

Hibs' foodbank collection 'absolutely phenomenal'



Hibs have thanked everybody who donated to the Foodbank Collection at Easter Road Stadium on Saturday afternoon and said that the response shown by supporters was 'absolutely phenomenal.'

The event, arranged by supporters' group Hands On Hibs, started at midday and finished three hours later with thousands of fans making contributions to the truly worthwhile cause.

The final amount of food donated filled three vans was delivered to the Edinburgh North East Foodbank's warehouse in North Leith on Saturday – the donations will make a substantial difference to the local community.

Supporters, who were unable to donate on Saturday, but who still wish to make a contribution can do so by the following:

Regular gifts: Giving by standing order helps us to plan ahead, making sure we are always here to help people in crisis.

One-off gifts: Foodbanks need funds to keep going. We appreciate whatever you can give, big or small...To donate, please make cheques payable to: EDINBURGH NE FOODBANK & post to Edinburgh NE Foodbank, South Leith Parish Church, 6 Henderson Street, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6BS.

Donate by Text: donate up to £10 by texting the unique personalised text code, F00D00, and either £1, £2, £3, £4, £5 or £10 to 70070 to make their donation. The text message is free and all of the donation will be passed to Edinburgh NE

Scott Allan looking to climb the table



Hibs' midfielder Scott Allan is determined to put together another string of results with a view to climbing the table and overtaking Queen of the South and Rangers in the Championship.

The Easter Road side are currently two points behind the 'Doonhamers' but with an identical goal difference, so should Hibs win and Queens lose then they will move into third place.

Allan and his team mates travel to Kirkcaldy on Saturday than host Rangers on the 27th before the Edinburgh derby at Tynecastle on 3rd January.

The former Dundee United and West Bromwich Albion star is returning to the form which persuaded England manager Roy Hodgson to take him to the Hawthorns.

Speaking to Hibs TV, Allan said: "It's a real chance for us to put a run together and catch up on some of the teams in front of us – there are a few must-win games coming up for us.

"I was delighted that we got the three points against Alloa after last week's defeat and that we got back to winning ways.

"Obviously it was great to get a good result and a clean sheet in front of our own fans. I'm getting fitter and getting back to playing the way that I used to play. That's been the main

thing for me. I missed out on a pre-season, so it has taken longer than expected. But I'm starting to feel like myself again."

Man jailed for 12 years for crimes against women



Kevin Storey has today been jailed at the High Court in Edinburgh for a number of crimes against women.

Storey was sentenced to spend 12-years in prison after being convicted in November for the offences, which took place over a 20-year period.

The 48-year-old was a serving police officer when many of these offences were committed, however, he is no longer employed by Police Scotland.

Police Scotland has reiterated its commitment to identifying domestic abusers and bringing them to justice.

Chief Superintendent Gill Imery, Commander of the Lothians and Scottish Borders Division of Police Scotland, where Storey served as a Sergeant, said: "The perpetration of these sort of crimes can never be tolerated and it is of even greater shock and disappointment when the offender is a police officer.

"Kevin Storey's complete contempt and disregard for his victims shows him to be a callous individual whose actions have fallen significantly short of the high standards of professional behaviour we expect as an organisation.

“There is no place for domestic abuse and associated offences within our communities and we will continue to use all resources at our disposal to identify those responsible and bring them to justice.

“The public within the Lothians and Scottish Borders Division, and throughout Scotland can rest assured that we will continue to treat all reports of domestic abuse with the utmost seriousness and conduct a thorough investigation into the matter, regardless of how challenging or sensitive the issue may be.”

Detective Chief Inspector Sam McCluskey, of the Domestic Abuse Task Force, once again paid tribute to the courage of the women who came forward and reported Storey’s crimes.

She said: “Over the course of two decades Kevin Storey systematically targeted and abused various women and from the onset of our investigation, in addition to bringing them justice, their safety and wellbeing was at the heart of our approach

“We utilised various resources and specialist investigators throughout this enquiry to uncover the extent of Storey’s crimes and ensure that we managed to secure all available evidence to enable us to report his offending.

“Each of his victims has shown great strength in coming forward to report the offences and had it not been for their courage, we may not have been able to fully comprehend the level of violence Storey was capable of.

“Today’s sentence should send a very clear message that whoever you are, domestic abuse is simply not acceptable and will not be tolerated. Whenever crimes of this nature are reported to us, Police Scotland and the Domestic Abuse Task Force will endeavour to bring perpetrators to justice using every means possible.”

Police launch domestic abuse campaign



Police have today launched their annual campaign to tackle domestic abuse during the festive season.

As part of Police Scotland's national commitment to tackling domestic abuse, officers within the Capital will run a nine-day initiative aimed at targeting perpetrators and supporting victims.

Between 15th and 24th December police will carry out pro-active bail checks on individuals currently on release for domestic abuse offences to ensure they are adhering to the terms of their bail. Anyone found to be in breach of these conditions will be arrested immediately.

In addition, officers from the Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit will issue a letter to a number of people within the city who are currently subject to a live warrant for domestic abuse.

Those who receive a letter will be advised to make contact with police immediately to resolve their warrants or face further police action.

A 'day of action' will then be undertaken on Wednesday 17th December to identify and arrest anyone who fails to settle the terms of their warrant.

Edinburgh Division's Facebook page and the seven Twitter pages across the city will be used throughout the campaign to provide updates on police action, results and to raise

awareness about the issue of domestic abuse.

Daily posts on social media will contain information about the partner agencies that work with Police Scotland in Edinburgh and will start on Monday 15th December until the 24th December.

Superintendent Liz McAinsh said: "We are committed to tackling domestic abuse and are dedicating more officers to this issue over the festive period.

"We see a rise in reported incidents at this time, many that are fuelled by too much alcohol, so in addition to carrying out enforcement activity we are working with social work and health colleagues to ensure appropriate assistance is provided to partners and families.

"Our message is that we will not tolerate domestic abuse or violence in any form and will continue to lock up those responsible and bring them to justice. I would ask people to help by reporting concerns they see and hear to us."

Councillor Ricky Henderson, Convener of Health, Social Care and Housing, said: "There are a shocking 5,500 reported cases of domestic abuse in Edinburgh each year, but we know that the real figure is likely to be significantly higher, once you add in all the incidences which go un-reported.

"Nobody should have to suffer domestic abuse at any time of year. We want to reach out to those affected by domestic abuse, or anyone who has concerns about others who are suffering.

"I would urge people to drink sensibly over the festive season and to consider how their behaviour affects their loved ones. We will continue to work closely with Police Scotland and other partner organisations to protect vulnerable families and individuals."

Monday in Edinburgh – What's On Today



Meet Chris Hadfield: the former **Commander of the International Space Station** will be signing copies of his stunning planetary photo tour ***You Are Here: Around the World in 92 Minutes.*** 12.30pm, [Waterstones West End](#), Princes Street. Please arrive early to avoid disappointment. For more information call 0131 226 2666.

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For ages (approx) 1-4. 9.30am, [Cameo Cinema](#), 38 Home Street. £5 (includes a £2 donation to the charity) – free for parents/carers who join the free **Toddler Time Club**. Book [online](#) or call the Box Office on 0871 902 5723. Toddler Time screenings are for pre-school children and their parents/carers only.



Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



Can you help Edinburgh's Direct Aid?

Emergency Meeting of Save Stockbridge

Bank of Scotland Report

Swimming news

Breakfast with Santa

The Chairman of Edinburgh Direct Aid has written to The Edinburgh Reporter asking for some urgent help.

I am writing to let you know that we are once again collecting warm winter clothes, especially padded jackets and waterproof boots, for the Syrian refugees in Aarsal in the Lebanon. They are facing a second winter in camps at an altitude of over 5000 feet in appalling conditions: in August the Lebanese army fought a battle there to repel militants from Isis and Al Nusrah. In the fallout many tents were burned, there were upwards of 30 deaths amongst the refugees, and many more lost such possessions as they had had. We plan to send off a full shipping container of aid as soon as possible.

EDA volunteers Maggie and Denis are just back from Lebanon where they went to try to source goods locally for immediate delivery to the families most in need. With the help of Dar Al Fatwa, the main Lebanese Aid agency, they were able to buy nearly 1000 warm winter jackets, and 1000 pairs of lined

waterproof boots at very favourable rates. Delivering them was a problem because whenever fighting flares between the Lebanese army and the militants, or when there are dreadful events like the beheading of Lebanese soldiers, the army imposes tight security and closes the approaches to Aarsal. Nevertheless. during a few days of relative calm the EDA volunteers were able to deliver the boots and jackets into Aarsal and personally check and initiate arrangements for distribution. (It helped that British army engineers have recently built a line of fortified observation posts to help protect nearby villages: often when soldiers manning the checkpoints realise that they were Brits, smiles broke out, and they were waved through – its nice to be popular for a change!)

The container-load of goods from Edinburgh will follow-on as soon as possible.

For those who live nearby, our warehouse at 16a West Harbour Rd, EH5 1PN will be open for donations of clothes etc. , Wednesdays and Saturdays from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. We will get the container away as soon as we can – if you can bring anything in, or collect anything during the coming week, we would be doubly grateful

Please see the website for further details:

www.edinburghdirectaid.org

Thanks once again for your support

Also needed:for Syrian refugee schools: pens, paper, working computers, sewing machines (for vocational classes)

An emergency meeting is to be held at 8.00 pm in Stockbridge House on Cheyne Street on Wednesday 17th December 2014 to discuss the wall, now demolished which runs along Comely Bank

Road adjacent to the rugby grounds in Stockbridge.

The team at Save Stockbridge say they are taking this action so that local people can be made aware of the current situation and participate in what they describe as 'an open deliberation'.

Responding to the Bank of Scotland report issued today, Deputy First Minister, John Swinney said:

"These welcome figures are further evidence of a strengthening labour market in Scotland. The Bank of Scotland report shows that the employment picture in Scotland improved for the 49th consecutive month, with the demand for permanent staff appointments also continuing to increase.

"The report comes at a time when the most recent labour market figures show that Scotland has the highest employment and economic activity rates and lowest unemployment rate of the four nations of the UK.

"We will continue to do all we can to ensure the positive trends continue, but with further job creating powers, we could do even more to help families throughout Scotland."

Robbie Renwick thrilled the crowd at the Royal Commonwealth Pool with victory in the 200m freestyle on the last day of the Scottish Gas National Short Course Swimming Championships yesterday afternoon.

Renwick, who has recently moved to the University of Stirling, has rediscovered both his form and love for the sport and has enjoyed a great meet. Swimming in lane seven for the final Renwick set off quickly but was playing catch up with Belgian swimmer, Emmanuel Vanluchene, until the final 25m when he made his move. The problem for Renwick was that Calum Jarvis (Bath)

also made a move and the race was really on.

In fact nothing could separate Renwick and Jarvis and both touched home in 1:44.19 to share the honours. Vanluchene settled for bronze in 1:44.36.

Speaking after the race Renwick was happy with the way he had performed and said,

“I thought that was a solid swim. It comes at the end of a three-day meet and I was also competing in the States last week so I was beginning to feel tired at the end.

“My move to Stirling has been really positive for my swimming. I’m really addressing some weaknesses I had in training and I’m in with a great group of guys.”

Watch the race again here:

On Saturday 20 December between 10am – 11.30am at the Eric Liddell Centre 15 Morningside Road, EH10 4DP.

Bring the children along for a light breakfast and a personal visit (and present) from Santa Claus himself! Tickets are now on sale at our reception and cost £6pp (children and adults alike.) Kids from babies to aged 8. Adults to age 100!

Please note that children must be accompanied to the event by a parent or guardian

This Weekend's Rugby Round-up



4-try Damien Hoyland closing down against Ontario at Meggetland

Professional Rugby

Nelson Mandela Bay Sevens

Despite two resilient performances today and reaching the Plate semi-finals, Scotland 7s were unable to record a victory on day two at the Nelson Mandela Bay 7s. The team did however, climb up another position, to eighth in the circuit standings. On day two, of the third leg of the World Series, Scotland lost out to Argentina in a very close match that was decided in extra-time. Argentina capitalised on Scotland's errors and won 24-19. This was then followed by a defeat to USA, which ended, 26-19.

Head Coach, Calum MacRae, said: "We spoke as a group about backing up the performances from Dubai and qualifying for the Cup again. That has been achieved and sees us move into the top eight, on the circuit. "We have areas to improve on and will continue to work hard between now and Wellington. The experiences our rookie players, such as Nyle [Godsmark], Damien [Hoyland] and Gavin [Lowe], gained the past two weeks have been invaluable".

"We were down to nine players today, which meant everyone who was fit had to roll up their sleeves. I'm proud of the heart they all showed. A lot of the tries we scored were top drawer. We moved defences around, until we unlocked them and we put into practice what we've been working on in training. This is something the guys can take confidence from looking forward to Wellington."

It was a heartbreaking result for the Scots in the quarter-final, as they looked to qualify for their fourth ever Cup semi-final in a HSBC Sevens World Series tournament. The Scots were leading with five minutes to go, 19-12 following tries from James Johnstone, in the first-half and then from Colin Gregor and Damien Hoyland in the second period. However, their opponents capitalised on mistakes and levelled the match as the clock counted down, through Santiago Ordero. The conversion here was imperative and Javier Rojas Alvarez struck it with ease. Things looked up as Scotland opted to take the extra-time restart and won the kick, but a series of forced errors saw Francisco Merello make a break and score the sudden-death try.

Against USA, Scotland took an early lead through Hoyland, who has taken to the short-game very well over the past two weekends, in Dubai and South Africa. This was highlighted by the Edinburgh Rugby winger's finishing ability. He scored four tries in PE. However, their opponents bounced back and went in at the break, 12-5 up, following tries from former Glasgow Warrior, Carlin Isles and Madison Hughes. At the beginning of the second-half Scotland levelled the scores with Johnstone crossing the whitewash, but unfortunately USA turned the contest up a gear and a further two tries followed from Isles and Martin Iosefo, enough to seal the win. Gregor managed to score a third Scotland try in the last play of the game, but it was too little too late. Gregor converted two of the three tries against USA.

South Africa 7s day two

Scotland 19-24 Argentina (Cup quarter-final) – after extra-time

Tries: James Johnstone, Colin Gregor and Damien Hoyland

Scotland 19-26 USA (Plate semi-final)

Tries: Damien Hoyland, James Johnstone and Colin Gregor

South Africa 7s day one

Scotland 12-14 Canada

Tries: Lee Jones and Damien Hoyland

Scotland 19-12 France


Tries: James Eddie (2) and James Johnstone

Scotland 12-19 Fiji

Tries: Scott Riddell and Damien Hoyland

The team's attention will now move to the New Year and the fourth leg of the HSBC Sevens World Series in Wellington, New Zealand (Friday 6 and Saturday 7 February 2014). The Scots will face Argentina, Kenya and Samoa there, in Pool D.

Edinburgh Rugby

 *50-cap Greg Tonks (left) in action against London Welsh at BT Murrayfield*

Edinburgh made it four from four with another win over London Welsh in the European Rugby Challenge Cup.

Lead by 50th Cap, Greg Tonks, the Edinburgh side endured a nervous first quarter, only relieved by an 18th minute penalty from Sam Hidalgo-Clyne. He followed this up with another two before the break. Welsh managed to draw level at 3-3 following a yellow card for Andries Strauss, but couldn't add any more in the first half, the visitors going in with a 9-3 lead.

An exchange of penalties in the first 10 minutes of the second half maintained Edinburgh's six-point lead before Dougie Fife scored the first try of the match on 60 minutes.

The final quarter was dominated by Edinburgh, who were duly awarded with a Stuart McInally try with three minutes to go.

Tonks scored with the kick to give Edinburgh a match winning 24-6 score.

Club Rugby

BT Premiership

With Currie v Boroughmuir postponed at Maleney Park due to a frozen pitch, Heriots v Edinburgh Accies was the only top flight match played in Edinburgh, Heriots winning 32-20.

Following last week's win at Stirling, Heriots are now four points clear at the top of the table with 51 points. Currie are still in sixth with 29 points, while Accies and 'Muir have swapped places – both on 19 points – with the Meggetland side propping up the table in tenth courtesy of points scored difference.

BT National League, Div. 1

Both Inverleith and Myreside were deemed unplayable on Saturday, leaving Stewarts-Melville and Watsonians nothing better to do than watch the European Cup Rugby on the telly.

Both sides maintain their third and fourth places, but Stew-Mel's win last week stretches their lead over their Morningside rivals to six points with 43.

(Both images – John Preece)

Visit the Greenman for some Christmas magic!

 There are rather a lot of trees about just now – and there

will be even more lying forlornly by the roadside in a few weeks' time. If you're a little fed up with all the seasonal tat and would like to teach your children that trees are wonderful living things, not just throwaway decorations, why not give them (or yourself) a gift that lasts – and a wonderfully different experience of Christmas – by paying a visit to the Greenman's Grotto at The Secret Herb Garden?

Enter the enchanted glasshouse at this award-winning nursery and follow a fairy path leading to a natural grotto where the Greenman awaits; he will help you to choose one of six bare-root native trees, help to pot it up, and give you lots of advice on how to keep it happy – along with a stone or shell to keep beside it. The tree will become a part of your life, and will grow with you and your child – imagine the joy of being able to say 'That's the tree I chose and planted' for years to come; for only £5, your child can discover the magic of nature. What's more, you can combine your trip with a lovely lunch or tea in the garden's cafe and a spot of low-stress shopping for Christmas gifts.



Hamish and Liberty opened The Secret Garden in May of this year, after four years of hard renovation work during which they and their four children lived in two caravans. Their vision was to turn a derelict greenhouse at the foot of the Pentlands into a place where everyone could open the door to the magic of herbs, relax among them in the greenhouse, walk among them in the gardens, and learn about the important role that they have in our daily lives. The beautiful 7.5 acre site is bordered by hedgerows and a stream; it supports over 500 varieties of herbs and is home to twelve bee hives . The cafe serves up wholesome home-made dishes – think herbal teas and coffees, quiches, jams, chutneys, soups, and of course lots of yummy cakes (and always some gluten/dairy-free options) and scones; you can eat in the garden in summer (though at this

time of year you might prefer to warm up inside).



The garden's shop offers everything from dried flowers, honeys, pork products, candles and lip balms to vintage garden tools, furniture, clocks and cashmere, plus fun and educational toys for children: Hamish and Liberty are keen to support fellow Scottish producers wherever possible.



And if you would like to learn more about subjects as diverse as beekeeping, watercolours or herbal first aid, look no further – The Secret Garden offers courses throughout the year, and all within easy travelling distance of Edinburgh. You can also arrange a consultation with a natural therapist.



The Secret Garden will be holding its second festive late-night shopping event on 18th December, with wine, cheese, charcuterie and chocolate on offer. It also has a new take on the traditional Christmas hamper – terracotta pots filled with goodies for gardening, eating and drinking.



So treat yourself and/or your children and take a trip along the Old Pentland Road to visit the Greenman in his grotto; he's agreed to be there 10am-4pm every day 19th-23rd December – no need to book. For more information see the Garden's [Facebook](#) page or [website](#).



What's On In Edinburgh 15th-21st December 2014

MONDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2014



Meet Chris Hadfield: the former **Commander of the International Space Station** will be signing copies of his stunning planetary photo tour ***You Are Here: Around the World in 92 Minutes.*** 12.30pm, [Waterstones West End](#), Princes Street. Please arrive early to avoid disappointment. For more information call 0131 226 2666.

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TUESDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2014



Recitals for Wrigglers Christmas Concert: a free classical concert for babies, toddlers and their parents and carers. 10.30am, [Drumbrae Library Hub](#), 81 Drumbrae Drive. Please ask a member of library staff to book your place(s), or call the library on 0131 529 5244.

eBook Surgery: get help with downloading free eBooks, emagazines and audiobooks. 2-3.30pm, [Central Library](#), George IV Bridge. No appointment necessary – just drop in.

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Bookbug: rhymes and songs for very young children. 10.30-11am, [Corstorphine Library](#), 12 Kirk Loan. Free: also at 2.30pm on Saturday 20th December.

Music Among The Trees: Chapter House Ensemble. Shane Brogan on accordion and John Pfaff on piano entertain visitors to the **Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival**. 12 noon-1pm, Sanctuary, [St Andrew's and St George's West Church](#), 13 George Street. Free: all welcome.

Christmas Bookbug Rhymetime! For children under 3 years. 10.30-11am and 11.30am-12 noon, [Morningside Library](#), 184 Morningside Road. There will be no Bookbug on 23rd or 30th December – back as usual on 6th January 2015.



Baby Cafe: this week ***The Very Hungry Caterpillar*** will be brought to life in a theatrical story! For babies and children aged 0-4 and their grown-ups. 11am, [Grantont Library](#), Wardieburn Terrace.

Music Among The Trees: Recorder Group. Talented local recorder players bring harmony and variety to entertain visitors to the **Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival**. 2-3pm, Sanctuary, [St Andrew's and St George's West Church](#), 13 George Street. Free: all welcome.



SICSA Christmas Cyber Security Public Lecture 2014: the Christmas Cyber Security Lectures are a series of lectures across the country, primarily for High School students. With up to 5 talks from leading industry figures, Police Scotland and academics, the sessions provide a fun and varied introduction to the challenges we face as we move towards the internet of things and a light hearted approach to promoting **cyber security** and highlighting **opportunities in this field**. For the first time ever, in addition to two school sessions in the morning, Napier is hosting a public lecture in the afternoon. Speakers include **James Lyne** (Sophos) on ***The Future of Hacking***, **Edinburgh Napier** on ***Digital Shadows – the footprint of a real crime***, **Cybersecuritychallenge** on ***UK: DETONATE!*** and **Police Scotland**. This event will be of interest to all, so please come along with your colleagues and/or your children (over 14). 2.30-4.30pm, Riady Lecture Theatre, Edinburgh Napier University, [Craiglockhart Campus](#), Glenlockhart Road. Free tickets should be booked via [eventbrite](#).



Oasis Community Carol Service: all welcome – coffee, tea and mince pies served after the service. 12.45pm, [St Cuthbert's Parish Church](#), Lothian Road. Organised by Oasis, Business

Matters and WPCS. There will be a retiring collection in aid of Fresh Start.



Retro Gaming Night: still trying to crack your top time of Super Mario Bros? A geeky night of retro and console games. 6-11.45pm, [The Counting House Bar](#), 36 West Nicolson Street. Free entry.

Edinburgh Royal Choral Union: Christmas with the Choral. The Choral performs *A Ceremony of Carols* by Benjamin Britten: conductor **Michael Bawtree**, organist **Morley Whitehead**. 7.30pm, [St Andrew's and St George's West Church](#), 13 George Street.

Festive Fitness: come and try zumba, belly dancing, hula-hooping and line dancing, followed by festive nibbles. Children welcome – for ages 2-99! 6.30-8.30pm, [North Merchiston Club](#), 48 Watson Crescent. Suggested donation £5, all proceeds to the Club. To book call 0131 622 1757 or email info@northmerchiston.co.uk.



WEDNESDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2014

Creative Electric: drama and creative workshops for ages 16+. Creative Electric create contemporary performances based on real experiences; their work has been performed in Scotland and Sweden, in theatres, studios, art galleries, on trains, in fields, in city centre squares and on rooftops. 7-9pm, [The Bongo Club](#), 66 Cowgate. £5 per session, bursaries available. For more information and to book, contact creative_electric@hotmail.com.

Sonic Christmas Cards! A free Christmas craft event for ages

7+. 4-5pm, [Stockbridge Library](#), 11 Hamilton Place.



The Edinburgh Telephone Choir: traditional carol concert with the choir, this year featuring a brass ensemble who will join the organ in several carols and also perform a seasonal number of their own. 7.30pm, [Morningside Parish Church](#), Cluny Gardens/Braid Road. Retiring collection for the Wednesday Club for Disabled Men.



Red Road Revisited

Chris Leslie and Mitch Miller: Red Road Revisited. For over three years, photographer and filmmaker **Chris Leslie** and illustrator **Mitch Miller** documented life at **Glasgow's Red Road flats**, culminating in the 2012 exhibition **Red Road Underground**. Leslie's revealing photographs and slide shows and Miller's meticulously drawn 'dialectograms' shed light on the personal histories of the residents, employees and emigres who lived in the shadow of the great tower blocks. In this special event these award-winning artists discuss the detail of their long collaboration, how they built a rapport with locals, gained access to hidden spaces (such as the derelict underground bar and bingo) and used their very different, but complementary, visual techniques to tell a complex and often surprising story of life amidst a modernist icon. 12.45-1.30pm, Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed.

Health In Mind Over 65's Coffee Morning. 10.30am-12 noon, [Morningside Library](#), 184 Morningside Road. Free – just come along!



Rowan Coupland, Gavin Mee and Grant McNeil: one of The

Forest's last gigs this year – folk, old gospel and jazz ballads. Arrive early or risk standing! 7pm, [Forest Cafe](#), 141 Lauriston Place. Free entry: BYOB – corkage 65p for beer, £1.50 for wine.

North Edinburgh Grows Christmas Tree Lights Switch On: North Edinburgh Arts Artist in Residence **Natalie Taylor** will be creating a Christmas tree sculpture on Monday and Tuesday – come along today and see the lights being switched on! Free mince pies and (non-alcoholic) mulled wine. 3.45pm, [North Edinburgh Arts](#), 15a Pennywell Court. For more information call 0131 315 2151.



Blackwell's Edinburgh Presents Peter Ranscombe: *Hare, A Novel*. When **William Burke** was hanged for mass murder in 1829, his accomplice **William Hare** was set free after turning King's evidence and fled Edinburgh to escape the mob.. In *Hare: A Novel*, he is discovered years later working as labourer in Boston, a city terrified by a new series of murders – but although Hare is arrested, the deaths continue and the police have to release Hare and work with him to find the killer. Set against the background of the American Civil War, *Hare: A Novel* is Peter Ranscombe's debut; the author is a freelance journalist who previously worked for *The Scotsman*, *Scotland on Sunday* and *The Field*. 6.30-8pm, [Blackwell's South Bridge](#). Free tickets are available from the shop's front desk, by calling 0131 622 8218 or emailing events.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk.

Morningside Library Craft Group: 6.30-7.45pm, [Morningside Library](#), 184 Morningside Road. No need to book – just come along!

Boda Bar Christmas Quiz: a Christmas special fun-filled evening with a mixture of hilarious questions, true or false rounds and nail-biting games. Teams of 4 should book asap to get a table – contact Boda on 0131 553 5900 or email

boda@bodabar.com. 8pm, [Boda Bar](#), 229 Leith Walk.



St Margaret's House Cinema Nights: *Searching for Sugar Man* (12A). Though he faded into obscurity in the US, an early 70s musician known as **Rodriguez** became a huge hit in South Africa and was widely believed to have died. Two obsessed fans set out to learn the man's true fate. A BAFTA and Academy award-winning Swedish-British documentary by **Malik Bendjeloull**. 'Powerful, uplifting and unforgettable' (Dazed and Confused). 7-10pm, [St Margaret's House](#), 151 London Road. Free.

Music Among The Trees: Brigitte Harris. The Director of Music at St Andrew's and St George's West entertains visitors to the **Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival** with a varied programme on the fine Wells Kennedy organ. 12 noon-1pm, Sanctuary, [St Andrew's and St George's West Church](#), 13 George Street. Free: all welcome.

Music Among The Trees: Saxophone Quartet. Young players from Napier Music School entertain visitors to the **Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival**. 2-3pm, Sanctuary, [St Andrew's and St George's West Church](#), 13 George Street. Free: all welcome.

***Paris of the North* (15): the Nordic Film Festival** continues with this 'subtly deadpan and bleakly comic tale' set against the hostile yet stunning mountainous landscape of Iceland's West Fjords. In Icelandic with English subtitles. 6.30pm, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Book [online](#) or call the box office on 0131 228 2688. The Nordic Film Festival is presented by day for night.



THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2014



The Secret Herb Garden Festive Evening: wine, cheese, chocolate and charcuterie in a beautiful setting at the foot of the Pentland Hills. 4-8pm, [The Secret Herb Garden](#), 32a Old Pentland Road, EH10 7EA (for more information re location see the [Secret Herb Garden's website](#) or call 07525 069773).

Pilton Equalities Project Presents: Cinderella – Panto Time! 6-8pm, [Granton Baptist Church](#), Crewe Road Gardens. Tickets 4 (children £1), refreshments provided. Please book in advance to assist in planning of catering: phone Trish on 0131 315 4466.

Bookbug: songs and rhymes for young children and their adults. 10.30-11am, [Fountainbridge Library](#), 137 Dundee Street.



Rosie Nimmo, copyright Marc
Marnie

The Rosie Nimmo Duo: Rosie Nimmo (vocals, rhythm, guitar and harmonica) and **Stuart Allardyce** (guitar) present a programme of swinging tunes to mark the Christmas season. 6-6.30pm, Main Gallery, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed.

Under Fives Christmas Storytime: 10.30-11am, [Morningside Library](#), 184 Morningside Road. Free.

Growing Underground: Forest's Very Open Stage. Sign up for a 15 min+ slot in the cafe, or contact the team via [Facebook](#). Free tea, coffee or corkage up to £1.50 for performers. 7.30pm, [Forest Cafe](#), 141 Lauriston Place. Free entry: BYOB – corkage 70p for beer, £1.50 for wine.

LGBT Learning Disability Project Festive Party. The Project

provides a range of opportunities for building confidence and friendship among LGBT people who also identify as having a learning disability/difficulty. 2-4pm, [Lifecare Centre](#), Cheyne Street. For more information call 0131 652 3281 or email george@lgbthealth.org.uk: please bring a carer or supporter if you need help to participate.



Christmas Cracker 2014! Readings and discussions with **Angela Jackson, Michael Malone, Lucy Lawrie, Graeme MacRae Burnet, Daniel Gray** and **Alan McCredie**: there will also be festive cheer, mince pies and tipples in abundance! 6pm, [Waterstones West End](#), Princes Street. Free tickets are available from the store: for more information call 0131 226 2666.



Whale Arts Christmas Celebration! Special Christmas Show by resident drama group **Whales Without A Cause**, handmade crafts for sale from **Stitch 'N Time**, **South West Sounds** groups premier their 2014 songs, **smART Craft** exhibition, mince pies and mulled wine (or BYOB). 6pm till late, [Whale Arts](#), 30 Westburn Grove. For further information please call 0131 458 3267.



CinemaAttic Fundraising Event: #Mutant Christmas. A screening of ***Accion Mutante (18)*** – a cult film from 1993 by award-winning Spanish director **Alex de la Iglesia** – and **Party Xmas Bash with special DJs**. Film: 7.30 for 8pm, Red Lecture Theatre, [Summerhall](#), 1 Summerhall (NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE FROM ONE SHOWN ON POSTER); party: 11pm-3am, [Wee Red Bar](#), Lauriston Place. Film £6 + booking fee via [eventbrite](#), party £5 payable on the door – party ticket price includes a raffle for a box of **El Olivo** Spanish products, **Calduero Wines** and **Goya23**. CinemaAttic is a community interest group aiming to offer the best independent cinema from the Iberian peninsula and Latin

America.

Music Among The Trees: Drew Crichton. Talented pianist Drew entertains visitors to the **Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival**. 12 noon-1pm, Sanctuary, [St Andrew's and St George's West Church](#), 13 George Street. Free: all welcome.

Candles and Quietness: the church will be open for quiet reflection and prayer. 5.15pm (come and go as you please), [St John's Episcopal Church](#), Princes Street.

Hotel (15): the **Nordic Film Festival** concludes with this 'brutally honest and at times absurdly humorous exploration of the human psyche'. In Swedish with English subtitles. 6.30pm, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Book [online](#) or call the box office on 0131 228 2688. The Nordic Film Festival is presented by day for night.



FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2014



Greenman's Grotto at The Secret Herb Garden: instead of Santa asking a child 'what do you want for Christmas?', why not allow a child the chance to hear how to respect and care for something really special – **a tree**? Enter the **enchanted lit glasshouse** and follow a **fairy path** to a hidden **natural grotto** where the Greenman awaits; once here choose a bare root tree from six indigenous species: alder, rowan. silver birch, oak, scots pine or hawthorn. The Greenman will help you to pot up your tree and to choose a stone or shell to keep with it; there will also be advice on how to nurture your gift. Allow the tree to become part of your life, grow together through the changing seasons, and witness the magic unfold. 10am-4pm, [The Secret Herb Garden](#), 32a Old Pentland Road, EH10 7EA (for

more information re location see the [Secret Herb Garden's website](#) or call 07525 069773). £5 per child or adult, no booking required. Also at same times on Saturday 20th, Sunday 21st, Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd December 2014.



The Guid Crack Hearth: come and gather round the fireside and warm yourself with stories of Christmas past and present, with storyteller **Bea Ferguson**. Edinburgh's monthly storytelling night, upstairs at the **Waverley Bar**. Accompanied young adults welcome. 7.30-9.30pm, Waverley Bar (upstairs), 1 St Mary's Street. Free: suggested donation £3.



Leith School of Art Christmas Exhibition: this year's exhibition will include a selection of work from the school's new full-year courses in **Printmaking, Landscape, Art & Spirituality**, and **Critical & Professional Development**, together with work from **evening** and **day classes**. 10am-4pm, [Leith School of Art](#), 25 North Junction Street. Also open at same times on Saturday 20th December 2014.

Cookie decorating! A free Christmas craft event for ages 4+. 2.30-3.30pm, [Stockbridge Library](#), 11 Hamilton Place.

Cezanne's *Montagne Sainte-Victoire*: **Frances Fowle**, Senior Curator, Scottish National Gallery, and **Lesley Stevens**, Senior Paintings Conservator, National Galleries of Scotland, will reveal their new discoveries concerning this painting's date, technique and viewpoint, the result of recent art historical and conservation research. 12.45-1.30pm, Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed.



Family Festive Cinema at the Scottish National Gallery: enjoy the popular Disney film ***Frozen*** in the comfort of the gallery's very own cinema. *Frozen* is a contemporary retelling of the classic **Hans Christian Anderson** story of ***The Snow Queen***. 2pm, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Tickets costs £4.10 (adult), £3.85 (child), £10 (family – up to 2 adults + 2 children or 1 adult + 3 children) and can be booked via [eventbrite](#). Also available at same time on Sunday 21st December 2014.

Your World War One Family History: Drop-in Session. Do you have any diaries, photographs, medals or letters from World War One that you would like to find out more about, or are you trying to discover more about your family's history in World War One? Come and talk to the experts and get some free one-to-one help. 11am-1pm, [Central Library](#), George IV Bridge. Free but please book via [eventbrite](#) so that the library can allocate the time you need: if these times are not convenient for you, please email edwar@edinburgh.ac.uk to make another appointment.

Christmas Crafts for all the family: 2-3pm, [Kirkliston Library](#), Station Road and [South Queensferry Library](#), Shore Road.



Christmas Bookbug Singalong – for all the family! 10.30-11am, [Kirkliston Library](#), Station Road.

Festive crafts for children: 3pm, [Piershill Library](#), 30 Piershill Terrace. All welcome!



Rally & Broad: Never Mind The Full Stops – The R & B Edition. **Paula Varjack** and **Dan Simpson** are the masterminds behind this 'pop-meets-poetry panel show mash up...(in which) brilliant poets and performers play silly games like **Poetry Karaoke**...and

explore the efforts of celebrities writing poems.' With **Michael Pedersen, Chrissy Barnacle** and music from **Black Diamond Express**. 7-10pm, [The Bongo Club](#), 66 Cowgate. Tickets are £5 on the door. 'Poetry as you've never seen it before'.

Carols in the Car Park: 15 minutes of fun carols. 5pm, [St Mary Magdalene Church](#), Bingham Avenue, EH15 3HY. Everyone welcome!

Christmas Workshop for Children: candles, games, music, crafts, storytelling, music and more. For children in P1 to P7. 1.30-5.30pm, Church Hall, [St Peter's Church](#), Lutton Place. £3 per child. 'A treat for children, a gift to parents'.

Nitekirk: a sacred space for all; a place of welcome, a space for stillness, a pause on your journey, an open door. This month's theme is *Thread for New Life*. 8-11pm (drop-in any time), [St Columba's-by-the-Castle](#), 14 Johnston Terrace. All welcome. For more information about Nitekirk, see [website](#).



SATURDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2014



Song, by Toad Christmas Party: Garden of Elks, Plastic Animals, plus short sets and cabaret from other acts on the *Song, By Toad* label and followed by DJ Sets from **Irregular Owl Movements** and **Mrs Toad**. 7-11pm, [Henry's Cellar Bar](#), 16a Morrison Street. Tickets £8/£5 on the door or from [Brown Paper Tickets](#) (plus booking fee). Strictly over-18s only.

Music Among The Trees: Leaning Together Band. The band – a mix of brass, strings and occasionally accordion – perform a varied programme of music to entertain visitors to the **Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival**. 12 noon-1pm, Sanctuary, [St Andrew's and St George's West Church](#), 13 George Street. Free:

all welcome, come and go as you please.



LGBT: T time Edinburgh: Festive Film and Party. A party theme and a festive film, together with treats and refreshments. T time is an informal monthly social gathering open to all transgender people and supporters. 1-4pm (party 2-4pm), [LGBT Health & Wellbeing](#), 9 Howe Street. For more information call the centre on 0131 523 1100 or email jules@lgbthealth.org.uk.



Cockburn Street Cinema: in partnership with **LUX Scotland**, Stills presents two works by **Rob Kennedy** *A dyslexic man walks into a bra* and *Happy the believers* for this year's Cockburn Street Cinema. Kennedy's works will be presented for viewing through Stills' windows in the dark evenings of the Christmas and New Year season. The films will be screened 12 noon-12 midnight every day until 4th January 2015, [Stills Gallery](#), 23 Cockburn Street. (**Note:** the gallery is closed 22nd December 2014 to 5th January 2015 – these films are to watch from the street.) Glasgow-based Kennedy makes videos, sounds and objects, tending to focus on the unreliability of language and the difficulties of succinct communication. He has exhibited at the Venice Biennale, Tate Britain, BBC Scotland and the British Council.

Santa at Linlithgow! Santa will be in residence at Linlithgow Canal Basin; each child will receive an age-appropriate gift followed by a free boat trip for all the family. Non-alcoholic hot punch, mince pies and cakes will be available to purchase in the cafe – come and enjoy the log fire! 2-4pm, [Linlithgow Canal Basin](#), Manse Road. £5 per child's gift. For more information call 01506 671215. Also at same times on Sunday 21st December.



Pyjama Drama: Rudolph the Blue-Nosed Reindeer. A fun festive session for children aged 2-5 years, with drama, music, movement and play. 10.10am or 11.10am, [North Merchiston Club](#), Watson Crescent. Tickets cost £5/£4 and booking is essential. For more information or to book please call 0131 516 3099, email louisek@pyjamadrama.com or book [online](#).

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

Bookbug: rhymes and songs for very young children. 10.30-11am, [Corstorphine Library](#), 12 Kirk Loan. Free.



Morningside Farmers' Christmas Market: fresh, local, seasonal goods direct from the producers. 9.30am-3.30pm, rear car park of [The Merlin](#), 168 Morningside Road. For more information call 0131 447 4329.

Christmas Tours of the National Gallery: a Christmas-themed tour of the National Gallery's main collection. 2-2.45pm or 3-3.45pm, [Scottish National Gallery](#) (meet at Main Entrance), The Mound. Free and unticketed.

Music Among The Trees: Brigitte Harris. The Director of Music at St Andrew's and St George's West entertains visitors to the **Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival** with a varied programme on the fine Wells Kennedy organ. 11am-12 noon, Sanctuary, [St Andrew's and St George's West Church](#), 13 George Street. Free: all welcome.

Portrait Gallery Architecture Tour: monthly tour of the magnificent Arts and Crafts Building, designed by Sir Robert Rowand Anderson. 2-2.45pm, [Scottish National Portrait Gallery](#), 1 Queen Street. Free but booking is essential as places are limited: call 0131 624 6560.



BP Portrait Award: Next Generation Winter School. For 14-19 year olds: working with two artists, including a past BP Portrait Award winner, you will creatively explore painting techniques with a life model. All materials will be provided, and if you live outside Edinburgh and the Lothians you may be eligible for a travel bursary. 11am-4pm today and tomorrow (ie you need to attend on both days), [Scottish National Portrait Gallery](#), 1 Queen Street. Free but booking is essential: email lconacher@nationalgalleries.org.



Greenman's Grotto at The Secret Herb Garden: instead of Santa asking a child 'what do you want for Christmas?', why not allow a child the chance to hear how to respect and care for something really special – **a tree**? Enter the **enchanted lit glasshouse** and follow a **fairy path** to a hidden **natural grotto** where the Greenman awaits; once here choose a bare root tree from six indigenous species: alder, rowan, silver birch, oak, scots pine or hawthorn. The Greenman will help you to pot up your tree and to choose a stone or shell to keep with it; there will also be advice on how to nurture your gift. Allow the tree to become part of your life, grow together through the changing seasons, and witness the magic unfold. 10am-4pm, [The Secret Herb Garden](#), 32a Old Pentland Road, EH10 7EA (for more information re location see the [Secret Herb Garden's website](#) or call 07525 069773). £5 per child or adult, no booking required. Also at same times on Sunday 21st, Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd December 2014.

Daniel Smith: Blues Piano/Vocals. From downhome blues, barrelhouse boogie and New Orleans honky tonk to the jazz/soul sounds of Herby Hancock and Ramsey Lewis. 5.45-6.45pm, [The Jazz Bar](#), 1a Chambers Street. Free.

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, John Hope Gateway, [Royal Botanic Garden](#), Inverleith Walk. £5 per person: no advance booking required. Also at same time on Sunday 21st December.

Organ Recital for Christmas by **Jeremy Cull**. 4.30pm, [St Cuthbert's Parish Church](#), Lothian Road. Seasonal refreshments available afterwards! Free admission: retiring collection.



Boda Bar Christmas Party! Christmas merriment, songs and cheer, plus cider and home-made mulled wine. 7pm-1am, [Boda Bar](#), 229 Leith Walk.

Music Among The Trees: Triplicity. The musical trio of **Colin Dundas** (piano), **Frances Cooper** (soprano) and **Anne Lewis** (mezzo soprano) return to entertain visitors to the **Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival**. 2-3pm, Sanctuary, [St Andrew's and St George's West Church](#), 13 George Street. Free: all welcome.



SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2014



Carols By Candlelight: in aid of **Bethany Christian Trust**, supporting homeless and vulnerable people across Scotland. 6.30pm, [Central](#), Central Halls, Tolcross. For more information call 0131 561 8925.

Family Festive Cinema at the Scottish National Gallery: enjoy the popular Disney film ***Frozen*** in the comfort of the gallery's very own cinema. *Frozen* is a contemporary retelling of the classic **Hans Christian Anderson** story of ***The Snow Queen***. 2pm, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Tickets costs £4.10 (adult), £3.85 (child), £10 (family – up to 2 adults + 2

children or 1 adult + 3 children) and can be booked via [eventbrite](#).

Rock & Roll Ping Pong with DJ Ding and DJ Dong: a free, monthly Sunday night social. Fine beers, fine company, free-play, silly ping pong games and music from every genre to play along to – plus an optional and strictly amateur tournament (entry £1, winner takes all). 7-11pm, [The Bongo Club](#), 66 Cowgate. Free entry.



Greenman's Grotto at The Secret Herb Garden: instead of Santa asking a child 'what do you want for Christmas?', why not allow a child the chance to hear how to respect and care for something really special – **a tree**? Enter the **enchanted lit glasshouse** and follow a **fairy path** to a hidden **natural grotto** where the Greenman awaits; once here choose a bare root tree from six indigenous species: alder, rowan, silver birch, oak, scots pine or hawthorn. The Greenman will help you to pot up your tree and to choose a stone or shell to keep with it; there will also be advice on how to nurture your gift. Allow the tree to become part of your life, grow together through the changing seasons, and witness the magic unfold. 10am-4pm, [The Secret Herb Garden](#), 32a Old Pentland Road, EH10 7EA (for more information re location see the [Secret Herb Garden's website](#) or call 07525 069773). £5 per child or adult, no booking required. Also at same times on Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd December 2014.

Bags of Art: cool and creative fun for ages 4-12 with artists **Tessa Asquith-Lamb** and **Louise Fraser**. 2-4pm, [Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art ONE](#), Belford Road. Free: no booking required. Supported by the Friends of the National Galleries of Scotland.



Santa at Linlithgow! Santa will be in residence at Linlithgow Canal Basin; each child will receive an age-appropriate gift followed by a free boat trip for all the family. Non-alcoholic hot punch, mince pies and cakes will be available to purchase in the cafe – come and enjoy the log fire! 2-4pm, [Linlithgow Canal Basin](#), Manse Road. £5 per child's gift. For more information call 01506 671215.

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, John Hope Gateway, [Royal Botanic Garden](#), Inverleith Walk. £5 per person: no advance booking required.



Filmhouse Christmas Arts and Crafts: families of all ages are welcome to drop in to this event, themed around the film *Arthur Christmas*, which will be screened at 11am (see below). 9.30-11am, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. (Workshop free, film tickets £3.50).

Filmhouse Junior: *Arthur Christmas* (U). A family film from the team at Aardman: Santa Claus is nearing retirement, with his super-efficient but joyless son Steven ready to take over – but the future of the position of Head of Christmas looks less certain when a child is left without a present, and the only person prepared to put things right is Steven's hapless brother, Arthur. 11am, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. £3.50 per person, big or small; book [online](#) or call the box office on 0131 228 2688.

Organ Music for Advent and Christmas: a recital by **Morley Whitehead**. Come and go as you please during the recital. 5.30-6.15pm (you are welcome to stay for the service at 6.30pm should you wish to do so), [Morningside Parish Church](#), Cluny Gardens/Braid Road. Free.



Talking Trees: let the RBGE's volunteer storytellers nurture your imagination with tall tales from all around the world. For ages 5+. 2-2.45pm, John Hope Gateway, [Royal Botanic Garden](#), Inverleith Walk. Free: no booking required.



Christmas for Kids at Boda: children's party with hot chocolate, snacks and a 'good old Christmas movie'. 1-3pm, [Boda Bar](#), 229 Leith Walk. Children and adults of all ages welcome!

Lessons and Carols for Advent and Christmas: St Giles' Cathedral Choir. 6pm, [St Giles' Cathedral](#), 2-4 High Street.

Service of Lessons and Carols: 7-8.30pm, [St Cuthbert's Parish Church](#), Lothian Road.



Carol Service: with choir and congregational carols, followed by refreshments. 6pm, [Christ Church Morningside](#), 6a Morningside Road.

Nativity Service: 11am, [Gorgie Dalry Church](#), 190 Gorgie Road.

Candlelight service of readings and carols: 6.30pm, [St Peter's Church](#), Luton Place.



Service of Lessons and Carols: 6pm, [St Vincent's Episcopal Chapel](#), St Vincent Street.

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols: 6pm, [St John's Episcopal Church](#), Princes Street.

Service of Lessons and Carols: 10am, [Cramond Kirk](#), Cramond

Glebe Road.

The Christmas Truce: A Service of Readings and Carols for Christmas: 6.30pm, [Old St Paul's Episcopal Church](#), 39 Jeffrey Street.



Jordon Forster resumes training after foot injury



Hibs' influential defender Jordon Forster is back in training after breaking a foot during training in October.

The 20 year old is hoping to regain match fitness by playing for the Under 20s who have games coming up against Hamilton and Hearts.

Before his injury, Forster was part of a back 3 system along with Paul Hanlon and Liam Fontaine however since then the team have resorted to a more traditional back 4.

Last season Forster was used at right back by Terry Butcher and ironically that position may be available again after David Gray limped off with a groin injury yesterday.

Speaking to Hibs TV's Cliff Pike during the half-time show of the Alloa broadcast, Forster said: "I'm happy to say that I'm now back in training and I'm feeling good and strong.

"The manager may want me to play a couple of under-20 games in

order to get properly back up to speed.

“We’ll have to wait and see, but I’ve spoken with the fitness and medical team and hopefully I’ll get some gametime with the under-20s.

“Hopefully if there are no hiccups and I’ll be back with the first team as soon as possible.”

Photo by John Preece

Robbery at Livingston betting shop



Police in West Lothian are appealing for witnesses to a betting shop robbery in Livingston last night.

The incident took place at Ladbrokes in Carmondean, about 9.20pm, when a four-figure sum of money was stolen.

A member of staff and two customers were in the shop when a man entered and threatened the employee with a weapon while demanding money.

He then ran from the shop in an unknown direction.

The suspect is described as white, approximately 5 feet 8 inches tall, medium build and wearing gloves, black trainers and baggy light grey jogging bottoms.

He was also wearing a light blue ‘puffa style’ hooded jacket, which had distinctive diamond pattern stitching, with the hood worn up.

Inquiries are being carried out in the area and officers are working to source any available CCTV footage from nearby premises.

Detective Constable Debbie Trotter, who is leading the investigation, said: "We are keen to speak to anyone who may have been in the area at the time, or saw the suspect.

"Thankfully, nobody was hurt during the robbery, however the member of staff has been badly shaken by the incident, as this was a frightening experience for them.

"There are a number of routes the thief could have taken after leaving the betting shop , and so I am appealing to members of the public for any information they may have as to who might have been responsible."

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

Top 5 films of 2014 – a personal selection



Having moved back into Edinburgh from the wilds of the countryside in February, I've seen more films in past ten months than I'd managed in the previous ten years. The lovely **Cameo Cinema** is now on my doorstep, the **Filmhouse** is not far away, and I recently discovered the fabulously comfortable seats at the **Odeon** in Lothian Road. Although I have enjoyed

just about everything I've seen, certain films stand out.

Here then is my very personal top five for 2014:



5 Chef

Carl's life goes into meltdown when a famous food blogger pans his cooking – cooking which he himself abhors, but has been made to produce by his restaurateur boss (**Dustin Hoffman**). Carl is played by **Jon Favreau**, also the film's producer and director.

Overworked, frustrated and fed up, he loses his temper in spectacular fashion – first on Twitter and then in the flesh – and, in the 21st century way of things, his performance goes viral; soon patience is not the only thing he's lacking. Out of work and out of luck, he's persuaded by his glamorous ex-wife to do up an old food truck, and take off on a road trip across the US, accompanied by his tech-savvy son and a former colleague, bringing Cuban street food to the masses. *Chef* may be a bit predictable, but it's a great feelgood film with some hilarious scenes and a few edge-of-the-seat moments (chefs do use a lot of knives...). And be warned: it'll make you very hungry.



4 20 Feet From Stardom (yes, this was made in 2013 but I only saw it this year..and that's good enough for me).

I've always thought it would be cool to be a backing singer; all that harmonising and synchronised swaying, none of the grief. *20 Feet From Stardom* didn't disabuse me of this notion, even though some of the early singers interviewed in this excellent film documentary have had little credit for

significant contributions to major hits. The soundtrack is of course fabulous, and the interviews with, and archive footage of, **David Bowie, Bruce Springsteen, Mick Jagger** and co are fascinating – but the real stars are the singers, most of them black women who have toiled away in the background for years, helping the mega-famous on their routes to stardom. **Merry Clayton, Darlene Love, Patti Austin** – they're all here, all those women you've heard a million times but never actually heard of, though one whose name may be more familiar is **Lisa Fischer**, backing singer for the **Stones** and now a highly respected artist in her own right – a phenomenal voice, and a much nicer woman than many who've made it to the very top. This film is a mixture of celebration and commiseration, but you'll still come out singing – and maybe wishing that you were there, twenty feet from the spotlight, twenty miles from fame.



3 Pride

Pride has deservedly just been named best film at the **British Independent Film Awards**, with **Imelda Staunton** winning Best Actress and **Andrew Scott** Best Actor for their roles. It's about the 1984 miners' strike and the struggle for gay rights – two campaigns which at first have little in common, until gay activist **Mark Ashton (Ben Schenutzer)** sees the parallels in their situations and decides to rally support for a pit village in the Dulais valley. The ensuing friendship (and in one case the antagonism) between the two communities is a joy to watch, the more so because every character is so well developed and every actor excels. Few are without doubts, all have fears for the future – the Londoners, centering on **Gay's The Word** bookshop, face threats not only from Section 28 but also the advent of AIDS; the miners' families are fighting for their identity as much as for their jobs – their own form of

pride. Those of my advanced age can remember these events as if they were yesterday, but for younger people they are history – this film is an education for them, and a wonderfully entertaining story for us all (don't miss **Dominic West** strutting his disco stuff at the miners' fundraising dance). *Pride* is based on a true story.



2 We Are The Best! (Vi ar Bast!) (another one made in 2013, but which only arrived at the Cameo this year)

Two schoolgirl rebels (**Mira Barkhammar** and **Mira Grosin**) in 1980's Stockholm decide to start a band. You may think you know the end already – they become famous, are feted as the new Spice Girls, and meet their handsome princes – tah-dah! Except they don't. Discovering that a classmate (**Liv LeMoyne**) – one they would normally discount as a religious geek – is a brilliant guitar player, they rope her in and rehearse their ear-splitting racket in one another's houses, each of which presents a different picture of modern family life. Gauche, bolshi and occasionally vulnerable, the girls fall out, have fun, deal with their wayward middle-aged parents and fight their own corners at school, eventually going on a road trip with their brilliantly dreadful guidance teacher to the final of a youth band competition. I loved this film; it's a funny, moving and ultimately very satisfying celebration of difference. *The Princess Diaries* it is not.



1 From Scotland With Love

I'm not usually a fan of films with no words; at the age of 5 I disappointed my parents by being bored to tears by *Fantasia*

(which, like most adults, they thought brilliant) and I have to admit that *Koyaanisqatsi* sent me to sleep – but ***From Scotland With Love*** is a masterpiece. It's a documentary made up entirely of film clips from the **Scottish Screen Archive** and the **National Library of Scotland**, with a soundtrack by **King Creosote (Kenny Anderson)**, and it moves from the early 1900s – the First World War, the Glasgow rent strikes and the heyday of the Clyde shipyards – right through to the 1960s, with family days at the seaside and dancing at the Barrowlands. In between there are children trying on gas masks, fishing boats sailing out of northern harbours, Highlanders cutting peat, women working in factories – and abandoned farmhouses, empty crofts, and men emigrating to Canada. Sadness, tragedy – but also lots and lots of fun; this is a film about ordinary Scottish people living their busy, wonderful lives. It's the best film I've seen this year; it may be the best film I'll see this decade.

So those are my choices – do share yours; whether they are art house films, romcoms or animations, we want to know! And if you're looking for a present for an Edinburgh-based friend, my suggestion is to buy them a membership of one of the independent cinemas. They'll get cheaper tickets, invitations to free and special screenings, plus the warm glow of knowing that they're supporting the local arts scene. Much better than socks and much better for you than sweeties....



Alan Stubbs' reaction to Alloa victory



Hibs' Head Coach Alan Stubbs was delighted with the patience shown by his players during yesterday's 2-0 home win over Alloa Athletic at Easter Road.

The win keeps Hibs in the play off places, two points ahead of Falkirk and three behind Queen of the South who beat Rangers on Friday night.

After the game Stubbs told Hibs' TV: "Patience is always the key – I've been told that a lot of times.

"From the first whistle to the end I thought we controlled the game, it was always going to be about when we created opportunities we make the game as comfortable as possible.

"Scoring the first always helps and I said to the lads at half time that it was very difficult to break down 4-5-1.

"No matter if you're playing at the top of the Premiership or the bottom of the Football League; it doesn't make any difference because it's a difficult system to break down.

"I thought we were patient and when we got the opportunities we took two of them and that's the most important thing.

"We've been criticised for not winning games that we've controlled earlier on in the season and I think today we've controlled the game and won it also, so I'm very happy.

"It's was important to bounce back from the result last weekend and we all knew that, I said last week as soon as we finished that I wasn't happy with what happened.

“But one run finished and another one starts this week hopefully and they’ve done the first part of what I asked them to.

“Hopefully this is the catalyst to address our home form – we haven’t played badly at home we just haven’t gotten the results that we should have gotten.

“There’s a big difference between the two I’d be more worried if we weren’t playing well and drew, but I felt in a lot of our home games we’ve controlled them but we’ve just not seen it across the line.”

Sunday in Edinburgh – What’s On Today



Filmhouse Junior: *Rise of the Guardians* (PG). An animation for the festive season: an evil spirit plans to take over the world using fear – **Jack Frost, Santa Claus, the Tooth Fairy, the Easter Bunny** and **the Sandman** need to join forces in order to protect the Earth’s children and stop this new menace. 11am, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. £3.50 per person, big or small: book via [website](#) or call box office on 0131 228 2688.

Christian Aid Carol Service: 5pm, [Portobello Baptist Church](#), 189 Portobello High Street.

Edinburgh Living History and World War One: against the background of the Centre’s iconic World War One paintings, meet some Edinburgh locals from 1916, who will be discussing the war, its progress, and its impact on their own lives and

on the city of Edinburgh. Come and eavesdrop on their conversations! For all ages. 2pm or 3pm, [City Art Centre](#), Market Street. Free and unticketed. The **Living History** teams are award-winning performers. This event will be repeated on 4th and 10th January 2015.



Cameo Vintage Sundays: *Miracle on 34th Street* (U). When Macy's department store hires a new Father Christmas, event director Doris Walker and her daughter are nonplussed by his insistence that he is the real Santa. 1pm, [Cameo](#), 38 Home Street, Tolcross. Book online [here](#) or call box office on 0871 902 5723.

NMS Christmas Crafternoon 2: come and make a lovely Christmas decoration inspired by the National Museum's collections. 12 noon-4pm (drop-in), [National Museum of Scotland](#), Chambers Street. Free.

Portrait Detectives: collect your kit, follow clues, and solve a mystery from history! For ages 4-12. 2-4pm, [Scottish National Portrait Gallery](#), 1 Queen Street. Free and unticketed.



NMS Christmas Choirs: get into the festive spirit with Christmas concerts from local choirs. 2pm (Edinburgh Youth Choir), 3pm (Accord) and 4pm (Edinburgh University Renaissance Singers), [National Museum of Scotland](#), Chambers Street. Free.

Limited Edition: a showcase of **Edinburgh College of Art 3rd Year Jewellery Students'** work. 10am-5pm, Learning Centre, Level 2, [National Museum of Scotland](#).

St Andrew's and St George's West Service of Lessons and Carols: the theme of this service will be **Hope Restored**. Music will be led by the church choir, directed by **Brigitte Harris**.

11-11.55am, [St Andrew's and St George's West Church](#), 13 George Street. All welcome.



Summerhall Christmas Market 2014: over 45 fantastic stallholders offering unique Christmas gifts (including food, beers, textiles, jewellery, skin care, art, dog treats, crafts and books), plus carols from the **Summerhall Singers**. Gluhwein and food available to purchase from four food vendors: **Children's Room** open to entertain the little ones. Christmas trees for sale in the courtyard (trees available all month). 11am-5pm, [Summerhall](#), 1 Summerhall. Entry £2 (payable on the door), under 18s free.

Filmhouse Film Quiz: the 'phenomenally successful (and rather tricky)' monthly quiz. Teams of up to 8 people must be seated in the Cafe Bar by 9pm, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Free to enter.

Blackwell's Edinburgh Teenage Book Group: the teen book group meets on the second Sunday of each month, to discuss anything from classics to contemporary, historical to dystopian – whatever you like. Currently reading **Belzhar** by **Meg Wolitzer**. 2-3pm, [Blackwell's](#), South Bridge. If you would like to join the group (it's free!), just email your details to schools.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk.



Image by Ham

Carols on the Steps: the '*Silent Night*' will be broken by the sound of '*Angels from the Realms of Glory*' as the local community join together for carols on the church steps. There will be an opportunity to warm up – physically and vocally! – in the church first, before heading out onto the steps; come along and enjoy carols and seasonal refreshments. 6.30pm (in the church), then 7-8pm on the steps, [Barclay Viewforth](#)

[Church](#), Wright's Houses, Bruntsfield.

Nature's Festive Wonders: create beautiful botanical-themed festive decorations using natural and recycled materials. For all ages. 12.30-3.30pm, Real Life Science Studio, John Hope Gateway, [Royal Botanic Garden](#), Inverleith Row. Free: no booking required.



Portobello Film Club Presents Kids Christmas Day At The Skylark: *The Snowman*, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, and Portobello-based charity **Orcadia's** own film *The Day We Saved Santa*, plus live music from **Keith McDougall** and his guitar! 2pm, [The Skylark](#), 241/243 Portobello High Street.

The Maths Behind *The Imitation Game*: *The Imitation Game* focuses on the life of **Alan Turing**, a famous British mathematician, logician, cryptanalyst, philosopher, computer scientist, mathematical biologist and marathon runner. In a panel discussion organised by the **University of Edinburgh**, experts in several fields will talk about **the legacy of Turing's work** and its importance in our lives today, with a chance for the audience to ask questions inspired by the film. 12 noon-1pm, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Free.

Seafield Christmas Memorial Service: conducted by the **Rev Bill Armitage**. All welcome: refreshments will be provided. 3pm, [Seafield Crematorium](#), Seafield Road.

Winter Guided Walk: join a garden guide for a leisurely afternoon walk around the Botanic 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, [Royal Botanic Garden](#), Inverleith Row. £5 per person, no advance booking required.



Zoo Arts Extra December Beach Day: forget about Christmas shopping – stock up on some real happiness! Bring your family and friends for an afternoon of sand, sea, sky, fire, food and art. For families: children under 9 should be accompanied by a responsible adult. There are limited places for unaccompanied children; please book early and sign a permission form if you wish your child to attend by him/herself. Meet at 12 noon at [North Edinburgh Arts](#), 15a Pennywell Road for a pleasant 25 minute walk to the beach, returning around 4pm. Free (donations welcome) – £1 deposit secures your place, snacks and drinks. Zoo Arts will provide snacks, hot drinks, extra waterproofs, fire, creative materials and activities. All welcome! For more information and to book, contact North Edinburgh Arts on 0131 332 2521.

Luke Fowler and Lee Patterson: Performance for Invented Acoustical Tools and Synthesis. To accompany, and respond to, **Tony Conrad's** current Acoustical Tools exhibition, artists Fowler and Patterson present a musical performance celebrating Conrad's use of invented instruments and its influence on a new generation of musicians. 7-9pm, Inverleith House, [Royal Botanic Garden](#), 20a Inverleith Row. Tickets cost £5 and can be booked via [eventbrite](#).

Santa in Linlithgow! He'll be at the Linlithgow Canal Basin this afternoon, with an age-appropriate **gift** for every child followed by a free **boat trip** for all the family. The tea room will be serving non-alcoholic hot punch, mince pies and cakes beside a log fire. 2-4pm, [Linlithgow Canal Basin](#). £5 per child. Also at same times on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st December 2014. The Linlithgow Union Canal Society is a charity set up to promote the use and restoration of the Union Canal; everything is run by volunteers – new members welcome!

10th Anniversary Great Edinburgh Family Fun Run and Walk – a family event where even the family pet is invited to come along and join in the festivities. Prizes for the Best Decorated Pushchair, Best Dog Dressed for Christmas, Best

Individual Fundraiser and Best Fundraising Company Team. If you would like to take part (Santa costumes are provided), the full instructions for registering, checking-in, footwear, sponsorship, etc can all be found on the dedicated website [here](#). 9-10.30am – registration, 10.30am, warm up with Donna Giffen, 11am – run starts, West Princes Street Gardens. Title sponsors: Scotmid Cooperative. All money raised will go to **When You Wish Upon A Star**, a charity granting special wishes for children living with life-threatening illnesses.



Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



Discussion on lowering the voting age

Scottish Labour

Christmas film

UN Year of Light

First Minister's auction raises money for charity

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon will tomorrow hold talks with Prime Minister David Cameron aimed at delivering new powers to the Scottish Parliament to give 16 and 17 year-olds the right to vote in Scottish Parliament elections.

The First Minister will be in London to attend a meeting of

the Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) before holding bilateral talks with the Prime Minister in Downing Street.

It is hoped that the one to one discussions with the Prime Minister will help secure agreement on transferring the necessary powers to ensure that 16 and 17 year-olds can vote in the May 2016 Holyrood election.

It follows the successful addition of the age group to the electoral roll for the independence referendum – and the extension of the franchise for parliamentary elections is now widely supported on a cross-party basis.

Commenting ahead of the talks with the Prime Minister, the First Minister said:

“Giving 16 and 17 year-olds the vote for the independence referendum is widely seen as having been a huge success, which added to the unprecedented democratic engagement of the campaign and the massive turnout.

“We want to make sure those same young adults now have the chance to vote in the next Scottish Parliament election, and have their say on how the country should be run.

“But to do that we need agreement from Westminster – and that’s why tomorrow’s talks with the Prime Minister are so important.

“I will make it clear to David Cameron that we need to see swift action to make sure the powers are transferred in time to allow 16 and 17 year-olds to have a vote in the next Holyrood election.

“Any delay by Westminster in taking forward the necessary steps could see them deprived of a vote – but I am very confident that will not happen and that myself and the Prime Minister will reach a deal.”

The First Minister added that the issue of votes for 16 and 17

year-olds was an important marker of Westminster's commitment on the delivery of powers to Scotland as recommended by the report of the Smith Commission.

She said:

"This issue is a key early test of Westminster's commitment to delivering the additional powers for Scotland proposed by the Smith Commission.

"While those powers are not nearly as extensive as we would have wished, we do welcome them and now need to see them delivered as quickly as possible.

"There can be no reason for delaying the transfer of powers given the wide cross-party support they carry. And if we are successful in agreeing quick delivery of votes for 16 and 17 year-olds in Holyrood elections, it will show how these things can be done swiftly and effectively."

The new Scottish Labour leader is Jim Murphy MP. Lothians MSP Kezia Dugdale has become Deputy Leader and presumably she will take First Minister's Questions on behalf of the Labour Party until Jim Murphy gets elected to Holyrood?

The other Edinburgh candidate Sarah Boyack was gracious in her defeat.

She warmly congratulated Jim Murphy as the New Scottish Labour Leader. She said outside the Emirates Arena:

"Jim has the hardest task of any of our past leaders in reshaping our party from its very core to be fit for purpose. Nicola Sturgeon must be stopped in her tracks in her attempt to wipe us out, because Scotland needs a strong Labour Party with its feet firmly on the ground to re-engage and build support with voters. Jim has my total support in doing that, and I will continue to serve the party 100%.

“I am obviously disappointed at not winning. As the contest progressed, I realised that my support would be squeezed. I have no regrets in standing however, and have enjoyed my part in creating a vibrant and constructive debate amongst members and setting out my vision for Scotland. My aim was to bring my experience and substantial policy ideas to the party.

“That is what I have done with my ‘100 ideas document’ and my wider contribution. The positive feedback I have had has been uplifting.”

Andrew Burns Campaign Manager said on behalf of her campaign team:

“We’ve been incredibly proud of the consistently positive and policy-led campaign that Sarah has undertaken. There is no question that she has raised the quality of the debate in this leadership process, and we look forward to Sarah continuing to play an important role in Scottish Labour Party policy implementation.

We’re extremely grateful to all those who encouraged Sarah to enter this contest, and to those who supported her throughout – it would undoubtedly have been a lesser process without her presence.”

There are some vacancies in the Scottish Labour team ahead of the General Election including a job here in Edinburgh. Read more [here](#).



To make it seem a little more like Christmas you could go to The Filmhouse today and luxuriate in watching It’s a Wonderful Life!

There will be two showings of the film today at 15:30 and 18:10. Booking details [here](#).

Go on why not? It's (almost) Christmas.

Next year is to be the UN Year of Light and the Royal Society of Edinburgh is holding a lecture in February to discuss the importance of light on our lives.

The United Nations has named 2015 as the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies. This event will mark the Scottish launch of the International Year by exploring how light is fundamental to the existence of life on earth, and the ways in which it plays an increasingly important role in shaping our society through medicine, communications, entertainment and culture. Through a range of presentations, displays and exhibitions, the event will demonstrate how light is used in science and industry; how it impacts on modern society; and how it influences art and technology.

Booking details [here](#).

The auction held yesterday by former First Minister Alex Salmond of the gifts he was given while First Minister of Scotland raised over £42,000 for children's charities. Read more [here](#).



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

Review – Aladdin at The King's Theatre



Year after year, a trio of talented actors holds the King's Theatre pantomime together. **Allan Stewart** as Widow Twankey, **Andy Gray** as Wishy Washy and **Grant Stott** as Abanazar the Wizard are the lifeblood of this show. *Aladdin* tells the story of Abanazar's attempts to steal the Magic Lamp while Aladdin tries to marry the Princess Jasmine against the wishes of her father, The Emperor of China. So far so normal, but with this trio you never quite know what to expect.

There's a tremendous sense of fun on stage and a feeling that the three main actors are truly comfortable with each other and the audience. The best scenes are the ones with only these three on stage – look out for the “one short-sleeved shirt short” sequence, and the “fur coat” scene. There are plenty of nods to Edinburgh and the jokes come thick and fast, ranging from the obvious to the more subtle:

“Get down off your high horse.”

“You don't get down off a horse, you get down off a duck!”

“It's dark and dank and smelly!”

“You didn't tell me we were going to Musselburgh!”

However, there are disadvantages to hinging the whole show on the camaraderie of Stewart, Gray and Stott, as the other actors on stage can appear at times to be slightly left out. The plot is thin at best. Many of the characters lack motivation for their actions: why does Jasmine love Aladdin, a boy she has just met? Who is the Slave of the Ring and why is she enslaved? The character of the Emperor feels surplus to

the plot, muddying the lines between baddy and goody. The addition of the ring as a get-out clause takes away from the importance of the Lamp. There's very little sense of peril and the final dénouement, a sword fight between Aladdin and Abanazar, lacks authority. **Greg Barrowman** and **Miriam Ewell-Sutton** are good value as Aladdin and Jasmine, but their storyline feels like an afterthought.



The sets are, however, spectacular. Credit must go to **Hugo Durrant** and **The Twins FX** for the huge cobra and genie puppets (the Genie being a poignant reminder of Robin Williams' creation, and credited simply "as himself"). Whilst the finale of Act 1 felt a bit skittish with its nod to Wicked (now showing at the Playhouse) Widow Twankey actually flew into the audience – flew! – on a remarkable magic carpet. A high moment for the show was the addition of the children of the **Edinburgh Dance Academy** with the Ensemble. The dancing in this show is certainly one of the strong points, and the children displayed talent, excellent discipline- in one scene they hold a pose for almost ten minutes – and genuine enthusiasm, which was delightful to see.



It's a frothy, fun night out and sure to entertain the kids. The sets, special effects, acting, dancing and jokes are impressive as always. Adults in the audience might find themselves slightly disappointed, especially if they've visited this panto in previous years, by the failure to deliver sufficient plot or emotional punch, but it's panto, and these three panto pros have been at it for some time.

Aladdin runs till 19 January 2015.

KICC Active Lothian expand in Edinburgh

Exciting opportunities for people with health conditions to take part in exercise classes

New classes will start in January and February in various parts of Edinburgh specially designed to enable people with health conditions to improve their health and wellbeing. As with all the KICC Active classes they will be taught by local specialist tutors with experience working with people with various health conditions.

A current KICC Active participant, Jennifer, told us of her experience attending one of the classes. She has been living with Rheumatoid Arthritis for over five years and even though she always knew exercise was good for her health, in the past when she had tried to join classes she gave up because they just weren't suitable for her, too high impact or painful or sometimes it was intimidating. "There was fear of being different, of not being able to do it." she said, but "when I heard about KICC Active classes I was eager to take part".

Jennifer has been attending a weekly KICC Active Pilates class for over four months and has found it has made a big difference to how she feels "overall my health is better, I have more energy and I feel more equipped to manage." Her strength and flexibility have improved and she tells us "I rarely miss a class because it's so important to how I feel."

People with conditions such as MS, Parkinson's, osteoporosis, COPD, anxiety, depression and many others, including those with reduced mobility and wheelchair users, already attend classes in Edinburgh and the Lothians.

Classes offered include yoga and Pilates, forms of exercise designed to restore balance in the body. Not only do they improve physical strength, flexibility and posture, practicing yoga or Pilates frequently also has a positive impact on mental well-being. They are gentle forms of exercise which can be done seated in a chair.

Pilates starts at the Portobello Community Centre on Adelphi Grove on January 28th and will be on every Wednesday, lead by Penny Johnstone, a nurse who has been teaching Pilates for over 4 years. Yoga starts in Newington at St Columba's Hall on Upper Gray Street on February 2nd and will be on Mondays at 1.30pm taught by Laura Wilson, a specialist yoga teacher. Don't worry if you miss the first class, everyone gets their first class for free so come along and give it a try.

To find out more about any of these classes please contact the KICC Active Lothian Co-ordinator Joanna on 07436102726 or email Joanna@kiccactive.org.uk

Submitted by [Joanna Cole-Hamilton](#)



Hearts Frozen Out at Central Park

Hearts SPFL Championship fixture at Cowdenbeath, due to be played on Saturday, was postponed due to parts of the Central Park pitch being frozen.

The game has been rescheduled for Tuesday 23 December with a

7.45 kick-off.

Someone at the offices of the SPFL clearly thought it would be a great idea to reschedule the fixture two days before Christmas. After all, fans will be able to attend as they'll be doing nothing else at that time...

Meanwhile, Hearts Head Coach Robbie Neilson has won November's SPFL Championship Manager of the Month award. This is the third time Robbie has lifted the award this season as table-topping Hearts remain nine points clear of Rangers.

Hibernian 2-0 Alloa Athletic



Goals from Danny Handling (pictured) and Dominique Malonga secured the three points as Hibs cruised past Alloa Athletic this afternoon at Easter Road.

Before the game Head Coach Alan Stubbs had demanded that his players shake off their 'hangover' following last week's defeat at Falkirk and they responded positively with a comfortable win.

On a bitterly cold day, Stubbs was able to recall two of his most experienced and influential players, skipper Liam Craig and Malonga for the visit of the Wasps.

A minute's applause was held before the game in tribute to former Hibs' wing half John Baxter who sadly passed away earlier in the week.

Hibs dominated from the first whistle with Alloa getting everyone behind the ball at every opportunity.

Hibs almost took the lead in the 20th minute when Malonga's strike was well saved by Craig McDowall in the Alloa goal, then Paul Hanlon went close before the Easter Road side eventually broke the deadlock when McDowall spilled Jason Cummings' shot and Handling was in the right place to slot the ball home to the delight of the home fans.

McDowall then did well to save at the feet of Scott Robertson just before half time.

Six minutes after the break, David Gray limped off and was replaced by Callum Booth with Lewis Stevenson moving to right back, Cummings had two great chances to increase the lead before Scott Allan almost scored direct from a corner kick.

The second goal eventually arrived in the 72nd minute when Malonga looped a Robertson pass over McDowall and into the net.

Matt Kennedy almost added a third shortly after coming on as a substitute and Liam Fontaine went close near the end as Hibs secured a vital three points to remain in fourth place.

Hibs: Oxley, Gray, Hanlon, Fontaine, Robertson, Craig, Stevenson, Handling, Allan, Malonga, Cummings. Subs: Perntreou, Booth, Stanton, Kennedy, Sinclair, Martin, Heffernan.

Alloa Athletic: McDowall, Doyle, Gordon, Benedictus, Meggatt, McCord, Simmons, Docherty, Hetherington, Spence, Ferns, Subs: Cawley, Holmes, Gibson, Marr, Forsyth, Wilson

Attendance 8031

Photo by John Preece

First Minister's memorabilia raises funds for charity



Gifts and memorabilia received by former First Minister Alex Salmond have raised more than £42,000 for charity in an auction this afternoon.

More than three hundred lots, donated by Mr Salmond, were auctioned by Anita Manning of Great Western Auctions in Glasgow in aid of St Jerome's orphanage, Clic Sargent, and the Scottish Youth Theatre.

Speaking after of the sale, Mr Salmond said:

"I am delighted that the sale of these items have raised an incredible £42,100 for children's charities and even more will be added to this total when further artworks are sold at the Fine Art Auction early next year.

"Over seven and half years as First Minister I was presented with many wonderful gifts – from novelty items, like soft toys or a Zulu spear, to high value items like artwork, Cartier cufflinks or rare stamps. These were gifts to me as Scotland's First Minister and so, on leaving office, I am delighted that their proceeds from this Christmas auction will now benefit three great Scottish charities.

"I was amazed that my saltire tie alone raised a staggering £1,600.

"Instead of packing these items away when we left Bute House, Moira and I were keen that other people be able to treasure them and raise money for charity in the process. There was

something for everyone here today, for every pocket, and I hope those people who have bought one of these mementos will cherish and enjoy them as much we did.

“I want to thank Anita Manning and her team at Great Western Auctions in Glasgow for the incredible job they have done, at no cost, in cataloguing and auctioning these lots.”

You can read what the lots were [here](#) on the auction house website.

Minute's applause in tribute to John Baxter



There will be a minute's applause ahead of Saturday's match against Alloa Athletic at Easter Road to enable supporters to celebrate the life of former wing half John Baxter who sadly passed away this week aged 78.

Signed from Benburb in 1955, Baxter made his first team debut against Aberdeen in September 1957 and was capped at Scotland under-23 level in 1958.

That year he played in the Scottish Cup Final against Clyde and also featured in the epic Fair's Cup quarter final triumph over Barcelona.

During his nine years at the club he recorded 307 appearances; scoring 32 goals before leaving to join Falkirk in June 1966. He later played for Clydebank before retiring from the game.

A statement on the club website reads: "Hibernian are saddened to learn that former player John Baxter has passed away.

"Everybody associated with the club would like to express our deepest condolences to his family and friends during this difficult time.

"A much loved member of the Hibernian family, he will be missed, but his memory marches on."

Bad Manners – A Special Brew



Purveyors of ska music know what to expect when Bad Manners come to town. The legendary masters of ska, led as always by the inimitable Buster Bloodvessel, headed to Edinburgh's Citrus Club on Friday night as they have done at this time in the calendar in recent years.

A Friday night two weeks before Christmas was always likely to have a frenzied atmosphere and the Citrus Club, by its very intimacy, added to the general gratitude of its patrons having escaped the office Christmas party for some skanking good ska music. And how the sell-out crowd lapped it up.

All the old favourites were belted out to a raucous crowd. *Sally Brown*, *Special Brew*, *Lorraine*, *Just a Feeling* and many others were delivered with Bad Manners' customary gusto as the alcohol flowed both on stage and off and a marvellous party atmosphere ensued.

When Buster and his merry men left the stage we all knew they would be back for their encore and their trademark *Lip Up Fatty* and the *Can-Can*. Bad Manners gigs always promise much

and they never disappoint.

A word too about local support act Big Fat Panda. This was the first time I had seen the band and I was mightily impressed. They are regulars on the Edinburgh ska circuit so if you get the chance to see them grab it with both hands.

Edinburgh Reporter Star Rating – 5 stars all the way!

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



The Nutcracker

Children's Library

Burns Brunch

Forth Bridge

Frozen reservoirs – a warning

The ballet starts today at the Festival Theatre. We have some photos [here](#). If you get along then do let us know what you think!

Edinburgh's oldest public library has reported a leap in visitor numbers following a refurbishment of its children's and music collections, says a report going to the City of Edinburgh Council's Culture and Sport Committee next week.

The new children's library, which was relocated from its old home on 9 George IV Bridge in May, has been transformed to feature a special 'under 5s' room with artwork by renowned children's illustrator Catherine Rayner. The space has recorded a 188 per cent increase in visitors (22,178 visits) with lending of children's books up by 45 per cent (10,543 loans) on the previous year.

The children's library now has a dedicated arts and crafts area and parent friendly access including nappy changing facilities. Since the refurbishment five months ago, 16 per cent more children and their carers have been attending events at the library (1,473 visits), including the library's popular new Lego club.

The report shows that the new music library is also proving a hit with visitors. Launched as a hub for musicians, students and fans alike, the dedicated space for engaging with music has seen a 36 per cent increase in lending (10,543) and a 26 per cent increase in visitors (11,442). The music library's new streaming service, from Naxos, provides access to a back catalogue of over one million classical and jazz tracks and has already received over 2,100 downloads.

The new facilities have been specially designed to be accessible to all, and for the first time in 40 years allow all of the Central Library facilities to be housed in the same building. The sustainable designs means that the installation of new lighting in some parts of the building saves the library 40 per cent in electricity bills without sacrificing light output compared to the previous lighting installation.

Councillor Richard Lewis said: "The new children's and music

collections have really transformed the Central Library and it is great that the new and enhanced facilities are being so well received by visitors.

“As someone who has worked as a musician and conductor, I’m excited that the music library space is being used more and more and I urge students and those keen to explore music in their own way to pay a visit to the library and experience the facilities.

“The refurbished library offers a unique space for relaxing, reading, and so much more and I think Edinburgh residents have been quick to recognise that.”



Network Rail has appointed Arup to take forward the design of a visitor centre and bridge walk for one of Scotland’s most recognisable landmarks, The Forth Bridge.

The six-figure contract, which will develop detailed designs for a North Queensferry based visitor centre and lift and a South Queensferry based facility for bridge walkers, will see build-ready designs delivered by the middle of next year prior to a submission being made to local authorities for planning consideration.

Arup, an international engineering and design consultancy with an office in South Queensferry, will be supported by two local firms. WT Architecture, a South Queensferry based firm which developed early design concepts, will provide architectural advice and local knowledge. The Paul Hogarth Company, a landscaping firm also based in South Queensferry, will help develop the hard and soft landscaping plans for both locations.

David Dickson, Route Managing Director, Network Rail said:

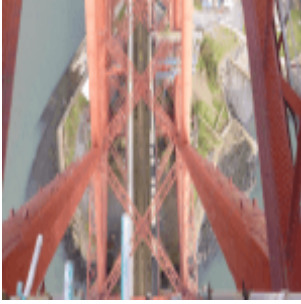
“This is a significant investment in our vision for a groundbreaking new tourist attraction for Scotland. It demonstrates our commitment to further developing our visitor proposals during the Forth Bridge’s 125th anniversary year.

“The quality of submissions we received from our procurement process were of an exceptionally high standard, as you would expect with a landmark of such importance and prominence. Arup’s bid stood out for a number of reasons, not least due to the involvement of local firms which will help form a strong core for the design team.”

John Campbell, Arup’s Rail Business Leader in Scotland said:

“Arup are delighted to be awarded this prestigious contract and look forward to collaborating with Network Rail to successfully deliver a scheme in keeping with this iconic engineering structure.”

The contract will include designs for North Queensferry where proposals envisage visitors arriving via a landscaped shore side walk to a unique visitor centre building created under the northern Fife Tower. The visitor centre will offer education and exhibition facilities alongside catering, Forth Bridge themed retail and function options. The centre will be connected by a step-free ramp to two panoramic elevators on the eastern side of the bridge. The elevators will provide access to a viewing platform located dramatically at the top of the bridge, 110m above sea level.



The South Queensferry design brief envisages a visitor reception centre from which guided bridge walks for groups of up to 15 people begin. The walking route will pass along the south approach viaduct on a pre-existing walkway underneath the track, followed by a climb to the top of the southern Queensferry Tower using a walkway within the top cantilever.

Design services will include safety and security features, transport solutions and pedestrian access improvements. A separate element of work is being progressed at present to develop options for traffic management for both facilities.

Mike Cantlay, Chairman of VisitScotland, said:

“Next year, we will celebrate the 125th birthday of the Forth Bridge – a Scottish icon that is recognised around the globe. A new visitor centre, which would give people a unique opportunity to get up close to this stunning landmark, would be an exciting addition to this country’s wonderful array of world-class visitor attractions and has the potential to be a huge boost for tourism.”

Network Rail has also begun the process of seeking a partner

organisation to help manage and operate the Forth Bridge Experience on its behalf. A Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) has been posted on the project website for interested parties: www.forthbridgeexperience.com

The cold weather introduces some danger and the council would like to warn those of you who are out and about to be careful especially near water. This is the advice they give:

Emergency Action (as recommended by the Royal Life Saving Society UK)

NEVER VENTURE ONTO FROZEN RESERVOIRS, NO MATTER HOW SAFE IT LOOKS

If you see someone fall through the ice

Shout for assistance and call the emergency services using 999.

Do not walk or crawl onto the ice to attempt a rescue.

Shout to the casualty to keep still.

Try and reach them from the bank using a rope, pole, tree branch, clothing tied together or anything else, which extends your reach.

When reaching from the bank lie down to avoid being pulled onto the ice.

If you can reach them slide something that floats, like a rescue buoy.

If the casualty is too far away, do not attempt to rescue them. Wait for the emergency services while calming and reassuring them.

After the casualty has been removed from the ice:

Make sure the ambulance is on its way.

Lay them flat, check breathing and pulse and begin resuscitation if necessary.

Prevent them from getting colder by putting them in a sleeping bag or covering them including their head, with blankets or spare clothing.

Get them under shelter out of the cold.

Do not remove any clothing until the casualty is in a warm place.

Do not rub their skin, apply hot water or give an alcoholic drink.

Keep them wrapped up so that they warm up gradually.

If you fall through the ice:

Keep calm and call for help.

If no help is available spread your arms across the surface of the ice.

If the ice is strong enough kick your legs and slide onto the ice.

Lie flat and pull yourself to the shore.

If the ice is very thin, break it in front of you and make your way to the shore.

If you cannot climb out, wait for help keeping as still as possible.

Once you are safe, go to hospital immediately for a check up.

Saturday in Edinburgh – What's On Today

Can't Dance Cameron: Emily Dodd introduces her new book, the tale (or tail?) of a capercaillie bird who doesn't think he can dance. Emily is a former Reader-In-Residence at the library. For ages 4-7. 1-2pm, [Leith Library](#), 28-30 Ferry Road. For more information and to book your place, call the library on 0131 529 5517 or email leith.library@edinburgh.gov.uk.

Santa arrives in Linlithgow! He'll be at the Linlithgow Canal Basin this afternoon, with an age-appropriate **gift** for every child followed by a free **boat trip** for all the family. The tea room will be serving non-alcoholic hot punch, mince pies and cakes beside a log fire. 2-4pm, [Linlithgow Canal Basin](#). £5 per child. Also at same times on Sunday 14th, Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st December 2014. The Linlithgow Union Canal Society is a charity set up to promote the use and restoration of the Union Canal; everything is run by volunteers – new members welcome!



Edinburgh Printmakers: Making Do – Upcycling Workshop. Explore the theme of 'making do' through story and art with upcycled materials. Storyteller and artist **Owen Pilgrim** uses stories and myth to see how themes are relevant to us today, to observe how we live and how tradition creates culture; he helps children to connect to the natural environment through story and nature-based activities. For ages 7+. 1.30-4pm, [Edinburgh Printmakers](#), 23 Union Street. Tickets cost £5 per person and can be booked via [eventbrite](#) or by calling 0131 557 2479.

Saint Lucia Swedish Carol Singing: a celebration of St Lucia guaranteed to get you into the Christmas spirit. 7pm – [Sofi's Bar](#), 65 Henderson Street, 7.30pm – [Boda's Bar](#), 229 Leith Walk, 8pm – [Victoria](#), 265 Leith Walk, 8.30pm – [Joseph Pearce's](#), 23 Elm Row, 9pm – [Hemma](#), 75 Holyrood Road.



Out of the Blue Christmas Market with Bruncheon: lots of stalls with everything from jewellery and art to willow baskets, jam, furniture, lamps, knitwear, textiles and vintage, plus live music from the Drill Hall's monthly Bruncheon event – performances from local musicians will provide the perfect accompaniment to your festive shopping. 11am-5pm, [Out of the Blue Drill Hall](#), 36 Dalmeny Street. £1 entry.

Music Among The Trees: talented pianist **Drew Crichton** entertains visitors to the **Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival**. All welcome, come and go as you please. 12 noon-1pm, The Sanctuary, [St Andrew's and St George's West Church](#), 13 George Street. Free.



All Together Now? A Disability History Month Scotland event. The launch of a **locally made animation**, using the words of impaired people today to describe the changes in society and the emergence of rights for disabled people from the beginning of World War One, plus two more short, grassroots, social commentary films from **ELREC** and **Camcord Guerillas**. The screenings will be followed by a Q & A session to discuss the making of the animation with **Muckle Hen**, history and activism in Scotland today. 1pm, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Free tickets can be obtained from Disability History Scotland at admin@disabilityhistoryscotland.org. Funded by HLF.

Music Among The Trees: Recorder Group. A group of talented

recorder players brings harmony and variety to entertain visitors to the **Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival**. All welcome, come and go as you please. 2-3pm, The Sanctuary, [St Andrew's and St George's West Church](#), 13 George Street. Free.



Cowgate Pop-Up Market: Cowgate's venues open their doors for a new event quite unlike their usual offerings, bringing together Edinburgh's creative community and showcasing places that you may not otherwise think to visit. **Arts and crafts, clothing, vintage, music and food market**. 1-5pm, various venues including The Bongo Club and Sneaky Pete's, Cowgate – for more information see event's [Facebook page](#).

Limited Edition: a showcase of **Edinburgh College of Art 3rd Year Jewellery Students'** work. 10am-5pm, Learning Centre, Level 2, [National Museum of Scotland](#). Also open at same times on Sunday 14th December 2014.



Sofi's Singles Night: a festive special with Lucia Singers! 8pm, [Sofi's Bar](#), 65 Henderson Street

Institut Francais/French Institute Open House: explore the Institute's activities, discover all the **brand new courses** on offer for winter, meet the teachers and attend a mini-course to give you a taster for next term. Children can enjoy a free French session with **tales, songs and games** while parents treat themselves with a **cafe and croissant**. The Institut Francais encourages cross-cultural exchange and offers **French courses, talks, live music and theatre performances, film screenings, library collections, children's activities and festivals**. 10am-3pm, [Institut Francais d'Ecosse](#), 13 Randolph Crescent.

Nature's Festive Wonders: create beautiful botanical-themed

festive decorations using natural and recycled materials. For all ages. 12.30-3.30pm, Real Life Science Studio, John Hope Gateway, [Royal Botanic Garden](#), Inverleith Row. Free: no booking required. Also at same times on Sunday 14th December 2014.



Penicuik Community Arts Hootenanny: Christmas Party with **Penicuik Folk Club**. Programme for children and the young at heart begins at 6pm with Ramona; adult party from 7.30pm, with musical turns, poetry readings and jokes, all from the floor. Children are welcome to stay on and join in with the adults. A light supper and mulled wine will be provided. 6-10.30pm, [Penicuik Community Arts](#), 2-4 West Street, Penicuik. Free and unticketed – ‘a warm welcome to all the family throughout the night’.

GENERATION Tours at Modern One: free, discussion-led tours of the 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 Story Kist: Inclusive Storytelling. Cosy, snowy winter tales with storytellers **Ailie Findlay** and **Marie Louise Cochrane**. Woolly socks and woolly puppets...come and enjoy some multi-sensory stories with props and games and lots of joining in. Plenty of fun for everyone, but especially for children with additional needs, their families, friends and carers. 11am, [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#), 43-45 High Street. Tickets cost £5 per child and can be booked online [here](#) or by calling the box office on 0131 556 9579. Please remember to book a free adult ticket too.

Deck The Halls! If you are stumped for gift ideas, let NGS inspire you – and make your own unique festive decorations

under the giant Christmas tree! 2-4pm, [Scottish National Portrait Gallery](#), 1 Queen Street. Free: drop-in.



St Mary's Music School: a young string quintet of musicians from the school, who have for the last year been working together as a chamber group, will perform one of the greatest works of all chamber music, **Franz Schubert's *String Quintet in C Minor***. 12 noon-1pm, [Scottish National Portrait Gallery](#), 1 Queen Street. Free.



Culture Shock Christmas! Seasonal films from the Cameo – today ***The Nightmare Before Christmas (PG)*** The King of Halloween Town discovers the delights of Christmas, but his ghoulish subjects can't quite get the holiday right. 'A magical non-stop animation' based on a Tim Burton story. 2.45pm, [Cameo](#), 38 Home Street, Tolcross. Book online [here](#) or call box office on 0871 902 5723.

Winter Guided Walk: join a garden guide for a leisurely afternoon walk around the Botanic 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, [Royal Botanic Garden](#), Inverleith Row. £5 per person, no advance booking required. Also at same time on Sunday 14th December 2014.

NMS Christmas Crafternoon 2: come and make a lovely Christmas decoration inspired by the National Museum's collections. 12 noon-4pm (drop-in), [National Museum of Scotland](#), Chambers Street. Free. Also at same times on Sunday 14th December 2014.



Scottish Society of Artists Winter Social. Get Christmassy, get creative – take a break from the Christmas shopping and

join the SSA, friends and families for a festive celebration of the **117th annual show**. All ages are invited to participate in a **range of activities** devised and delivered by featured artists and collaborators, exploring aspects of the exhibition, artwork and themes with a seasonal slant. Create beautiful **paper chains** and deck the halls with Christmas **garlands**. **Music, poetry, pop-up tours, interventions and more**. 12 noon-4pm, Royal Scottish Academy, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound.



LGBT Winter Concert: an annual festive favourite, celebrating local LGBT talent and community spirit. Live music, spoken word and poetry from **Edinburgh Gay Men's Chorus, Loud and Proud Choir (tbc)** and **Shaz, Jules and Pawel**, with a special performance from **Jo Clifford** and other **guests**. A family friendly event with seasonal treats for all – toast the old and new years! 3-5pm, [St Mark's Unitarian Church](#), 7 Castle Terrace (venue is wheelchair accessible). £5/£2.50 (unwaged): **booking essential** – and book **early** as this is a popular event and seating is limited – online [here](#) or by contacting Jules on 0131 523 1100 or jules@lgbthealth.org.uk.



A Very Scottish Christmas (PG): professional Christmas researcher **Dr Clause** needs help to understand Christmas customs in Scotland. She's found some films that demonstrate a number of interesting activities – can you help her investigate the Christmas traditions and write a letter for her to take back to S.A.N.T.A? A fun family event created by the **Scottish Screen Archive** and theatre-maker **Geraldine Heaney**. For ages 7+. Bring your favourite toy to this special, Christmas-themed event, which will include colour and black and white film footage from the 1930s to the 1960s. 1.30-2.35pm, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. £3.50 per person: book via [website](#) or call box office on 0131 228 2688.

Scots Music Group Ceilidh with the Robert Fish Band: 7.30pm-midnight, [St Bride's Centre](#), 10 Orwell Terrace. Licensed bar – no BYOB; water available at no charge. Tickets £10/£8 on the door or £8/£6 in advance, either from the St Bride's Centre on 0131 346 1405 (or in person) or direct from the [Scots Music Group](#) on 0131 555 7668.

Boda's Christmas Craft Fair: a chance to view some excellent local crafts and a great opportunity to purchase some unique Christmas presents. Mulled wine and cider available throughout the day. 1-4pm, [Boda's Bar](#), 229 Leith Walk. Free entry.



Man pleads guilty to indecent assaults in Livingston



A man who indecently assaulted two women in Livingston in April and May this year, has pled guilty.

Mariusz Cieslar (26) today pled guilty to assault with intent to rape at the High Court in Glasgow. He was remanded in custody and will be sentenced in January.

Cieslar attacked a 21 year old woman in her garden in the early hours of 8th April, and then indecently assaulted a 27-year-old woman in her bedroom in the early hours on 7th May. A major police investigation was launched into the two incidents and extensive enquiry was carried out by police in West Lothian. Officers released an e-fit of the suspect and an image of distinctive Adidas Adipure trainers which were

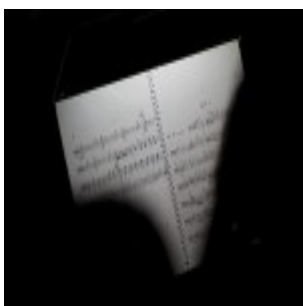
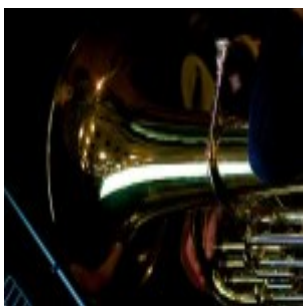
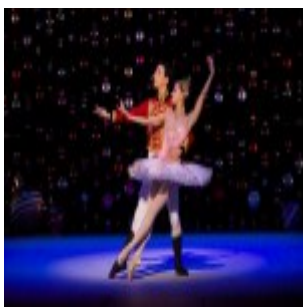
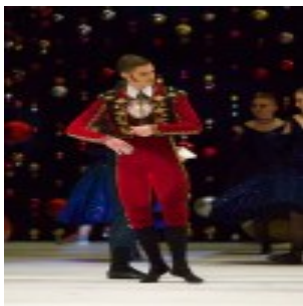
believed to be linked to one of the scenes. Mariusz Cieslar was identified as a suspect and apprehended when he returned from abroad.

Detective Superintendent Pat Campbell said: "These two assaults were extremely distressing for the two women involved but I would like to commend them for their bravery in coming forward. I would also like to thank the public and the media for their help following our appeals. It was this information that greatly assisted us in bringing Mariusz Cieslar to justice."

Scottish Ballet bring The Nutcracker to Edinburgh this Christmas – and we have photos!



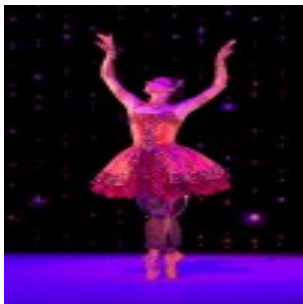
Lovingly recreated for audiences across Scotland and beyond, this Christmas Scottish Ballet proudly presents Peter Darrell's *The Nutcracker*. We were invited along to see what the cast were up to at their dress rehearsal this afternoon and we would describe it as colourful, extravagant and energetic!

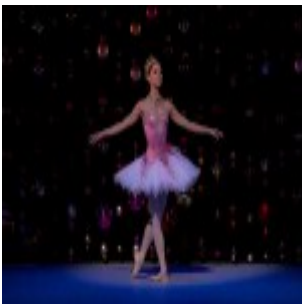


Sophie Martin as the Sugar Plum Fairy and Erik Cavallari as

The Nutcracker Prince head up a stellar cast. This afternoon they were rehearsing Act Two The Realm of the Sugar Plum Fairy. If you go along to the ballet this Christmas then do tell us what you think about the production!

Crafted for Scotland by the company's founding Artistic Director, a famous story-teller and an incredible dance-maker, this Nutcracker is full of magical memories. Audiences can now, once again, share this dream-making production with families and friends, over forty years since it first premiered.



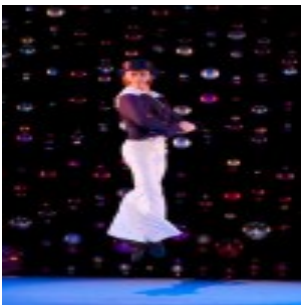




After a fun-filled Christmas party full of magic and celebrations, young Clara falls asleep and dreams that she helps the Nutcracker Prince to defeat an army of giant mice. She is rewarded by a visit to the glittering Land of Ice and Snow, where snowflakes come to life, sparkling as they dance – and the magical Kingdom of Sweets – the enchanted Realm of the beautiful Sugar Plum Fairy.

“I’d known about Darrell’s production of *The Nutcracker* when I was a child. The images of the hanging baubles in Act Two was in just about every dance book there was,” explains Scottish Ballet’s Artistic Director Christopher Hampson on his choice to reintroduce Darrell’s *Nutcracker* to audiences.

“A Nutcracker production, for most ballet companies, is a very important part of the repertoire. It is normally the most performed work and needs to be something that will last for generations. Peter’s production had done that, but it needed to be rested so that it could be rediscovered again and brought back with a fresh perspective. It’s no accident that I’ve chosen a Darrell work to put at the very heart of our repertoire.”





Peter Darrell's magical world of *The Nutcracker* has been re-

imagined for today's audiences by Olivier Award winning designer Lez Brotherston, adding sumptuous layers of plush Victoriana and traditional festive fare to the original 1973 production.

"This production will be as close to Peter's original as possible – the point of bringing the production back is to see his beautiful, intricate choreography," adds Hampson. "In terms of design, I asked Lez to take inspiration from the original designs, so although they are different there will still be a sense of the original production.

"The essence of this being a family production is the key element – and we've looked to gently incorporate some new ideas for a new audience. We've been working closely with the Peter Darrell Trust to ensure that our new production has the Peter's intentions at its heart."

"The brief of the piece was unusual in that it existed before. It's Peter's production and it still feels like that – as it should do," says Designer Lez Brotherston.

"Peter's original designer was Philip Prowse and that feels quite meaningful to me personally. Philip's work was of great inspiration to me when I was at art school – he tutored me on my final-year designs and his influences have stayed with me.

"It's still in set in the 1870s and has that sumptuous rich Victoriana feeling – and there are bustles and tutus of course, but some of the costumes have been adapted to better show off the dancers' line and the choreography.

"Those who have seen the production before will remember Darrell's famous Land of Sweeties – that's still there although my sweeties are slightly different, and there's a version of the Land of Snow too. My interpretation of the house is also a little different and maybe there'll be something special about the toys that the children receive as Christmas presents – you'll have to come along to see."

Darrell's enchanting production has claimed a special place in the hearts of audiences across Scotland for generations. It sparked the ballet careers of many young dancers who performed the roles of Clara and her brothers – including Scottish Ballet Principal Dancer Christopher Harrison who has seen his own dream come true and will be this time performing the star role of The Prince some twenty years later.

Once again Scottish Ballet will welcome a very special cast of young, local dancers to the ranks of the company's professionals for this inspiring production in which Clara, the littlest ballerina, is the one that visits the many magical worlds and saves the brave Nutcracker Prince.

Budding ballerinas and Nutcracker soldiers can also get involved in a range of fun Wee Nutcracker dance workshops in Glasgow and Edinburgh; download our special Kids packs full of fun activities to try at home or find out how Scottish Ballet's magical world of *The Nutcracker* is brought to life at Family Insights across the tour. Audio Described performances are also available, alongside free pre and post show talks where audiences can meet the dancers too – adults can also indulge in some sugar-plum themed baked goods and dance sessions with Scottish Ballet's favourite tea-time treat, Ballet Cafe. Please see listings for more details.

The Scottish Ballet Orchestra will also accompany the dancers live, performing the world famous Tchaikovsky score.

SCOTTISH BALLET presents

Peter Darrell's

THE NUTCRACKER

Festival Theatre, Edinburgh

Saturday 13 December 2014 – Saturday 3 January 2015

[Ticket details here](#)

Photos by Martin McAdam



84 year-old woman robbed in Kirkgate



Police are appealing for information after an elderly woman was robbed around 9.30am this morning when an 84 year old woman was walking in the Kirkgate towards the steps at the rear of Linksvie House. She was approached from behind by two men, one of whom grabbed her purple Radley handbag, causing the victim to fall to the ground. The suspects ran up the steps towards Linksvie House and were lost to sight.

Both men are described as white, early 20s, between 5ft 6in and 5ft 8 in tall. One man was wearing a grey hoodie while the other was wearing a charcoal hoodie.

Police are now appealing for anyone with information to contact police on 101.

Detective Sergeant Lynsey Thomson said: "This was a despicable robbery which resulted in the elderly victim falling to the ground. Thankfully she wasn't injured but her handbag was stolen which contained a number of personal items.

"We are appealing for anyone who was in the Kirkgate this morning around 9.30am and who may have seen the two suspects or witnessed this robbery, to get in touch with Police Scotland on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

Transport for Edinburgh ends year on a high



Bus passengers up from 115.4 million to 118.4 million

Tram passenger number estimated to hit 3 million by end of year

Six million more public transport passenger journeys with Transport for Edinburgh

Transport for Edinburgh says that passengers have flocked in their millions to use buses and trams since the launch of the integrated transport group, Transport for Edinburgh, one year ago.

The group reports that bus patronage is three million up on 2013 and the new Edinburgh Trams service has already attracted nearly three million passengers. This means six million additional passenger journeys over 2013.



Transport for Edinburgh Chief Executive Ian Craig said:

“The first year of Transport for Edinburgh has been quite remarkable. We’re seeing fantastic results which are the sum of all the efforts put in from right at the outset by people at Edinburgh Trams, Lothian Buses, the City of Edinburgh Council and by all of our partners.

“We’ve had to invest and be bold to get here but I make no apology for leading that – we’re in new territory. Establishing a new company and brand isn’t easy but our investment is paying off and what we’re seeing as a result is six million more people using public transport in 2014 over 2013.

“This is a huge shift which is of great benefit to Edinburgh’s environment and its economy. Transport for Edinburgh is the future and it benefits from the very best with Lothian Buses and Edinburgh Trams. I’m delighted to be leading it.”

Edinburgh Trams successfully tested and launched in partnership with The City of Edinburgh Council and contractors. The service, led by Director and General Manager Tom Norris, is currently running ahead of forecast patronage with operational reliability very strong for a new service.

The Lothian Buses network has been successfully recast to accommodate and integrate with tram leading to significant passenger growth.

Other Group innovations included the launch of CitySmart, the integration of tram to the Ridacard system, the successful roll out of the TFE app, free wifi across the services and hugely successful campaigns to promote Day, Day/Night & Family range. This was delivered with a ticket price freeze across virtually all services.

In terms of vehicles, £15m was invested in 65 new low emission and ultra-low emission buses that will significantly impact on improving the City’s air quality and lower carbon emissions. These vehicles are specifically targeted at high pollution zones.

Police release CCTV images following serious assault in Easter Road



Police have released images of a man who they believe may be able to assist with enquiries into a serious assault at a pub on Easter Road in April.

The incident occurred at around 11.30pm on Thursday 24 April 2014 at The Mash Tun public house in Easter Road, Edinburgh.

Police officers are keen to speak to the man in the image as they believe he may be able to assist with their enquiries.

He is described as being white, Scottish, around 6ft 3, heavy/muscular build, short shaved dark hair, clean shaven and at the time he was wearing a dark grey zip up hooded top and dark workman style bottoms. Police believe that he may be known as "Ross" or "Bambi."

Detective Sergeant Lynsey Thomson said: Anyone with information or anyone who recognises the man in image is asked to contact police officers on 101, or if you prefer to remain anonymous you can direct your call to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Further appeal for missing woman from Stirling



Police in Forth Valley Division have brought in specialist support in their effort to trace a 49-year-old woman who has been missing from her home in Stirling for more than a fortnight.

Christine Henley was last seen by her family around 4pm on the afternoon of Wednesday, November 26, 2014, and has not been in contact with them since, which her family believe is out of character. On occasions Christine would not be in touch for a few days but never for this length of time.

The police investigation has continued and everyone involved in the enquiry is particularly concerned for her welfare and well-being as she has not accessed any money, nor used her mobile phone in the last fortnight. Christine has not been in contact with any friends or relatives either and this is entirely out of character.

Detective Chief Inspector Jim Smith, of Police Scotland's Forth Valley Criminal Investigation Department, has taken over management of the investigation, working alongside the Local Area Commander. The investigation is still being considered a missing person enquiry.

He said: "At this time, we have no evidence that Christine has come to any harm, however we are now very concerned for her. We have brought in specialist resources to assist with the investigation and searches. Our priority at this time is to trace Christine and establish her wellbeing. Christine has friends and family in the Stirling and Alness area, and I would appeal to anyone from these areas, who have any information, no matter how small or insignificant, to share

that with my officers “

When Christine was last seen, she was wearing a navy blue jacket, black leggings and long black boots. She is described as white, 5ft 6” tall with shoulder length blonde hair.

Anyone who has seen her in the last two weeks, or knows where she is, is asked to call Police Scotland on 101 or can provide the information anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.