@SarahBoyackMSP)  
[December 7, 2014](#)

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

If Neil Findlay wins then the party would be led by a man who rails against career politicians, and who wants to end poverty, partly by changing the minimum wage to a living wage. This is one of his latest tweets:

[@Kaljuboury](#) Hi Kais, thought you might be interested in Neil's blog today, just days til voting closes! [#TeamFindlay](#)  
<http://t.co/N0W2HuSQJR>

– Neil Findlay MSP (@Neil4Scotland) [December 6, 2014](#)

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

Here is where you will find out more about them and their campaigns:

Neil Findlay's [website](#)

Sarah Boyack's [website](#)

Jim Murphy's [website](#)

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# Fairy Tale Exhibition at The Scottish Storytelling Centre



## Floris Books launches exhibition of artwork from its Traditional Scottish Tales series

Scottish folk and fairy tales provide the focus for a new exhibition opening this Thursday at the Scottish Storytelling Centre in Edinburgh.

The exhibition is made up of illustrations from three new picture books which aim to bring old Scottish stories to life for young children.

It features artwork from three talented young illustrators, Matthew Land (The Dragon Stoorworm), Philip Longson (The Tale of Tam Linn) and Ruchi Mhasane (The Selkie Girl). All three illustrators have graduated from art school within the last two years, and for Matthew and Philip, these are their first picture books.

From the Dragon Stoorworm – who is said to have formed Scotland's many islands – to the Selkie – a girl who turns into a seal – and the tale of Tam Linn – a legend originating in the Scottish Borders – these traditional myths and legends have been passed down through years of oral tradition, and are now brought to life with stunning new illustrations.

The exhibition will be open to the public from 11th December 2014 to 24th January 2015, with original artwork and limited edition prints for sale.

More details [here](#).

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## Sunday in Edinburgh – What's On Today



**Filmhouse Junior: *Young Voices* (PG).** A selection of films made by young people who participated in the Filmhouse's **Understanding Cinema** project at schools and cinemas across Scotland in 2013/14. Most of the films were made by primary school children, and demonstrate 'wonderful imagination, skill and creativity'. 11am, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. £3.50 (all ages): book [online](#) or call the box office on

0131 228 2688.

**A Very Merry Swapshop:** celebrate the festive season with a Lego Swapshop to close off the year! If you collect **Lego minifigures** of any kind, come along to the shop and trade out your doubles/extras and unwanted figures with other collectors for the ones you want. Prizes and games too! 3pm, [Waterstones Cameron Toll](#), 6 Lady Road. Call 0131 666 1866 for more information.



**Gorgie City Farm Christmas Craft Fair:** festive fun and crafts. 11am-4pm, [Gorgie City Farm](#), 51 Gorgie Road.

**Christmas at Lauriston: Edinburgh Living History 1910.** Be transported back to the Edwardian era and celebrate Christmas with Mr and Mrs Reid, their staff, family and friends on these special costumed interpretation tours. 1pm or 3pm, [Lauriston Castle](#), 2a Cramond Road. £5 per adult, £3 per child, £12.50 per family – or with refreshments £6.50/£4.50/£17. Bookings must be made via the [Usher Hall Box Office](#), in person, by phone (0131 228 1155, Monday-Saturday) or [online](#).

**Art Maker – December:** join the **Art Maker Club** and make your own masterpieces with artists **Tessa Asquith-Lamb** and **Louise Fraser**. For ages 4-12. 2-4pm (drop-in), [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed. Supported by the Friends of the National Galleries of Scotland.



**LGBT: Families Love?** A workshop designed to give you a safe place to **explore what 'family' means to you**. How many of our beliefs, expectations, disappointments, happinesses and hurts are caused by a culture that was force-fed to us from childhood? By using creative methods, the facilitator will encourage you to work towards challenging what is positive and negative about how you relate to this word, possibly

redefining what your idea of 'family' is. Through sharing with other members of the group, find ways to live at peace with your unique experience. Facilitators are fully trained and experienced **psychotherapists/counsellors**. 10am-4pm, [LGBT Health & Wellbeing](#), 9 Howe Street. Booking essential: for more information and to book, email Alison at [alison@lgbthealth.org](mailto:alison@lgbthealth.org) or call 0131 652 3283. Free.

**Christmas Crafternoon:** a festive afternoon drop-in session at which you can make a Christmas decoration inspired by the Museum's collections. 12 noon-4pm, [National Museum of Scotland](#), Chambers Street. Free. Also available at same times on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th December 2014.



**Natural Partners: Forests and Education.** Forests, trees and woodlands, and all aspects of wood as a material, offer fantastic opportunities for learning. Explore a number of hands-on activities, suitable for all ages. 12.30-3.30pm, Real Life Science Studio, Gateway, [Royal Botanic Garden](#), Inverleith Row. Free: no booking required. Facilitated by students from Moray House School of Education and staff from Forest Research and Forestry Commission Scotland.

**Advent Music and Reflection: Angels From Heaven.** Music by **David Willcocks**, **Max Reger** and **Will Todd**, performed by the sopranos and altos of the church choir with **Laura Cioffi** (flute), directed by **Brigitte Harris**. There will also be a reflection for the season of Advent. 1.30-2pm, [St Andrew's & St George's West Church](#), 13 George Street. All welcome.



**Mortonhall Crematorium Christmas Memorial Service:** led by **John E Jones**, Civil Celebrant, with a performance by **The Edinburgh Telephone Choir**. All Books of Remembrance will be on display in the Pentland Chapel. Light refreshments will be provided.

3pm, [Mortonhall Crematorium](#), Howdenhall Road.

**Winter Guided Walk:** join a garden guide for a leisurely afternoon walk around the Garden. Discover stunning seasonal highlights and learn about the history of the Garden and its plants. For ages 14+. 2pm, meet at John Hope Gateway reception, [Royal Botanic Garden](#), Inverleith Row. £5 per person, no advance booking required.

**Christmas Crib Exhibition and Afternoon Tea:** come and see a variety of cribs and enjoy afternoon tea and a chat, with a short blessing service at 4.30pm. If you have any exhibits of your own cribs, whether homemade, bought, treasured over the years, strange or wonderful, please contact Rev Sophia Marriage on 0131 629 1219 or [sophia.marriage@stmarksportobello.org](mailto:sophia.marriage@stmarksportobello.org). Cribs may be brought to the church during the week beginning 1st December. 2-4.30pm, [St Mark's Episcopal Church](#), Portobello High Street.



**Open Mic with Matt Norris:** a night of acoustic/unplugged open mic for songwriters, cover artists, poetry/spoken word and anything else you'd like to perform for an audience. From 8pm, [Sofi's Bar](#), 65 Henderson Street.

**Christian Aid Service of Thanksgiving:** a chance to celebrate the work of Christian Aid partners around the world and to thank the supporters who make this possible. The service will be led by the head of Christian Aid Scotland, **Kathy Galloway**. All welcome: tea and coffee will be served after the service. If you are planning to attend, please email [edinburgh@christian-aid.org](mailto:edinburgh@christian-aid.org) or call 0131 220 1254 to enable the organisers to plan refreshments. 6.30-7.30pm, [St Andrew's & St George's West Church](#), 13 George Street. All welcome.



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# Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



Alex Salmond to run for Westminster

Usher Hall award

M8 victim named

Hearts trounce Queen of the South

Mercy Corps appeal



Former First Minister Alex Salmond is expected to announce that he will contest the Westminster seat of Gordon in 2015, continuing his lifelong campaign for independence for Scotland in the heart of the UK Government.

The constituency is being vacated by LibDem Sir Malcolm Bruce who is one of many politicians who have decided to stand down next year. Gordon lies near his Scottish constituency of Aberdeenshire East which if he is elected to Westminster he would presumably continue to represent for a year till the next Scottish election. He has previously served as an MP at Westminster from 1987 till 2010.

Gordon Brown and Alistair Darling have both announced their retirement from politics since the Referendum.

Mr Salmond's alter ego @Angry Salmond appears to have pushed



him into it:

*Nice parliament. I'll take it. [#SexySocialism](https://twitter.com/rebckn88Dl)  
[pic.twitter.com/rebckn88Dl](https://pic.twitter.com/rebckn88Dl)*

– Angry Salmond (@AngrySalmond) [December 6, 2014](#)

*Ladies and gentlemen, your main event for 2015...  
[pic.twitter.com/nJ7Xe0pkmZ](https://pic.twitter.com/nJ7Xe0pkmZ) – Angry Salmond (@AngrySalmond)  
[December 6, 2014](#)*

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The Usher Hall has been recognised for services to deaf and hard of hearing customers with an award for best practice.


*Attitude is Everything* has awarded Edinburgh's Usher Hall the Bronze Standard Charter of Best Practice for showing continuing commitment to venue access to their customers and performers.

*Attitude is Everything* assists the music industry to understand the requirements of Deaf and disabled people at music venues and festivals. The ethos of the Charter is that Deaf and disabled people should be as independent as they want to be at live music events.

[Read more here.](#)

Or scan the QR code below

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 Police confirmed the name of the man who died in a collision on the M8 yesterday morning as Murray D'Angelo (28).

The family have issued a photo of Murray through Police

Scotland, but ask that they are left to grieve in private.

[Read more here.](#)

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Hearts had a glorious afternoon at Tynecastle yesterday winning 4-1 against Queen of the South who, according to The Edinburgh Reporter's Mike Smith were 'he best visiting team I have seen at Tynecastle this season'.

[Read more here.](#)

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[The Edinburgh Disaster Response Committee](#) and Edinburgh's International Charity, [Mercy Corps](#) have joined forces to provide shelter and lifesaving supplies to families who are on the run from violent conflict or war. Women, men and children from countries like [Syria](#), [South Sudan](#) and [Iraq](#) who have been forced to leave their homes and leave everything they have behind.

You are invited to donate to the appeal on the EVOC website [here.](#)

If you are reading this on paper and would like to read the online version instead then using the Scan app on your smartphone you can scan the QR code below and be directed to the website.



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# Usher Hall gets award



The only five star concert hall in Scotland has been given an award for the way it deals with its deaf and hard of hearing customers as well as those with disabilities.

Management and staff at the Usher Hall are pleased to find that their efforts have been recognised in this way.



Convener of  
Culture and Sport  
Richard Lewis

Councillor Richard Lewis, Convener for Culture and Sport said: "Nobody should feel excluded from the arts. In a city like Edinburgh, which has such a rich cultural heritage, it is a real priority to strive towards offering an equal experience for all.

"To better understand how deaf people and those who are hard of hearing can get the most of Scotland's five star music venue, staff have been taking part in training sessions and helping to enhance the Council's cultural outreach programme.

"The Usher Hall has had a record year, with ticket sales and audience numbers rising, and this recognition from Attitude Is Everything is yet another reason to celebrate."

The desire to give all customers equal access to the flagship concert hall was an important item on the agenda right back at the planning stages of the refurbishment. However, as Karl Chapman, General Manager of the Usher Hall, stated on hearing from *Attitude is Everything*,

"We are delighted with this award and the recognition of the

efforts we have made towards making music more accessible for everyone. Being part of a UK wide scheme is important as we make collective efforts to ensure that everyone can enjoy what live music has to offer.

We have made a number of investments in making our venue accessible but we also recognise that this is a continuous journey of improvement and we are committed to achieving a gold standard by 2017 and ensuring that access issues are part of our mainstream culture.”

The concert hall, which sells around 220,000 tickets each year was given the award following several visits by the organisation.

Gideon Feldman, Attitude is Everything’s Senior Project Manager who worked with the Usher Hall to implement the award said: “Usher Hall is a fantastic venue which ensures everyone is welcome following a beautiful refurb. by looking at the service they provide to their Deaf and disabled customers. The Charter of Best Practice is designed to work in partnership with venues and we were pleased to see Usher Hall review where to find their access provision and how to use it, as well as their policies to ensure an equal experience. Usher Hall are also running a series of Disability Equality Training Sessions to help make sure access is understood across the venue.”

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## **Edinburgh activists want pledge over climate change**

Climate activists in Edinburgh sent a message to world politicians who are meeting now in Lima, asking them to agree a deal to prevent catastrophic climate change.

They took to the streets on Saturday to collect signatures supporting the Edinburgh Climate Action Pledge which also calls on the City of Edinburgh Council to take urgent steps to cut the city's greenhouse gas emissions.

They had a photo stunt with person in a polar bear suit dressed as Paddington Bear to link the threat of climate change to current United Nations talks in Peru.

Matthew Crichton of Friends of the Earth Edinburgh commented

“To look after our planet and ourselves we have to stop burning fossil fuels – coal, natural gas and oil – and switch to renewables. It's practical and can improve people's lives at the same time. Transforming our energy system will create jobs, cut pollution and tackle dangerous climate change.

“Let's take vigorous action now, rather than face the consequences of climate change- devastation to farming around the world, rising food prices and rising hunger, mass migrations and unrest, flooding of coastal areas; and disaster for the natural world.

“So we want a global agreement to cut greenhouse gas emissions; and we also want action in Scotland to meet our emissions targets. We support Edinburgh Council's target to reduce the city's carbon emissions by 42% by 2020. We want to see action taken now to achieve and then exceed that target”.

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## Man who died on M8 named



Police have confirmed the name of the man who died in a collision on the M8 this morning as Murray D'Angelo (28).

The family have issued a photo of Murray through Police Scotland, but ask that they are left to grieve in private.

Officers are continuing their investigation to establish the full circumstances and are asking any witnesses who were on the M8 near to Hermiston Gait around 6.15am this morning to contact police on 101 immediately.

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# Heart of Midlothian 4 Queen of the South 1



## **SPFL Championship, Saturday 6 December 2014 – Tynecastle**

After the controversy of last week's Scottish Cup defeat to Celtic, Hearts returned to the more routine matter of trying to secure promotion from the SPFL Championship. Queen of the South, one of Hearts main competitors for promotion, visited Tynecastle on Saturday and Robbie Neilson's men knew they faced a tough test. And it proved to be a curious afternoon with the Doonhamers no doubt feeling they were on the wrong end of a harsh scoreline.

Another huge crowd of more than 15,000 came to Tynecastle on a bitterly cold afternoon less than three weeks before Christmas – a testament to the magnificent Hearts support and also to a decent following from Dumfries.

Hearts, with skipper Danny Wilson back in the side for the first time since sustaining injury at Easter Road in October, began impressively, as they have done so often this season. Alim Ozturk was the first to threaten with his now customary

long-range effort on goal before superb build-up play between youngster Robbie Buchanan – making his first start for Hearts – and Callum Paterson saw the latter fire an effort wide of Clark in the Queens' goal.

At this stage, it was all Hearts with the Doonhamers content to hit on the break. In the 12<sup>th</sup> minute, the hard-working James Keatings fired in shot which sailed over the bar as the Maroons threatened every time they came forward. Inevitably, the deadlock was broken in the 20<sup>th</sup> minute in spectacular style by that man Keatings. Danny Wilson launched a long ball which Keatings let bounce before volleying in from 20 yards past a startled Clark. Tynecastle rose to acclaim the former Hamilton Accies player who ran to the main stand, rather appropriately where the Dumfries Hearts Supporters flag was draped.

After Callum Paterson came close again, the home side were awarded a rather dubious looking penalty when the Scotland defender was deemed to have been pushed inside the penalty box. Prince Buaben took the spot-kick but his effort smacked off the post and was cleared. The visitors clearly felt justice had been served and they came more into the game as half-time approached. However, Hearts should have scored again when Jamie Walker dispossessed a Queens defender and bore down on goal only to see his half-hearted effort cleared.

### **Half-time Hearts 1 Queen of the South 0**

The Dumfries side began the second half in determined fashion and, for the first time, Hearts began to look rattled. Home keeper Neil Alexander saved well from McShane as uncertainty crept into the home side's game. It was no surprise, therefore, when Queens equalised following the award of another dubious penalty when Jamie Walker was adjudged to have pushed McShane. Russell did an expert job with the penalty and the visiting support roared their approval.

They were nearly celebrating again when Alexander saved

brilliantly from Higgin's header and the anxiety from the home support became palpable, particularly with the news that Rangers had taken the lead against Cowdenbeath at Ibrox and it looked as if Hearts lead at the top of the table might be cut. However, in the 66<sup>th</sup> minute, Tynecastle breathed a huge sigh of relief.

James Keatings' cross pin-balled inside the Queen's penalty box before captain Danny Wilson marked his return to the side by heading home. Seven minutes later, Hearts all but secured victory when Prince Buaben atoned for his penalty miss by turning his man inside the penalty box and driving the ball home for Hearts third goal.

Five minutes later the game was indeed all over when Callum Paterson delivered a fine pass to Billy King who fed Adam Eckersley who drove the ball into the corner of the net to complete the scoring at 4-1 to Hearts. There was just time for 17 year old midfielder Nathan Flanagan to make his Hearts debut as the Hearts youth academy rolled out yet another starlet from its production line.

The apprehension which had clouded over Tynecastle early in the second half had now disappeared and the Hearts support went home happy, particularly when they heard Hibernian had lost again. Yet, Queen of the South were the best visiting team I have seen at Tynecastle this season and I have little doubt they will be in the play-offs for a place in next season's SPFL Premiership. While the automatic promotion place is a two-horse race between Hearts and Rangers, no one will want to face the Doonhamers on this form.

Hearts remain nine points clear of Rangers – and are now 19 ahead of Hibernian. In the next five weeks, Rangers have to visit Queen of the South and Hibernian while Hearts go to Ibrox in the middle of January. While one shouldn't really look too far forward, if the gap between first and second has increased further at the end of this period, it may well be



game over for automatic promotion.

**Hearts:** Alexander, Paterson, Wilson, Ozturk, Walker, King, Pallardo, Buaben, Keatings, Buchanan, Eckersley.

**Queen of the South:** Clark, Dowie, Durnan, Higgins, K. Holt, McShane, Kerr, Russell, Kidd, Reilly, Dzierzawski

**Referee:** Craig Charleston

**Att:** 15,459

**Top man:** James Keatings – not only did he score a contender for goal of the season, his work-rate was phenomenal.

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## Falkirk 1-0 Hibernian



Hibs' eight match unbeaten run came to an end this afternoon in the Falkirk Stadium thanks to a last minute goal from David McCracken.

The result means that Hibs passed up the chance to leapfrog Queen of the South who lost to Hearts at Tynecastle, and they remain in fourth place only two points above Falkirk.

Head coach Alan Stubbs made two enforced changes, with Paul Heffernan replacing the suspended Dominique Malonga whilst midweek hat-trick hero Sam Stanton took over from skipper Liam Craig who was injured during last week's Scottish Cup win over Alloa Athletic.

Former Hearts' keeper Jamie MacDonald did well to clear a slack back pass with both Heffernan and Jason Cummings pressing before Stanton went close with a header from a Scott Allan cross over.

The Bairns fought back and it took a last-ditch tackle from Paul Hanlon to prevent Falkirk taking the lead.

Loy then hit the side-netting with a fierce shot before Liam Fontaine managed to block a Botti Biabi strike.

Hibs almost took the lead shortly before half time when Heffernan set up Stanton but his shot deflected just wide of target.

Jason Cummings (pictured) was replaced by Lewis Allan at half time as Hibs looked to grab the initiative then Danny Handling almost opened the scoring but his strike was parried by MacDonald. The ball fell to Heffernan but the strikers powerful shot was blocked on the line by Luke Leahy.

With 18 minutes remaining, Hibs were denied a clear cut penalty when Scott Allan was hauled down inside the box, but referee Finnie ignored the pleas from the players and fans.

In the last minute, McCracken pounced on a Hanlon clearance and hammered the ball into the net from the edge of the box.

Falkirk: MacDonald, Duffie, McCracken, Vaulks, Taiwo (Cooper 68), Alston (Shepherd 81), Sibbald, P Grant, Leahy, Biabi (Smith 65), Loy.

Substitutes not used: Bowman, Dick, T Grant, Maybury.

Hibs: Oxley, Gray, Hanlon, Fontaine, Stevenson, S Allan, Robertson, Stanton, Handling, Cummings (L Allan 46), Heffernan (Harris 81)..

Substitutes not used: Perntreou, Booth, Kennedy, Jake Sinclair, Martin.

Referee: Stephen Finnie.

Attendance: 4983.

Photo by John Preece

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# M8 reopens after fatal collision



The first part of the M8 from Hermiston Gait was closed all day today to allow investigations following a fatal collision.

Police have confirmed the motorway has now fully reopened

The incident happened around 6.15am on the M8, between Hermiston and Gogar junctions, when a man who had been travelling in a taxi with two other passengers exited the vehicle and was struck by two vehicles travelling westbound.

Emergency services attended but the 28 year-old man was pronounced dead at the scene. There were no other reported injuries.

The M8 was closed in both directions while police carried out an investigation to establish the circumstances and police are now appealing for any witnesses to contact police.

Chief Inspector Stevie Dolan said: "I'd like to thank the public for their patience while the M8 was closed to allow us to carry out our investigation. To help us piece together the circumstances, anyone who witnessed this collision or has information which can assist with our enquiries is urged to

contact Police on 101.”

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# Photography from Johannesburg at the Portrait Gallery



Two people who clearly like being behind the lens rather than in front of it, UK artist Patrick Waterhouse and photographer Mikhael Subotzky were remarkably reticent about their photographic exhibition just opening today at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.

This is a huge piece of work, during which they say they took over 10,000 photographs. The subject itself is described by the (quite tall) Subotzky as a very tall building. It is Ponte City a skyscraper in Johannesburg which is the tallest residential building in Africa.

The exhibition was staged first of all at Ponte itself, then Paris and Antwerp. The exhibition has only this week been shortlisted for the Deutsche Borse Photography Prize 2015.

The photographers said: “The whole history of the building tells the story of Johannesburg. The ups and downs of the building kind of mirror what has happened there during the five years it took to take all the photographs.

Asked whether they had made friendships with the people who live in the building, they were ambivalent: “Some people we made friends with and some were people who were passing through.”

“Our photography changed with the way we worked. We used different kinds of materials throughout the project and also made use of archives.

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

There was a big redevelopment in 2007 and a lot of people were moved out in a hurry, leaving their photos behind them, a real archive and treasure trove for the photographers to work with.

Patrick could not pick one photograph which he favoured over others, but he did go on to mention the photos of each and every door and out of every single window in the building. You can see in one of the books which accompanies the free to enter exhibition that they created a schematic of the building and then they would tick off each window as they managed to get into each apartment and take the shot.

The former luxury apartment block became a refuge for black newcomers from the townships with the end of Apartheid. By the time the new owner bought in 2007 they evicted many residents and began refurbishing the building. This stopped with the global recession in 2008, but it was around this time that the two photographers began their work there trying to photograph a before and after scene. The building became half-derelict and the central atrium became a rubbish dump for building debris, where the waste now reaches the fifth storey. Eventually the photos they took have become a documentary record of the everyday life which is being lived there.

They took photos on film and digital media out of every single window in the towering 54 storey structure.

This is the only showing of the exhibition in the UK and it will run until 26 April 2015.

Subotzky is South African with works in MOMA New York and the

Victoria and Albert.

Waterhouse is English. He works in different media and edits the magazine, Colors.



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## Saturday in Edinburgh – What's On Today



**Christmas Special Dugs N Pubs:** dress your pooch up as a Christmas pudding, Santa or Rudolph and meet your favourite doggy friends at Sofi's! 12 noon, [Sofi's Bar](#), 65 Henderson Street.

**Out of the Blue Christmas Arts Market and Open Studios** – stalls will include furniture, jewellery, illustrations, photography, textiles, paintings, ceramics, clocks, vintage wear and mulled wine. There will also be a small **Music Fair** organised by **local labels** (Hobbes Music, Hero Records, Glint Recordings, mini50, Tabernacle and Groove Line) selling their own releases whilst their **DJ Collective** plays throughout the day, and an Open Studios event offering a chance to see behind the scenes and meet some of the Drill Hall based artists and makers. 11am-5pm, [Out of the Blue Drill Hall](#), 36 Dalmeny Street. Entry £1.



**Ukrainian Craft and Food Fair:** a charity event featuring Ukrainian crafters who live in Scotland. 12 noon-4pm, Edinburgh Ukrainian Club, 14 Royal Terrace. Entry £1 (children

free), which includes a tea or coffee and a mince pie. Organised by the [Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain](#).

**Edinburgh University Brass Band:** a concert of music from various genres and time periods, conductor **Angus Tully**. 7.30pm, [Reid Concert Hall](#), Bristo Square. £5/£3, tickets available on the door. More information from [eubrassband@gmail.com](mailto:eubrassband@gmail.com).

**Bookbug:** songs and rhymes for very young children and babies: 2.30pm, [Corstorphine Library](#), 12 Kirk Loan.

**FACE (Fighting Against Cancer in Edinburgh) Christmas Fair:** crafts, books, cakes, candy, bric a brac, tombola, raffle, Santa's Grotto, children's games, police motorbike, refreshments, carols and much more. 11am-3pm, Edinburgh Cancer Care Outpatients, [Western General Hospital](#) (Off Crewe Road). Free entry.



Casualty of War: A Portrait  
of Maharaja Duleep Singh,  
copyright The Singh Twins

**Maharaja Duleep Singh and Queen Victoria:** removed from his throne in Northern India by the East India Company, Duleep was separated from his mother at the age of 10 and brought up by his Scottish guardian, **Dr John Spencer Login**. He was eventually 'adopted' by **Queen Victoria** and became a popular figure amongst British high society. **Priya Atwal** (University of Oxford) explores Duleep's peculiarly British upbringing across mid-19th century India, England and Scotland and delves into how the queen and the doctor attempted to mould Duleep into a new kind of ideal 'Anglo-Indian prince' during a formative period of the British Raj. 2-3pm, Auditorium, [National Museum of Scotland](#), Chambers Street. Booking required: free tickets can be reserved [online](#), by calling 0300 123 6789 or in person at the Museum's information

desk.

**GENERATION Tours at Modern One:** free, discussion-led tours of the GENERATION exhibition, focusing on key themes and artists. 11-11.45am or 1-1.45pm, [Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art ONE](#), Belford Road. Free and unticketed.



**The Open Orchestra Concert:** Borodin, *Eine Steppenskizze*; Tom Cunningham, *Edinburgh Suite*, Mozart *Haffner Symphony No.35 in D Major*. Conductor: **Andrew Lees**. 7.30pm, [Canongate Kirk](#), 153 Canongate. The Open Orchestra is an established group of amateur musicians of all ages and abilities.

**Christmas Crafternoon:** a festive afternoon drop-in session at which you can make a Christmas decoration inspired by the Museum's collections. 12 noon-4pm, [National Museum of Scotland](#), Chambers Street. Free. Also available at same times on Sunday 7th, Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th December 2014.

**Bookbug:** songs and rhymes for very young children and babies. 10.30am, [Oxgangs Library](#), 43 Oxgangs Road North.

**The Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival:** a festival of Christmas trees donated by local businesses. Today until 24th December, Sanctuary, [St Andrew's & St George's West Church](#), 13 George Street.



**Illustrated Storytelling with James Mayhew:** James Mayhew's much-loved picture-book character **Katie** has been making art an adventure for children worldwide for 25 years. James's infectious enthusiasm and fantastic events are legendary – find out why as you watch him tell amazing stories while painting upside down! Get your book signed in person – a perfect Christmas treat! For ages 5+. 2-2.30pm or 3-3.30pm, Main Gallery Floor, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. No



booking required.

**Portrait Gallery Thematic Tours: White as Snow.** Monthly thematic tours of the Portrait Gallery's collection: this month artist Emily Learmont traces the colour white through the art of portraiture, looking at the portrait of **Mary, Queen of Scots**, the history of lead white paint, and how artists painted shimmery white silk. 2-2.45pm or 3-3.45pm, [Scottish National Portrait Gallery](#), 1 Queen Street. Free and unticketed.



**Christmas Truce Concert:** a concert in memory of the Christmas 'truce' between troops on the front in Flanders on Christmas Eve 1914. An evening of German and British carols performed by all-male vocal group **Ensemble miXtur**, accompanied by readings and poetry. Join the **German Consulate General** for this festive charity event. 6-7pm, [St Andrew's & St George's West Church](#), 13 George Street. All contributions will be donated to charity.

**Ponte City: Mikhael Subotzky and Patrick Waterhouse – Opening Talk.** South African photographer Subotzky and British artist Waterhouse discuss their collaborative project *Ponte City* with **Anne Lyden**, International Photography Curator at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. The project, currently on show at the Portrait Gallery, documents the Ponte City building in Johannesburg from 2007 to 2012. 2-3pm, Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed.



**Eco Kidz Pop Up Stall:** a fantastic selection of recycled gifts. Eco Kidz is a Creative Social Enterprise project for children aged 8-12, set up by **North Edinburgh Arts** and funded by the **Big Lottery Young Start Fund**: it aims to develop young people's art, design and business skills by helping them to

create their own brand of handmade, market-ready products using recycled materials and upcycling techniques. Today's pop up stall will offer **jewellery, notebooks, pincushions, vases, brooches, key rings, magnets, Christmas cards and more.** 10am-12.30pm, North Edinburgh Arts Cafe, 15a Pennywell Court. For more information click [here](#).

**Edinburgh Youth Choir:** the Choir performs two short concerts of your favourite Christmas songs. From traditional tunes to jazzy jingle bells, there will be something for all the family to enjoy and get involved in! 11.30am-12 noon *or* 1-1.30pm, Great Hall, [Scottish National Portrait Gallery](#), 1 Queen Street. Free and unticketed.



**The Big LGBT Music Jam:** a creative and supportive space for making music. Play, sing your own song, or just be an appreciative listener: all music tastes welcome. Bring your own instrument – some percussion supplied. 1-4pm, [LGBT Health & Wellbeing](#), 9 Howe Street. No need to book, just turn up! For more information contact [biglgbtmusicjamedinburgh@gmail.com](mailto:biglgbtmusicjamedinburgh@gmail.com).

**Christmas Craft Fair:** hand-crafted gifts, Santa's Grotto, carols. 1-4pm, [Craigmillar Community Arts](#), 58 Newcraighall Road.

**Natural Partners: Forests and Education.** Forests, trees and woodlands, and all aspects of wood as a material, offer fantastic opportunities for learning. Explore a number of hands-on activities, suitable for all ages. 12.30-3.30pm, Real Life Science Studio, Gateway, [Royal Botanic Garden](#), Inverleith Row. Free: no booking required. Facilitated by students from Moray House School of Education and staff from Forest Research and Forestry Commission Scotland. Also available at same times on Sunday 7th December.



**Bohemia Art, Craft and Vintage Christmas Fair:** browse and buy from local artists, designers and makers. Cafe open. 11am-4pm, [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#), 43-45 High Street. Free entry.

**Winter Guided Walk:** join a garden guide for a leisurely afternoon walk around the Garden. Discover stunning seasonal highlights and learn about the history of the Garden and its plants. For ages 14+. 2pm, meet at John Hope Gateway reception, [Royal Botanic Garden](#), Inverleith Row. £5 per person, no advance booking required. Also available at same time on Sunday 7th December.



**TF Muir: *The Meating Room*.** Best-selling Scottish crime writer TF Muir will be signing copies of his new thriller, *The Meating Room*, the fifth book in his **DCI Andy Gilchrist series**. When Andrew Magner's business partner is found dead in his car in Anstruther all the evidence points to suicide – why did he do it? And was Magner himself a serial rapist in his youth – or something even worse? 'Gilchrist might just be the bloke to put St Andrew's on the crime fiction map' (Daily Record). 2pm, Waterstones, [Ocean Terminal](#). For more information call 0131 554 7732.



**Coburg House Open Studios:** come out of the cold and explore Coburg's four floors of working artists' studios in the heart of Leith. Meet the creators of the work on display and pick up the perfect hand-crafted piece. Painting, printmaking, textiles, ceramics, jewellery and more. 11am-6pm, [Coburg House Art Studios](#), 15 Coburg Street. Also open at same times on Sunday 7th December 2014.

**The Edinburgh Gallery Christmas Exhibition:** opens today, then 11am-5pm Monday to Friday, 10am-1pm Saturdays, [The Edinburgh Gallery](#), 20a Dundas Street.



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# Five things you need to know today



**Small Business Saturday**

**Erskine Home Christmas Fayre**

**Gorgie/Dalry Community Association Children's Christmas Party**

**New photography exhibition at the Portrait Gallery**

**Silent movie at the Botanics**

Small Business Saturday takes place today. "This is a grassroots, non-political, non-commercial campaign, which highlights small business success and encourages consumers to 'shop local' and support small businesses in their communities. The day itself takes place on the first shopping Saturday in December each year, but the campaign aims to have a lasting impact on small businesses."

It is a way of inspiring and promoting small businesses today and beyond today. We tweeted to ask for Edinburgh businesses who were getting involved to get in touch.

Some people were not sure what it meant.... but we will include their tweets here anyway. They are all local businesses who are pretty small....we think – so they deserve a mention. Otherwise the hashtag is **#SmallBizSatUK**

[@EdinReporter](#) *I will be part of this full list of gifts and*

vouchers can be found here <http://t.co/4oSimtgeGk>

– Wendy Paterson (@insideoutchef) [December 5, 2014](#)

[@EdinReporter](#) Yes please! Thanks L-M ☐

– Lily-Mo Jewellery (@lilymojewellery) [December 5, 2014](#)

[@EdinReporter](#) can Strollers Music School in Leith be involved?

– Strollers Music Edin (@strollersmusic) [December 5, 2014](#)

[@EdinReporter](#) [@DeidreBrock](#) [@learntoflourish](#)  
<http://t.co/pjdqZGbaVU> please! Positive psychology for  
schools, charities, NHS, distillers...

– Matt R (@ante\_social) [December 5, 2014](#)

blockquote class="twitter-tweet" data-partner="tweetdeck">

[@EdinReporter](#) Sounds good!! What exactly is it?

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## Hidden Stories at the Museum of Edinburgh

☒ On display until 28 January, four *Hidden Stories* created by [Red Kite Animation](#) and young animators are being featured in the [Museum of Edinburgh](#)'s temporary exhibition space.

The inspiration for the project came from a short animated film called ['SHOE'](#) by artist Quan Shi, who created an award winning animation about a doll made from an old shoe which is displayed in the [Museum of Childhood](#). The discovery inspired Quan Shi to create a film about how the object could have been made for a little girl by her father.

Using the same approach as Quan Shi, young Scottish school pupils and students have used animation as a medium to convey imagined stories for how toys and artefacts came to arrive in the Council's Writers' Museum, Museum of Childhood, and Queensferry Museum.

The four featured films have been selected by a panel of animators and industry professionals following a Scotland-wide competition.

Councillor Richard Lewis, Culture and Sport Convener for the City of Edinburgh Council, said: "We launched a competition for young people to allow their imaginations to run wild and it is great to see their ideas come to life through animation. Staff across the Council's museums, libraries and community services worked jointly with professional animators to teach students creative and technical skills. I think this exhibition showcases the talent of a new generation of young animators and I hope this project is a springboard for their future success."

10 year old Jude Vanneste, a pupil of Towerbank Primary School, is the animator behind "Revenge of the Shoe Doll", which is inspired by the same item as Quan Shi's film. He said: "My animation is made up, and is about the shoe doll from the Museum of Childhood. It shows him being put in a fryer and ending up in a pie, before becoming a skeleton and taking his revenge. I visited Portobello Library four of five times and with the staff, discovered how to make my own film. But it hasn't felt like learning, it's been good fun."

Paul Hudson, Team Leader at Portobello library said: "We are delighted that the work of our young animators has been recognised like this. We are already looking to build on this success and are currently planning further animation projects with the Craigmillar Arts and Environment Project."

The *Hidden Stories* project has been created in association with Red Kite Animation and the Edinburgh College of Art.

Fiona Henderson, Workshop and Education Officer at Red Kite Animation, said: "It's lovely to be able to watch the young people's images brought to life through animation. This has been a fascinating collaboration with Edinburgh's Libraries and Museums, with the students drawing inspiration from everyday and unusual objects in the collections. The results are entertaining and extraordinary, and I hope they inspire other youngsters to get into animation."

Jared Taylor, Programme Director of Animation at the Edinburgh College of Art, said: "Animation in Edinburgh is itself a hidden story. Many people don't realise the contribution made by Edinburgh-based artists, including Scottish Bafta winning graduates of the College of Art. This exhibition sheds light on how animation works and it has been great seeing young people discover that being an animator is not a pipe dream. It is possible to bring your own stories to life."

The films form part of an exciting annual programme of temporary exhibitions at Edinburgh Museums and Galleries. A free but ticketed animation workshop will be held on 20 December at the Museum of Edinburgh, for people to create their own Christmas animations. For more information on 'Make an Animated Christmas Card', visit [The Edinburgh Museums website](#).

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# Man arrested following spate of robberies in Musselburgh area



Police in East Lothian have confirmed that they have arrested and charged a 40 year-old man in connection with a spate of robberies, which have occurred over the last two months in the Musselburgh area.

These incidents started on Saturday October 4 and the last one occurred last night (Thursday, December 4) nearby the Brunton Theatre.

Police officers from the dedicated Operation Formby team arrested the man this morning (Friday, December 5) at an address in the Musselburgh area.

He will be charged in connection with seven incidents in total and will appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court on Monday (December 8).

Inspector Andrew Harborow said: “We would like to thank the public for their high level of engagement and support , which has played a significant part in the arrest of this man. Whilst this man has been caught, we will continue to deploy additional resources to Musselburgh over the coming days .

“I would like to reassure the community that East Lothian remains a safe place, but would also advise people to take care of their belongings and remain vigilant , especially during the festive season.

“Anyone with any further information regarding these incidents should contact Police Scotland on 101 or through the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.”



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# Diamonds are forever at The Gyle



One of the UK's diamond merchants Chisholm Hunter has opened a new store at The Gyle which may tempt you if you are out shopping there this weekend.

The good news is that the new shop has meant ten new full and part-time jobs.

The shop is in the centre of the main atrium at the shopping centre and they claim a luxurious design with generous seating areas.

The store will feature the firm's signature engagement and wedding collections as well as watches by Mont Blanc, Ball, Rado, Raymond Weil, Hamilton, Certina, Oris, Movado and Tissot.

Tracey Brown, Director of Chisholm Hunter said: "Strong shopping centre locations are key to our growth strategy and we are pleased to have secured our second location in the capital. We have been fortunate to have acquired the new store to open in time for Christmas and are looking forward to welcoming new customers to the store at this exciting time of the year."

This is the time of year when lots of lovers get engaged so look out for them milling about the windows of the store!

The shop is the fourth in the UK with others in Bromley, Kent, the Argyll Arcade and Kingston upon Thames.

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# Entente Florale plaque put up at The City Chambers



The council was pleased to announce that it had won the prestigious Entente Florale and when the full council met in October the plaque they had received at a ceremony in Budapest was on display in the chamber.

Last night the Lord Provost unveiled the plaque which has now pride of place to the right hand side of the entrance at the City Chambers.

The panel unanimously granted the accolade to Edinburgh and gave special mention to the Grassmarket Community Project for its work to include those who might otherwise be excluded. The Project won the Lucija Cikes Prize.

Lord Provost Donald Wilson said: "This is an immense achievement for Edinburgh, and is testament to the work done by volunteers, community groups and Council staff to maintain the city's environment to an international standard.

"It is fantastic to be able to celebrate the award in this way, honouring the contribution of all those involved for generations to come."

Edinburgh was one of 22,000 villages, towns and cities to enter the contest, which is not only judged on horticultural competence but also community involvement and responsibility for the environment.

A number of bodies were involved in the bid, including Historic Scotland, Essential Edinburgh, University of Edinburgh and many other volunteers, community and Friends of Parks groups, representatives of whom were present at the event on Thursday which marked the city's success.



We could not resist taking this photo yesterday when we were at the City Chambers!



All of the people involved in the award were invited to a special reception



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# Muirhouse Housing Association have availability



Muirhouse Housing Association was established in 1992 by a group of residents and grew to its position today where it owns 487 homes in Muirhouse and 18 in Drylaw.

They also have a subsidiary called Muirhouse Homes which owns some mid-market houses for rent.

The organisation is now advertising some opportunities in Muirhouse to rent a main door home. The Housing Association website is [here](#) and you can follow on Twitter [here](#).

[Post](#) by [North Edinburgh Community News](#).

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# National swimming and diving competitions at the Commie



This weekend and next there will be lots of swimming and diving action for you at the Royal Commonwealth Pool.

Olympic, World and European medallists will line up alongside over 30 of Team Scotland's aquatic heroes from the summer at the Scottish Gas National Short Course Championships next weekend, but from tomorrow till Monday the Scottish Gas

National & Open Diving Championships and The Thistle Trophy will be competed for.

The event is unique in that a novice Championships (Thistle Trophy) runs alongside a National Championships with the Thistle Trophy being awarded to the team that accumulates the most points over the meet.

Scotland's Golden trio of Hannah Miley, Ross Murdoch and Dan Wallace are all in action next weekend along with our other medallists including Michael Jamieson, Corrie Scott, Robbie Renwick and Stephen Milne. Erraid Davies, who at 13 years of age became Scotland's youngest ever Games medallist and in doing so captured the hearts and imagination of the Commonwealth, will also be competing.

The event, considered the premier short course meet in the UK, has also attracted the likes of Christopher Walker-Hebborn, who has enjoyed a fantastic 2014 becoming European and Commonwealth Champion over 100m back.

Siobhan-Marie O'Connor secured six medals on her Team England debut this summer including gold in the 200m IM. She has since carried that success into the short course season with medals at the FINA World Cup Series in Tokyo and Singapore. With Aimee Wilmott also confirmed, the IM events will surely feature among the highlights of the 3-day event.

Alongside Miley and Murdoch, both Walker-Hebborn and O'Connor are on the British Gas GBR team for the FINA World Championships in Doha (25m) which take place this weekend too.

Liam Tancock, Lizzie Simmonds, Andrew Willis and Roberto Pavoni all return to the event; the calibre of athletes does not stop there, as international competitors from the Belgium National Team also confirmed. Amongst those are Kimberley Buys, who at the start of November won six titles at the Belgium Short Course Championships. She will also arrive in Edinburgh with World Championships race practice under her

belt.

Tickets for the event start at as little as £3 for the heats and £4 for the finals, making it affordable for everyone to enjoy the swimming this Christmas. A limited number of day tickets are available to enjoy a full day of swimming at only £7 for concessions and £11 for full price tickets. All tickets can be purchased online at Eventbrite without any additional fees.

Curtain's up with the morning heats at 08:45, afternoon heats at 13:15 and finals at 17:30. All information about the event can be found online at [www.scottishswimming.com/shortcourse](http://www.scottishswimming.com/shortcourse).

**Edinburgh's Festivals and Events Champion, Councillor Steve Cardownie, said:** "The Royal Commonwealth Pool is the ideal venue to host competitive diving.

"Following its modernisation in 2012 and a spectacular diving display this summer, when the 'Commie' played host to the 2014 Commonwealth Games, we've seen an increase in visitors to the pool. This goes to show that these major events encourage participation in sport and physical activity in the city.

"It is fantastic that we can offer local people such a world-class facility in which to hone swimming and diving skills, and I'm sure the Thistle Trophy will also result in another boost to user numbers."

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## Alan Stubbs looking to bring in new faces in January



Hibs' Head Coach Alan Stubbs is preparing to bring new faces into the club during the January transfer window and has revealed that several players have already been training at East Mains including former Sweden under-21 keeper Marcus Sandberg.

Speaking to Hibs TV ahead of tomorrow's clash with Falkirk, Stubbs said: "We've had Marcus in from Monday to Thursday to run the rule over him.

"But it's important to say that we've had lots of trialists in and the fans will be the first to know should there be a positive outcome out of that."

This week Head Coach Stubbs has met fans at the annual Calendar Signing event on Tuesday evening and on Thursday afternoon when he helped turn on the Christmas lights in Leith.

He added: "I think we're starting to connect with the fans. At this moment in time, I think we're open and approachable to the fans. That's something that we want to continue striving to do.

"We know how important our fans are – they are a very passionate, supportive and loyal group of fans, who want the best for the football club.

"We feel as if we've opened our doors to give them an insight and taken them to places that have been perhaps been out of bounds in seasons gone by."

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# Two in court after drugs seizures



Two people have been arrested and charged under the Misuse of Drugs Act after police in Edinburgh recovered quantities of cannabis and heroin.

Officers carried out a search of a 26-year-old man and later a 45 year old woman in Lochview Court, in the Dumbiedykes area yesterday (Thursday) before conducting a further search of an address in Tolbooth Wynd later the same day.

As a result, 38 grams of heroin was seized along with personal quantities of cannabis.

The recovered heroin is valued at £3, 800.

The man and woman are due to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court today.

Detective Sergeant Gary Reid said: "As a result of some excellent proactive police work, the personal search of a male which resulted in almost £4,000 worth of heroin along with cannabis being recovered from a property in Lochview Court.

"These drugs will now be destroyed so that they cannot cause untold harm to our communities.

"Information from the public is vital for police to actively target those involved in drug crime and anyone with information relating to offences of this nature in their local area should contact Police Scotland on 101 or alternatively, the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."



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# Police Urge Shoppers to Stay Safe



Police in Edinburgh are urging members of the public to keep themselves and their belongings safe while shopping in the Capital during the festive period.

The city-centre is already extremely busy with many people visiting the various retail outlets and department stores to purchase Christmas gifts.

In addition, the European Market on the Mound is now open, with several hundreds of shoppers and revellers visiting at any one time.

As such, officers are keen to ensure the public remain vigilant for pickpockets and individuals looking to steal their gifts or personal possessions.

British Transport Police are also issuing their own safety advice to ensure those travelling home on the railway network do not fall victim to acquisitive criminals.

Inspector Nicola Page said: "This is a very exciting time within the city, with thousands of people visiting Edinburgh's numerous stores to buy presents and other goods for Christmas.

"However, the increase in footfall also means that busy areas become attractive targets for criminals and we want to make sure that all of those taking to the shops are able to remain safe when doing so.

"We will be out on patrol within the city centre and within

shopping malls to look out for any criminal activity and to distribute our 'Stay Safe' and 'Hold Onto Your Stuff' leaflets, which provide useful information on safeguarding your belongings.

"Anyone wishing to obtain one of these leaflets can also visit the Edinburgh Division Facebook page or the Police Scotland website."

A British Transport Police spokesman said: "British Transport Police is urging those using the rail network over the festive period to enjoy themselves – but also to make sure they stay safe.

"Rail passengers and staff across the country will notice an increase in high-profile BTP patrols on trains and at stations to help make sure revellers get to their festive celebrations – and home again – safely and Christmas shoppers keep an eye on their newly purchased presents."

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## Time for a tram down Leith Walk?



The council's Transport Convener is asking the council for more money to prove a new report on the viability of providing new types of public transport across the city, including an extension of the tram down Leith Walk.

Councillor Lesley Hinds explained to The Edinburgh Reporter that such an investigative report would cost up to £400,000, but although an extension to the tram line was important the

council would be looking carefully at the integration of any future tram line to new developments such as those at St James Quarter and the Leith Programme, and it would have to present a robust business case.

[The Edinburgh Reporter NEWS – Are we ready for more trams?](#)  
from [Phyllis Stephen](#) on [Vimeo](#).

A firm of consultants would be employed to crunch the numbers, consider the implications of a new part of the tramline and how it would work with existing and proposed public transport, whether road or rail.

The council will hear what the report has to say in the first quarter of 2015 before making any new decisions on building more lines, and it is clear that the Transport Convener is most keen to learn from the experiences of constructing the first part.

The city's population is estimated to grow by 136,400 by 2037 and the number of households will increase by 39% in the same period.

Leith is one of the most densely populated areas of the city and over half of those living in the Leith Walk and Leith Wards where rents are among the lowest in Edinburgh, do not own cars.

The original plans for the tram encompassed two lines and were part of a wider policy of sustainable transport. This has stalled over recent years during the stop start of the tram project, which took much longer and was more expensive than originally planned. The existing tram line has a temporary stop at York Place which was clearly introduced to allow the tram extension down Leith Walk to be accomplished more easily.

The Leith Programme has been partially completed, but work has been concentrated so far towards the lower half of Leith Walk.

If the go-ahead is given for a tram on Leith Walk it is probably true to say that any work around the top half near Picardy Place roundabout will await the new development at St James Quarter as well as completion of tramworks.

With passenger numbers of 90,000 per month the council says this is all in line with their predictions.

A tram to Leith would enhance the possibility of more building on brownfield sites in Leith and Granton which again stalled due to the lack of progress on the initial tramline, but which were also affected by the downturn in the property market.



One of the parts of the potential extension to the route would introduce the tram to Constitution Street with a stop at Bernard Street. Works were completed this time last year on Constitution Street which is possibly the street with the best surface in town at present, but the plans would be for the tram to share the space with other traffic here.

One of the most important reasons to do something about the extension now is to keep the powers in the legislation alive. The council still has power under the Tram Acts to run a line out to Newbridge and down Leith Walk to Newhaven and Granton, so it has the power to compulsorily purchase any land necessary to complete those routes at present. However the powers do have a lifespan and these run out from 2016 onwards, so the council must do something about planning now otherwise it will require new consents from The Scottish Government.

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# Streamlined Council reorganisation planned –



The Accounts Commission report published earlier in the week suggested that the council is facing more of a struggle with its finances than it may have previously thought. The council rebuffs that assertion by stating that it has already put measures in place to monitor its finances more closely.

One of the ways of dealing with financial matters might be to reduce the workforce. At present the council employs over 15,000 people, and if proposed changes are adopted then the overall numbers of staff will certainly reduce by several hundred.

But the rationale behind the proposed changes to the way the council will be run in future is not simply about money according to council leader, Andrew Burns. The ideas behind the new cooperative model with power devolved as far down the organisation as possible started some time ago, and are not simply a knee-jerk reaction to [the 'could do better' report](#). Instead what is proposed is a streamlined, efficient and less bureaucratic service with emphasis on problem solving. There will be four Locality areas with a council officer in charge of each.

[The Edinburgh Reporter NEWS talks to Edinburgh Council Leader from Phyllis Stephen on Vimeo.](#)

One of the most impressive facts in the report is that within the council there are 2,000 different job descriptions, and it is felt that this is just too many.



The council leader explained at the November council meeting that the report published today and which will be discussed by the full council next week is a 'huge piece of work' and was to be delayed by three weeks till December as it was quite simply not yet complete.

The proposal is to conjoin the twelve existing Neighbourhood Partnerships into four localities, more or less North, South, East and West. These will for the first time be the same areas as those proposed for health and social care. There are a few options in the report as to how services would then be organised, with lovely colour diagrams to illustrate them, but the end result will be the same : a better service.

Each area will have responsibility for council services with a 'clear reporting and accountability governance framework'. This will get rid of duplication across the council and focus instead on quality and efficiency.

It is admitted that the move towards the locality based model is based on fiscal pressures on the council which are fairly significant. The council needs to look at ways of rationalising the way they do business. But this is not the main driver. The council leader wants to move the council towards the more cooperative model that he has had in mind since taking office in 2012. Andrew Burns is currently the chair of the Cooperative Council Innovation Network and is keen to see more of the cooperative approach spread across all aspects of the council's work.

The model recommended by the Chief Executive is one which delayers the council structure and poses fewer levels of management between her and frontline council workers. At the present time the council has about 16 layers from the CEO to the person actually carrying out the work.

This is not to be the model of the future. The council is aware that it struggles often to resolve simple issues,

something which is quite common in large organisations, but the new model will devolve as much decision making as possible down the council organisation.

Andrew Burns said: "The people at the front line are going to have the authority just to authorise expenditure and get on with the job. But the bigger problem for me is that this is a culture change so it will not necessarily be easy to deliver to employees, unions and others. I am hopeful however that the trade unions will welcome this as it does not affect frontline employees as much as those in higher positions. In fact numerically, frontline positions should be enhanced."

This is just the next step in a long journey towards reshaping one of the largest public authorities in Scotland, and a further council report will be brought to the Corporate Strategy and Policy meeting in the spring. A consultation will be run with trade unions and others from the meeting next week if this policy is adopted by the council.

The council leader is hoping that front line service delivery will be much improved, with consequent fiscal benefit and a more responsive organisation. The Chief Executive Sue Bruce is adamant that the customer must be at the 'heart of organisational delivery'. Since that appears to be all of us we should perhaps be happy that this is happening. If it saves money at the same time then clearly it has twofold benefits.

But what of those who will lose their jobs? The council has a no compulsory redundancy position, so some jobs will simply become vacant as people leave in the normal course of their careers, and others may be offered 'enhanced voluntary redundancy'. At the present time around 6 or 7% of the council workforce leave or move on for a variety of reasons.

The council hopes to start the new processes in 2016/17 but there is some likelihood that parts of the new way of working will find their way into the council during the next financial

year which starts in spring 2015.

Staff will perhaps move more freely across departments and the report explains that career support and development for council employees will be a key part of the new regime.

The new regime will mean that new Chief Officer posts will require to be filled with other positions in the middle manager range being removed.

The consultation may mean that the recommendation adopted next week is eventually a combination of other suggestions in the report, but it will depend on the amount of interaction between the interested parties and the council at that time.

The financial implications must also be ratified by the council's Finance and Resources committee which meets on 15 January 2015.

All council consultations are on their website and you can see which ones are running at the present time by clicking [here](#).

The council's budget challenge will finish on 19 December and currently has had 1400 replies which is four times as many as last year.

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# 14-year-old arrested following Muirhouse church fire



A 14-year-old male has been arrested and charged in connection with a fire at the St Paul's RC church in Muirhouse Avenue on Monday 1st December.

He will now be reported to the Children's Reporter.

Enquiries are ongoing to trace others believed to be involved in this incident and anyone with information that can assist officers with their investigation is asked to come forward.

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## Letter from Scotland



All we want for Christmas

We are now well into the Christmas spending spree. It seems to be the only thing which is driving the economy at the moment. The ghastly American tradition of "Black Friday" has come to Scotland with a vengeance, the police having to be called out to control the stampede in Glasgow and Dundee. It's been followed by "Cyber Monday" in which £650m worth of goods were ordered over the internet across the whole of materialist Britain.

On Black Friday itself, Amazon reckoned it took orders for 5.5 million items, one every 60th of a second. Stores like John

Lewis, Curry's, Argos and Littlewoods were selling flat-screen televisions, iPhones, hi-fi players as if they were drop scones. The bargain hunters were queuing all night and rushing through the doors to push, elbow, grab and fight for their objects of desire. All very un-British. And, I hope, un-Scottish.

The term "Black Friday" was apparently coined by the Philadelphia police in the 1960s to describe the traffic chaos caused by people rushing out to buy discounted goods on the day after Thanksgiving Day. It does not – as some people suggest – date back to the slave trade in the 19th century when plantation owners sold off their slaves at the end of the season. Nor does it refer the day that retail stores move into the black having been in the red for the first part of the year. It's simply the day when clever merchandisers turned the "low" day after Thanksgiving into a boom day by offering the public loss-leading bargains. It also coincides with the last pay day before Christmas.

Whether or not it leads to total sales increasing over the year is a moot point. It may simply bring the January sales forward. But enough stores obviously think the hype-effect is worth it and some London shops have been black-Fridaying for the last ten years.

It's all part of the new consumer society fuelled by the very credit boom that got us into trouble in 2008. The ironic thing is that consumer spending has dug us out of the Great Recession. The challenge this time is to keep the boom under control.

In my view, the Chancellor's autumn statement was not exactly helpful in this exercise. He is continuing to cut full-time jobs from public services and relying on low-wage private sector jobs to take up the slack. So with earnings down, people are driven to buy things on credit. It's all very well for the upper classes and the puritanical to "tut-tut" at such

behaviour but the Christmas shopping spree is not all bad. For a start, most items are being bought for someone else. They are being given as a sign of love and they will probably last for many years, and may well have been needed anyway. Consumers just want a little seasonal encouragement to spend and face the consequences later.

George Osborne's autumn statement has had a few interesting repercussions for Scotland. The extra spending he announced for England will mean an extra £213m for the Scottish Government. Already the Finance Secretary John Swinney has announced that £125m of that will go to the health service, mirroring the allocation in England.

There's been some help for the North Sea oil industry. The tax burden has been slightly reduced to encourage further investment in the face of falling oil prices and the increasing cost of squeezing the last drops of oil from beneath the sea bed.

And Mr Swinney [has been rather pleased](#) that the British government is following his lead in reforming stamp duty on the purchase of houses. The different rates are to be phased, so you only pay the higher rate on the proportion of the purchase price above each threshold. But, in a cheeky move, the Chancellor has undercut the Scottish basic rate. Starting at £250,000, you will pay 5 per cent in England but 10 per cent in Scotland from next April.

All this is good news for young couples seeking their first homes. But what's not been such good news this week is that Scotland has one of the highest costs of childcare anywhere in the world. A survey by Citizens Advice Scotland found that the average cost of child care is £5,500 a year, 27 per cent of average household income. That compares to an average across the OECD countries of just 12 per cent.

Finally, there were several stories in the newspapers this week that made me wonder if this was 1st April. Gordon Brown

quitting politics ? He may be standing down as an MP but politics is in his blood and it's highly addictive. Another tall story involved the Royal Bank asking its staff to turn out in their spare time to redecorate their offices. Yet another was Harris Tweed being given the scent of whisky. And my biggest challenge was believing that Dundee has won the Unesco title of "City of Design". But I'd better not go there.

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## Friday in Edinburgh – What's On Today



**Women By The Sea: portraits by Eleanora Scalise.** Launch party for this new exhibition of watercolours painted on Eleanora's recent trip to Southern Italy. From 7.30pm, [Sofi's Bar](#), 65 Henderson Street. Free refreshments!

**Quartermile Christmas Market:** street food, local designers, makers and artists, foodie treats, inspiring gifts. 11am-6pm, Lister Square, [Quartermile](#).

**Your World War One Family History – Drop-In Session:** if you have any diaries, letters, photographs or medals that you'd like to know more about, or if you are trying to discover more about your family's history in World War One, come along to this session and get some free help from the experts. 11am-1pm, Mezzanine Area, [Central Library](#), George IV Bridge. Free but booking required via [eventbrite](#). If these times are not suitable for you, email [edwar@ed.ac.uk](mailto:edwar@ed.ac.uk) for an appointment.



**Scottish Society of Artists Annual Exhibition:** the 117th exhibition opens today. Invited artist: **Graham Fagan**; invited curators include **Pryle Behrman**, **Mark Daniels** and **Sarah Cook**, who will curate an ambitious film and digital media programme; invited graduates: **Marina Burt**, **Morgan Cahn**, **Jamie Davidson**, **Ryan Eeson**, **Davy Forsyth**, **Sophie Hopkinson**, **Liga Kocane**, **Lola Milne**, **Laura Mullan** and **Jess Standfast**. 10am-6pm from today (7pm on Thursdays), [Royal Academy](#), Scottish National Gallery, The Mound. Ends 20th December 2014.

**Bookbug:** songs and rhymes for very young children and babies. 10.30am, [Oxgangs Library](#), 43 Oxgangs Road North.



**Katie's Picture Show: 25 years of bringing art alive.** To coincide with his exhibition at the Scottish National Gallery, **James Mayhew** will talk about all areas of his work, from 25 years of *Katie* and bringing art to life for children, to other book illustration and beyond. Find out about his work with musicians, as an educator and as a set designer. With examples from sketch books and other, less familiar, work, he will reveal his inspiration, materials and methods, and his plans for the future. 12.45-1.30pm, Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed.

**Edinburgh Napier University Campus Tours:** Napier's Student Ambassadors will lead tours at all three campuses, giving you a chance to see the fantastic facilities. Tours will begin at 2pm and run simultaneously at [Craiglockhart](#) (Glenlockhart Road), [Sighthill](#) (Sighthill Court) and [Merchiston](#) (10 Colinton Road) campuses. Early booking is essential and can be made [here](#). For further information contact [studentrecruitment@napier.ac.uk](mailto:studentrecruitment@napier.ac.uk).



**Vive the (R)evolution: Poems in Translation. Madeleine**

**Campbell** will give a bilingual reading of prose and poetry by **Mohammed Dib**, and discuss ways in which her approach to translation is dictated by his very singular style in the broader context of Maghrebi literature of French expression. 7-8pm, [Institut Francais Ecosse](#), 13 Randolph Crescent. £5/members £3. For more information see [website](#).

**Will We Ever Speak to Aliens? Professor Charles Cockell**, University of Edinburgh, is this month's guest speaker at The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh. 8pm, Church Centre, [Augustine United Church](#), 41 George IV Bridge. All welcome: free.



**Wildings of Winter:** launch of a fantastic collection of art work by designer and illustrator **Caroline Halliwell**. 7pm onwards, [Boda Bar](#), 229 Leith Walk. Refreshments provided!

**Uniting for Peace – Scotland: Edinburgh Christian-Muslim Interfaith Event. Global Threats & Global Prospects: Faith Reflections for World Peace.** Speakers: a representative from the Pakistan High Commission, **Mark Lazarowicz MP**, **Ms A Andregeli** (Pax Christie) and **Rev Brian Cooper** (Churches and Interfaith Secretary, Uniting for Peace). The main event will be followed by an informal gathering and refreshments. 7.15-9.15pm, **Annandale Street Mosque**, Annandale Street (off Leith Walk). Further information from Rev Brian Cooper on 0131 446 9545. Arranged by Uniting for Peace and Annandale Street Mosque: donations towards costs very welcome!



**Illicit Ink: The Company We Keep:** a sinister story of capitalism, corruption and office romance gone awry. For ages 16+. 8-9.30pm, [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#), 43-45 High Street. Tickets £6/£4, available from the Storytelling Centre on 0131 556 9579 or online [here](#).



**It's In The Bag Christmas Charity Spectacular!** Join the award-winning It's In The Bag for their Christmas Storytelling Spectacular! Snowflakes, jingle bells, elves, little donkey and much more to get families into the festive spirit. It's In The Bag use songs, creative games, drama and more to bring their stories to life. For children 0-5 years and their parents and carers. 9.30-10.15am *or* 10.30-11.15am, [Whale Arts](#), 30 Westburn Grove. Tickets cost £5 per child, adults free, and booking is essential (25 children per session): call Whale on 0131 458 3267 to reserve your tickets – proceeds will be donated to **Whale Arts Youth Projects** and **The Toybox**, a charity for street children in Guatemala.

**at source III:** exhibition of works by Lorna Fraser, Fiona Hutchinson, Anna King, Tony King, Gerry McGowan, Teena Ramsay, Carol Sinclair, Robert Balfour Ward, Keiko Mukade and Mark Powell. 5.30-8.30pm tonight, 11am-5pm Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December, [Patriothall Gallery](#), 1D Patriothall, off Hamilton Place, Stockbridge.



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## Watch out Lewis Hamilton – Steve Cardownie is quick off the mark



Yesterday West Princes Street Gardens came alive to the sound of three Formula 1 drivers racing up and down near the Ross

Bandstand, but it was all for a good cause.

Jenson Button, Mika Hakkinen and Kevin Magnussen were in Edinburgh to promote getting home safely after a night out this December.

Edinburgh drivers were being asked to Join the Pact, and Deputy Leader of The City of Edinburgh Council, Councillor Steve Cardownie, quick off the mark as ever, was there to sign up. The pact is a personal commitment not to drink and drive, and in return drinks company Johnnie Walker offer 1km of free public transport home at Edinburgh's Hogmanay after the late-night revelling in the gardens.



Councillor Cardownie, Edinburgh's Festivals and Events Champion, said: "The sight and sound of three of the world's top Formula 1 drivers circling a track in the middle of Princes Street Gardens has been spectacular and importantly, free for the public to enjoy.

"The Council is thrilled Diageo's Join the Pact campaign has launched in Edinburgh. As the home of Hogmanay, we welcome thousands of people to celebrate in the city's streets, and the safety of everyone who joins in is hugely important to us. We are glad to support the initiative to pledge never to drink and drive.

"People joining Edinburgh's Hogmanay will benefit directly from the campaign too, because in return for pledges that have already been given, Johnnie Walker is providing free Lothian Bus journeys home."



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# Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!

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**Alex Wilson**

**Drink Driving – Don't risk it!**

**Christmas at Holyrood**

**Crops in Pots AGM**

**Erskine Carol concert**



The Edinburgh Reporter is very saddened to hear that Alex Wilson, a man committed to making Leith a better place, has passed away.

We photographed Alex at the opening night of Lockerbie Lost Voices, a play which he had a hand in. He had fingers in many pies, most notably as Chair of the Leith Business Association and as a historian who was behind the reintroduction of the Leith Flag.

He told The Edinburgh Reporter that he wanted the flag to fly from every building possible across the whole of Leith. He wrote: "The whole business community in Leith can see the advantages for Leith in re-identifying itself with its own symbol. This is not something exclusive to the business community for the flag is for all Leithers, not just one section of the town."

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From today The Scottish Government has lowered the blood alcohol limit to 50mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood. If you register over that from today when stopped by the police you face a ban.

There has been a high profile campaign since The Scottish Parliament voted this move through on 18 November 2014. The new lower limit has been highlighted in a TV and radio advertising campaign as well as electronic road signs on motorways.

Chief Superintendent Iain Murray, Head of Roads Policing for Police Scotland said:

“An average of 20 die on Scotland’s roads each year and last year a further 90 were seriously injured and 340 slightly injured as a result of drink driving related collisions.

“The new lower limit will reduce those numbers and the evidence from across Europe where the lower limit applies suggests we will see reductions in drink driving and blood alcohol counts.

“However even at the new limit you are three times more likely to die in a crash than if you had taken no alcohol. It is clear, when it comes to drinking and driving, that the simple ‘the best advice is none’ message is the right one.

“On the lead up to 5 December police patrols positively engaged with as many road users as possible to provide real-time education to those who may be putting themselves and others at risk, influence behaviour in the future and prevent collisions on Scotland’s roads.”

[Donate](#)



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For the first time, the Palace of Holyroodhouse is to be transformed both inside and out for the festive season. From today until 6 January, the Palace's historic State Apartments, as well as the courtyard and the ornamental fountains, will be adorned with lights, decorations, and rich foliage, making the Palace the ideal place to visit to get into the Christmas spirit.

In the Royal Dining Room the table will be laid with a silver service, presented by Scottish benefactor Sir Alexander Grant to George V and Queen Mary in 1935 to mark their Silver Jubilee. Made in Edinburgh by Henry Tatton, the service was commissioned specially for use at the Palace, with each piece engraved with the Scottish Coat of Arms. Selected pieces from a Bloor Derby porcelain dessert service which was ordered by Queen Victoria in 1842 will also be on display and warden staff will be on-hand to give short talks about the favourite foods that would have been served and the Christmas traditions that the Victorians introduced.

Throughout the festive season families will be able to explore the Palace with a special Family Activity trail, and visit the Family Room which will be transformed into a Christmas grotto. On Sunday 21 and Sunday 28 December, an additional programme of special family events will be included in admission to the Palace, including face painting and storytelling in the Great Gallery. Find out more [here](#).

On Wednesday, 10 December, gather in the Great Gallery at the Palace for carols around the Christmas tree, from 7.00pm until 8.30pm. Find out more about this special event and book tickets [here](#).

On selected dates in December and January, Exclusive Evening Tours offer the opportunity to experience the festivity of the

Palace after visiting hours, in the company of an expert guide. Find out more and book tickets [here](#).

The Café at the Palace will offer a delicious selection of tempting festive treats, from mulled wine to Christmas cake, and a winter cart in the Café forecourt will sell roasted chestnuts and home-made mince pies.

Gift inspiration is on-hand at the Royal Collection Trust Shop, which will also be decorated for Christmas.

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In Leith there are many green projects. The latest one to come to our notice is the Leith Crops in Pots organisation which holds its AGM on 7 December at Leith Community Education Centre, 12a Newkirkgate, EH6 6AD from 16.30 till 19.00. The group want to use the opportunity to celebrate the last year and the work which they have been doing with schools and also with adults.

Mr Mash will join the meeting to explain about food through storytelling. The group are holding a 'Croft Work' session soon and they will be announcing their croft agreements and membership criteria for next year. If you want to sign up for a plot to grow some crops next year then get along to the AGM to sign up.

(Photo from Crops in Pots Facebook page which you can access [here](#).)

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The Erskine Edinburgh Christmas Carol Concert is taking place at St Cuthbert's Parish Church, Lothian Road, on Thursday 11th December 2014. Refreshments at 7:00pm for 7.30pm start

This year's concert will feature:

The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines Scotland

The Cadenza Choir

Chamber Choir of St George's School for Girls

Caitlyn Vanbeck (Edinburgh's Got Talent Winner!)

Suggested donation of £5 – tickets are not necessary, please just come along.

For more information please contact Shona Langlands on 0131 666 9961 or [shona.langlands@erskine.org.uk](mailto:shona.langlands@erskine.org.uk)

