

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.

Police online safety warning



Police are urging members of the public to stay safe online after a number of recent reports of people being extorted for money on social media.

Over the last month Police Scotland has received reports from members of the public who have communicated with unsolicited individuals on social media platforms. These communications have then encouraged the victim to compromise themselves, leading to demands for money.

Detective Inspector Alan O’Brien said: “In the incidents that we are aware of, the victims were all young men who frequently use social media and who were contacted by someone they were led to believe was genuine to undertake sexually explicit acts.

“I would urge everyone to exercise caution whenever they engage in conversation with someone online who they do not personally know.

“Never give out any personal information or send out anything that may leave you in a vulnerable position.

“Anyone who has had a similar approach online or wishes to report falling

victim to this scam is asked to contact police immediately.”

Those with information can contact Police Scotland on 101 or alternatively, the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Could Edinburgh strike a City Deal?



Edinburgh could benefit from large pots of UK and Scottish Government investment of almost £1bn if the council give the go ahead next week to spend £25,000 on an investigation into how it would work and what it might mean.

City Deals are ways of empowering cities and their regions to deliver better economic growth by putting more resources and financial freedoms into the hands of local leaders. This is what Economy Convener Councillor Frank Ross dreams of for the capital, and he explained it may reach beyond the city boundary.

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

There has already been some work carried out by all the city leaders in Scotland to consider how the City Deal model delivers longer term investment to ensure the city economy across the country

Stubbs determined to avoid Falkirk 'hangover'



Hibs' Head Coach Alan Stubbs is determined that his players won't suffer a 'hangover' following last week's defeat to Falkirk which ended the club's unbeaten run.

Hibs face Alloa Athletic at Easter Road on Saturday and both absentees Liam Craig and Dominique Malonga are available for selection after missing the Falkirk game due to injury and suspension.

Speaking to Hibs TV, Stubbs said: "The reaction from the squad has been really good.

"I wanted to see disappointment on the players' faces after Saturday because it shows that they care. I think it's important to see at times.

"But on Monday morning we spoke about the game and then we moved on.

"I don't want them to dwell on it and I don't want there to be a hangover. Yes, we know that we dropped below the standards that we'd set ourselves in previous weeks and months.

"But we've got a chance on Saturday to address that and a chance to start another run.

"We managed to get through the bulk of our training before the snow actually hit us.

"We were quite fortunate that it came before training and then came towards the latter stages of the session, so we finished it off in the barn on the indoor astro.

“It is what it is – you have to get on with it, but the good thing is that we managed to train properly.”

Liam Craig available for Alloa fixture



Hibs skipper Liam Craig is back in full squad training and available to return to the team for Saturday's Scottish Championship match against Alloa at Easter Road.

Craig was taken off during the Scottish Cup fourth round tie win away to Alloa Athletic with a slight hamstring strain which forced him to miss last weekend's Scottish Championship defeat at Falkirk.

Speaking to hibernianfc.co.uk, Craig said: “I've been back training and I'm available for selection again – hopefully we can get back to winning ways on Saturday.

“Saturday's game at Falkirk was the first one that I've missed through injury for four-and-a-half years, so that was disappointing and the result was equally disappointing.

“But we know what we need to do against Alloa on Saturday – we need to react positively and win.

“I'm looking forward to the game and I feel good after training on Monday and Tuesday.”

Photo by John Preece

Double signing for Hibs' Ladies



Hibernian Ladies have signed Scotland players Chloe Arthur and Heather Richards from Celtic.

Chloe told the club website: She said: "I needed a new challenge and I felt that Hibs were the team to motivate and develop me.

"There were offers from other clubs but I never spoke to any of them; I knew from the moment I spoke to Chris that I wanted to come to Hibs.

"The club knows what it takes to be successful and I felt coming here, knowing so many of the girls from the national set-up, that it was the right environment for me to push on.

"I needed to get out of my comfort zone because I had been with Celtic for six years, which made it a hard decision to leave the club

"It's a real bonus that Heather is joining Hibs at the same time because we are really good friends and know each other so well."

Heather, who has played for Clyde, Motherwell, Rangers and Celtic told the club website: "I'm delighted to have signed for Hibs and I feel it is the right move for me at this point in my career.

"Like Chloe, I had offers from other clubs and it was a hard decision, but I know I've made the right choice to come here.

“This is a big year for me and the club. We want to put real pressure on City this season and challenge for the league and cup competitions.

“Having been in a few of the national training camps, I want to push on again and get more game time in the Scotland A squad.”

Manager Chris Roberts told the club website: “We are delighted to welcome Chloe and Heather to Hibernian Ladies.

“I’ve enjoyed watching their progress over recent years and look forward to working with them. Their talent will add to what is a very exciting group of players at the club.

“It’s testament to the club that we are able to attract players of Chloe and Heather’s quality.

“We also hope to help both players achieve a regular place in the Scotland National Team.”

Class A drugs recovered in Gorgie



Three people have been arrested and charged after police in Edinburgh recovered Class A drugs in the west of the city.

Officers carried out a search of an address in Gorgie Road yesterday (Thursday) and seized around 600 grams of cocaine from within along with various other items that linked the occupants to serious and organised crime.

A subsequent search of another property in Gorgie Road resulted in £1,150 in cash and items associated with drug distribution being recovered from within.

Two men aged 40 and 28 and a 31-year-old woman are all scheduled to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court today (Friday).

The total value of the cocaine seized during this activity is around £29,000.

Detective Sergeant Gary Reid said: "Once again, vital intelligence from the public has allowed police to seize large quantities of cocaine before it could be distributed within the community.

"We are committed to identifying those involved in serious and organised crime and associated offences such as the distribution of drugs and bringing them to justice.

"Anyone with information relating to ongoing criminal activity in their local area can contact Police Scotland on 101 or make an anonymous report through the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

Fatal collision in Broxburn



Police in West Lothian are appealing for witnesses following a fatal collision in Broxburn which happened around 11.10pm yesterday in West Mains Street.

A 32-year-old male pedestrian was involved in a collision with a Peugeot E7 S taxi and sustained serious injuries. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Road Policing Officers are now urging anyone who can assist with their ongoing enquiry to come forward.

Sergeant Gary Taylor said: "At this time, we are trying to establish exactly what has happened to result in this fatal collision and we are keen to hear from any motorists or members of the public who were in the area at the time.

"Officers are also trying to establish the man's movements prior to this incident and anyone who believes they have information relevant to our investigation is asked to contact police immediately."

Those with information can contact Police Scotland on 101.

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



Edinburgh Trams

Comedy Club

Christmas Sweaters

Jawbone Arch

Ice Hockey Competition

The news about trams yesterday was twofold. First of all the council approved a spend of up to £400,000 for a report on whether the tramline should now be extended.

Secondly it became apparent that the Tram enquiry into what

happened at the beginning of the tram project was almost put off the rails by potential witnesses being difficult. Lord Hardie who is in charge of the enquiry explained that some key figures just refused to give evidence to him.

The enquiry has now changed as it has been deemed a statutory enquiry and anyone who does not cooperate could be compelled to give evidence.

There is now a [website](#) where you can follow the proceedings as they unfold.

In January the multi-award winning Irish comedian, Dylan Moran, will headline the inaugural Gilded Balloon Comedy at The Studio at the Festival Theatre, a new monthly comedy club for Edinburgh.

Thirty years after first opening its doors to present the best Scottish, UK and international comedy talent to the people of Scotland, The Gilded Balloon announced this week that it is bringing a brand new monthly comedy club to The Studio at the Festival Theatre, Edinburgh, from Saturday 10 January 2015.

The Gilded Balloon Comedy at The Studio at the Festival Theatre will be staged in the intimate and welcoming studio space once a month and kicks off with headline act Dylan Moran – “Jokes as sharp as barbed wire and a comedy brain quicker than a steel trap” (The Scotsman). Lucky Edinburgh comedy fans can expect both buzz and hilarity in equal measure as Dylan Moran test-drives the new material he has earmarked for his forthcoming 53-date UK tour, scheduled for theatres throughout the country from March to May 2015.

Joining Moran on the bill for the first night are the supremely funny and truly loveable Edinburgh based Geordie, Kai Humphries, and the 2013 Scottish Comedian of the Year, Larry Dean. The evening will be compered by one of the most

trusted comperes and respected headliners on the Scottish circuit, Raymond Mearns.

Karen Koren, Artistic Director of The Gilded Balloon, said: "The Gilded Balloon is delighted to be staging a regular monthly comedy club in The Studio at The Festival Theatre. It is an exciting, intimate and flexible space, perfectly suited to stand up. We're looking forward to a long association with The Festival Theatre and bringing regular comedy to The Studio's annual programme."

Curated by Karen Koren, Artistic Director of The Gilded Balloon, this new monthly club features a line-up of popular Scottish, UK and international comedic talent including Aisling Bea, Paul Tonkinson, Justin Moorhouse and Jarred Christmas.

The three act shows will run from 20:00 – 22:00 (doors open 19:30) on the first Saturday of the month (from February 2015). The shows will be expertly hosted by some talented comperes including Katie Mulgrew, Ray Bradshaw, Raymond Mearns and Scott Agnew.

Duncan Hendry, Chief Executive at the Festival and King's Theatres, said: "We're looking forward to working with Karen and the Gilded Balloon on this exciting new venture. The Studio is a perfect venue for comedy gigs and we're sure the public will love the opportunity to discover a new space for comedy in the city."

Tickets (from £10.50) for Gilded Balloon Comedy at The Studio at The Festival Theatre are on sale from 10am on Friday 5 December through Festival Theatre Box Office – 0131 529 6000 | www.edtheatres.com/festival

For further information on Gilded Balloon Comedy at The Studio at The Festival Theatre go to <http://www.gildedballoon.co.uk/>.

Players from the Scotland women's team and Edinburgh men's team will be helping out at Save the Children's Stockbridge shop this morning until noon to raise awareness of the charity's Christmas Jumper Day.

The players will be wearing their Christmas jumpers, helping out in the shop and handing out leaflets outside.

The Save the Children's Living and Giving shop is at 34a Raeburn Place, Edinburgh EH4 1HN

And of course we would love to have your photos of your Christmas sweaters. Send them [here](#)!

Edinburgh World Heritage have issued their report explaining that the Jawbone Arch was carefully removed from the Meadows in July, and taken to storage to allow the bones to dry out and stabilise.

"The archway of whale jawbones has been a feature of the area since 1886, when it was brought to Edinburgh by Shetland and Fair Isle knitters, as part of their display for the International Exhibition."

Now money is needed for the restoration of the iconic arch.

Help secure the future of the Jawbone Arch

For those who may wish to make cash donations to the fundraising appeal for conservation work to the Arch, this can be gifted:

Online: [Just Giving](#) – You can give by credit or debit card and if you are a taxpayer your tax can be reclaimed.

By cheque: Please post or hand in to Edinburgh World Heritage, 5 Bakehouse Close, 146 Canongate, Edinburgh, EH8 8DD. Please mark the envelope 'Jawbone'.

Follow the campaign on Facebook: [Save the Jawbone Arch](#)

We have a competition to win a couple of pairs of ticket for the ice hockey on Saturday evening. If you would like to win then head over [here!](#)

The ice hockey club think they have a good chance of being in the points: "Edinburgh Capitals have a big opportunity this weekend to edge in front of some of their closest rivals in the Elite league table. Home wins against Coventry Blaze on Saturday and local rivals Fife Flyers on Sunday would see the Capitals move into 6th place and provide some breathing space between the Capitals and a number of other clubs fighting for play-off places."

Will Scotland qualify for Euro 2016?



Can Scotland qualify for Euro 2016?

Every member of the Tartan Army has held onto the dream that, one day, they would see their beloved national football team represent the country in a major tournament once again. It has been 14 years since Scotland were eliminated in the group stages of the 1998 World Cup in France, with subsequent attempts to reach the European Championships or World Cup falling short. The Euro 2000 play-off defeat to England, under the guidance of Craig Brown, is the closest Scotland have come

to qualifying, but any fears that the national team will always be the 'nearly men' of international football may soon be over. An excellent start to the Euro 2016 qualifying campaign has created renewed hope that Gordon Strachan's side not only has what it takes to compete at the highest level, but also qualify for the upcoming tournament in France. [Betway.com](#) will follow Scotland's progress and provide odds for their next qualifying match at home to Gibraltar in March 2015, a game which they would expect to win comfortably.

Group D progress

Being drawn in the same qualifying group as Germany, Poland and Ireland would have left many Scotland fans fearing the worst, particularly as the opening game presented a daunting trip to face the 2014 World Cup winners in their own backyard. Strachan's side more than held their own in Dortmund and arguably deserved a draw for the hard work and number of times they had their illustrious opponents on the back foot, but Germany's quality shone through in the end to take a 2-1 victory. The defeat may have been unsurprising to even the most ardent of Scotland fans, but the performance provided wonderful encouragement that the Tartan Army could be in for a [successful qualifying campaign under Strachan](#).

A strong 1-0 victory against Georgia in October was almost followed by a wonderful victory in Poland three days later, only for a late equaliser to deny Scotland in a 2-2 draw. It made the game at Hampden Park against Ireland a must-win game in the context of Group D; despite excellent performances, Scotland had to remain within touching distance of the top three and not be cut away from the chasing pack behind surprise leaders Poland. A superb goal from Shaun Maloney [secured an invaluable 1-0 win](#) that put Strachan's team level on points with Ireland and Germany after four games, with the dream of qualifying for Euro 2016 now becoming a realistic possibility.

Upcoming matches

While the Tartan Army will have to wait until the end of March 2015 for Scotland's next qualifying fixture, there is growing optimism that they will amongst the 24 teams who will participate at Euro 2016 in France. UEFA's decision to increase the number of participants in European Championships from 16 to 24 provides a wonderful opportunity for nations such as Scotland to not only qualify, but do so on a regular basis to be part of the euphoria and unrivalled feeling of playing in a major tournament. The upcoming fixture against European newcomers Gibraltar should provide Scotland with the best opportunity to considerably increase their goal difference and put three more points on the board, with the minnows conceding 21 goals in their first four official qualifiers, and are yet to score. Travelling to Ireland in June will undoubtedly be a much more difficult test for Strachan's team, while the trip to Georgia on September 4th offering a potential banana skin that Scotland must overcome if they have real ambitions of qualifying for Euro 2016.

Sainsbury's 30 year anniversary celebrated at Holyrood



Jim Eadie MSP helped Sainsbury's celebrate 30 years in Scotland by hosting an anniversary reception at the Scottish Parliament recently.

Peter Griffiths, CEO of Sainsbury's Bank and the Group's Board

Champion for Scotland, spoke about the training opportunities available to colleagues in Sainsbury's food colleges

Jim Eadie MSP hosted an anniversary reception at the Scottish Parliament. The retailer first opened in Scotland with their Cameron Toll store in his Edinburgh Southern constituency.

He was joined by fellow Members of the Scottish Parliament as well as Sainsbury's colleagues, suppliers and charities to hear more about Sainsbury's growth in Scotland over the last three decades, which now includes 85 stores employing over 8,000 colleagues. Minister for Youth and Women's Employment, Anabelle Ewing MSP, also spoke at the reception.

Peter Griffiths, CEO of Sainsbury's Bank, and the Group's Board Champion for Scotland, outlined Sainsbury's focus on skills and development training and in particular the key role Sainsbury's six food colleges play, one of which is based in Murrayfield, Edinburgh.

The College offers training to colleagues working on the meat, fish, deli, hot food counters and in the bakery and café and colleagues receive in-depth accredited City and Guilds training from a team of experts. Over 3,000 colleagues have received training at the Murrayfield College, and reception guests were able to have a go at some of the skills the college teaches.

Guests at the reception were joined by colleagues from Sainsbury's Cameron Toll store. Since first opening its doors in autumn 1984, the store has continued to serve its local community and only last year the store completed a major refurbishment, which saw 86 new positions, 25 of which were filled in collaboration with Remploy. And since September, colleagues have raised over £1,500 for Guide Dogs Scotland, their Local Charity partner.

Jim Eadie, MSP for Edinburgh Southern, said:

“I was delighted to host this reception in order to celebrate the contribution Sainsbury’s makes both to my constituency and across Scotland. Their commitment to the community and the emphasis they place on skills and development is particularly welcome. The reception was a great way for my parliamentary colleagues to learn more and to turn their hand to some of the skills taught at the Sainsbury’s Murrayfield Food College.”

David Bainbridge, Sainsbury’s Cameron Toll Store Manager, added:

“It means a lot to us to be part of the celebration and to work at the first store to open in Scotland. This event celebrates our brilliant colleagues and the importance we place on making a positive difference in our local communities across Scotland. Our Values are extremely important to us and I’m proud of my colleagues who live them every day.”

Hearts Become Living Wage Employer

Having announced their intention to do so in October, Hearts today become the first football club in Scotland to become an officially accredited Living Wage employer.

This means that all staff employed at the Gorgie club will be paid no less than the Living Wage. The Living Wage was uprated to £7.85 per hour in November, £1.35 per hour more than the National Minimum Wage which is a statutory requirement.

In Scotland, there are approximately 414,000 people currently

paid below the Living Wage. The Scottish Living Wage Accreditation Initiative has been operating in Scotland since April 2014 and provides support and advice to organisations that wish to pay the living wage. More than 70 employers in Scotland are now accredited as paying the living wage.

Peter Kelly, Director of the Poverty Alliance who deliver the Accreditation Initiative, said today: “Congratulations to Heart of Midlothian on becoming Scotland’s first Living Wage accredited football club.

“We are delighted that they will pay all staff who work at the club the Living Wage, and that they have opted to have their commitment to the Living Wage recognised through the accreditation mark. This is an important step forward for the campaign to end poverty pay in Scotland.

A Hearts spokesperson said: “Heart of Midlothian Football Club is delighted to be given accreditation to become a Living Wage Employer. The club feels that implementing the Living Wage is entirely in keeping with the values that we hold dear as Edinburgh’s oldest football club. Since revealing our intention to implement the Living Wage the club has received widespread backing from both our supporters and sponsors.”

Source: www.heartsfc.co.uk

Roseburn murder – man charged



A man has been arrested and charged in connection with a murder which took place in the capital seven months ago.

The body of 52-year-old Christopher Gilruth was found in Roseburn Terrace on the 11th May and police launched a major investigation.

The 34 year old was due to have appeared at Edinburgh Sheriff Court today.

New primary school to be built alongside Portobello High School

The new £11m St John's RC Primary School will be built on part of the existing Portobello High School site.

Councillors agreed the decision after discussing a report at the City of Edinburgh Council meeting today (Thursday 11 December).

The report outlined the results of the eight-week consultation carried out between September and November this year with parents, staff and the local community on three options.

Councillor Paul Godzik, Education Convener at the City of Edinburgh Council, said: "It's been a long time in the planning but I'm sure all parents and staff at St John's will be delighted that such an important milestone for the new school has been reached.

"Using this site is yet another positive outcome from being able to build the new Portobello High School on Portobello Park. This allows us to take forward this project on part of the existing combined school site rather than having to move to a completely different one. It also creates fantastic

opportunities for the area of open space that will be created on the remainder of the existing combined school site.

“Today’s decision reinforces the Capital Coalition’s commitment to significant further investment in the school estate. St John’s has been a long-standing priority for replacement within the Wave 3 programme which is now being delivered and has been fully funded by the Capital Coalition.”

The new St John’s RC Primary School is being part funded through the Scottish Government’s Scotland’s Schools for the Future programme which is managed by the Scottish Futures Trust.

Three sought after Granton supermarket robbery



Police are investigating after three men robbed a supermarket in Granton yesterday afternoon.

The incident happened at Iceland on West Granton Road around 5.15pm, when the first suspect approached the till with an item to buy. He indicated to the two other suspects, and one of these men reached over and grabbed a three-figure sum of cash from the till.

The three suspects ran from the store in the direction of West Granton Road but were lost to sight.

This incident comes after a similar robbery at Gregg’s Bakery on Crewe Road North on Tuesday, around 3pm, which may be linked.

All three suspects are described as white, and around 26 to 27 years old.

The first suspect is described as 5ft 10in tall, stocky build, wearing a dark coloured hoody, black scarf over his lower face, dark joggers, and white Nike trainers.

The second suspect is described as slim build and wearing a dark hoody, with grey hoody underneath, grey joggers, blue sandals.

The third suspect, who took the cash from the till, is described as slim build, gaunt face, and wearing a dark coloured hoody with hood up and grey hoody underneath, dark joggers, light coloured trainers.

Detective Sergeant Lynsey Thomson said: "This robbery was distressing for those who were in the supermarket at the time, and we are keen to hear from anyone who was on West Granton Road around 5.15pm yesterday who may have information that can assist. We believe there may be a connection to the robbery at Gregg's on Tuesday, and if anyone recognises the description of the suspects, they are urged to contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

Edinburgh Council meeting 11 December 2014



The Full council meeting is being held in the City Chambers today and comes only three short weeks after the last one. It promises to be a busy meeting with a full agenda. You can follow our commentary and that of others on social media here, either as it happens or after the meeting has finished.

The council will decide two important matters today – will it spend up to £400,000 on a report looking at the case for an extension to the Edinburgh Tram and will it also agree to a

reorganisation of the way the council works. This will mean dividing the city into four local areas and removing some middle managers.

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



Full council meeting today

Today at Edinburgh's Christmas

Your Christmas sweaters

Edinburgh Matters tonight!

North Edinburgh News

There will be a full council meeting today and we are assured by those who know these things that this one will go on until the afternoon. Sadly we cannot stay all day but we will cover the meeting live [here](#) until 1pm.

You can watch the meeting live or on the watch again webcast service which the council are extending to more and more of their meetings. You will find the webcast with all relevant papers [here](#).

For all the papers to be discussed at the meeting click [here](#).

There is a very full agenda with the possible [tram extension](#) and also the [reorganisation of the council](#) all to be discussed

and voted on.

Not everything in the city centre has to cost you a fortune. Edinburgh's Christmas has a range of free events [here](#). We notice however that they include the European Market in the free event section. Sure you can go window shopping, but we do think there are some lovely things on sale....

Time to dig out your Christmas sweaters and take some photos. Then send them to our storyboard here and we will have a feature on all your Christmas sweaters as soon as we have gathered enough photos. Go on you will be a star...or a reindeer, or a Santa...

All the information you need on how to send in your photos is [here](#).



The North Edinburgh Community News has a slot on Shore Radio which the editor of The Edinburgh Reporter is joining tonight to talk about news across the city. We hope it might be a bit of fun too!

Click [here](#) just before 7:00pm to join us.

There is more information about Edinburgh Matters [here](#).

We reported on the [North Edinburgh News AGM last month](#) and now the December edition of the NEN is out.

While the paper is distributed free in North Edinburgh we think that others in the city might like to read it. So here it is:-



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Thursday in Edinburgh – What's On Today



Russkaya Capella: Russian Choral Music with a Christmas Flavour. A mixed voice chamber choir performing Russian music, Russkaya Capella was founded in Glasgow in 2009 and is one of very few choirs in the UK specialising in Russian choral music. Tonight Russkaya Capella will perform a selection of church music by Russian composers of the 19th and 20th centuries, including **Bortnyansky, Rachmaninoff** and **Kastalsky**, some **Christmas songs from the 17th century**, and **traditional carols from Russia and Ukraine**. Directors: **Stuart Campbell** and **Svetlana Zvereva**. 7.30-8.30pm, [Reid Concert Hall](#), University of Edinburgh, Bristo Square. Free, but please register via [eventbrite](#).

Creative Mornings/Edinburgh: Ian Sharman, design professional and Edinburgh College of Art tutor, kicks off the first ever Creative Mornings/Edinburgh event – a free breakfast (by **Pep and Fodder**) and a 20 minute talk on a monthly theme, plus the chance to mingle with like-minded creatives in your community. Ian will explore the topic of **“Education” beyond traditional institutions’**. 8.30-10am, Dissection Room, [Summerhall](#), 1

Summerhall. Free but booking required, [online](#) or by calling the box office on 0131 560 1581.

Music Among The Trees: James McNeill plays the church's fine Wells Kennedy organ 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.



A Very Rammy Christmas: The Murderburgers, Billy Liar, The Uniforms and Maxwell's Dead. 7pm, [Banshee Labyrinth](#), Niddry Street. £3 on the door.

Do We Need Photography Centres Today? Ben Harman (Director, Stills) and **David Grinley** (photographer and tutor) will talk about the role of **Stills**, its position within the local, national and international cultural sector, and the particular challenges faced by organisations dedicated to photography, asking how such organisations can best serve their audiences today. A Q & A session and discussion will follow. 5.30-6.30pm, [Stills](#), Cockburn Street. Free: no booking required.



Erskine Edinburgh Christmas Carol Concert, featuring **The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines Scotland, Cadenza Choir, Chamber Choir of St George's School for Girls and Caitlyn Vanbeck**. 7pm for 7.30pm, [St Cuthbert's Parish Church](#), 5 Lothian Road. Suggested donation £5. For more information contact Shona Langlands on 0131 666 9961 or email shona.langlands@erskine.org.uk. Erskine has been looking after veterans for almost 100 years and is the leading care organisation for ex-service men and women in Scotland.

National Library of Scotland Christmas Fair: yuletide bargains and festive treats galore! 20% discount on everything in the shop – then relax with tasty refreshments and festive entertainment. 6pm, [National Library of Scotland](#), George IV Bridge.

Live Music with Guilty As Sin: guitar, vocals, bass and sax. 8.30pm, [The Old Chain Pier](#), 32 Trinity Crescent.

Under 5s Storytime: 10.30-11am, [Morningside Library](#), 184 Morningside Road.

Artist Talk: Julie Roberts. Julie shares her thoughts on the way the human, particularly female, body is subjected to institutional constraints and injuries, and the way she has explored this in her paintings. 6pm, [Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art ONE](#), Belford Road. Free and unticketed. Part of GENERATION By Night.

Music Among The Trees: Parkside Primary School, Edinburgh's new Gaelic primary school, entertains visitors to the **Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival** with traditional Gaelic songs. All welcome, come and enjoy! 12 noon-12.30pm, The Sanctuary, [St Andrew's and St George's West Church](#), 13 George Street. Free.



Gaelic Bookbug: Gaelic songs and rhymes for young children and babies. 10.30am, [Leith Library](#), 28-30 Ferry Road.

Remembering the Great War in Words and Music: an evening of songs and words featuring renowned bass **Brian Bannatyne-Scott** performing music by Schumann, Finzi and Mahler, with the words of Violet Jacob, Margaret Sackville and Wilfred Owen read by **Lorna Irvine** and **Ken Cockburn**. A collaboration with the Scottish Poetry Library. 5.45-6.45pm, [Scottish National Portrait Gallery](#), 1 Queen Street. Free and unticketed.



Hamjambo – music and verse in Edinburgh’s other languages: ‘understand little but celebrate all as we show off the city’s performers in languages from across the world’. Music in **Basque, Arabic and Finnish**, words and verse in **British Sign Language, Urdu, Gujarati and Latvian**, followed by a solo performance by **flamenco guitarist Alex Moseley**. 7-9.30pm, [Area C Coffee House](#), 239-241 Leith Walk. Organised by [The Common Weal Edinburgh North and Leith](#). Free: please note venue is BYOB (subject to corkage) and cash only.

The Drawing Room: an informal, artist-led, drawing session. Each session is developed by a contemporary artist, inspired by the GENERATION exhibition and reflecting concerns within the artist’s own work. All materials supplied, no experience necessary. 5.30-6.45pm, [Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art ONE](#), Belford Road. Free and unticketed. Part of GENERATION By Night.



Take One Action: Open Bethlehem. A special screening presented by Take One Action, Scotland’s global change cinema project. Armed with her camera and a dilapidated family car, Bethlehem-born **Leila Sansour** returns to her childhood home to make a **deeply personal film about a legendary town in crisis** – but just a few months into the project, her life and the film take an unexpected turn when Leila’s cousin Carol persuades her to stay and start a campaign to save the city from irredeemable separation. In English and Hebrew with subtitles. Followed by **Q & A with director Leila Sansour**. 6pm, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road; book [online](#) or call box office on 0131 228 2688.

GENERATION By Night: the season of bespoke, after-hours, events at Modern One continues with a special evening

including an artist talk by **Julie Roberts** and music from Glasgow-based duo **BDY_PRTS**. Pop-up talks, experimental drawing and the chance to explore GENERATION after dark. 5-8pm, [Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art ONE](#), Belford Road. The Gallery Bus will run after hours: see website for details. Free tickets for this event can be booked via [eventbrite](#).



An Evening with Alexander McCall Smith: the bestselling author will be in conversation about his work, including *A Work of Beauty: Edinburgh*, *The Handsome Man's Deluxe Cafe*, and his retelling of *Emma*. 6pm, [Waterstones West End](#), 128 Princes Street. Tickets are available from the shop: £5/£3 (Waterstones' Loyalty Card holders). Further information on 0131 226 2666.

Easel Sketching in the Gallery: December – led by artist **Damian Callan**. A different subject every month, sometimes with a model. All materials supplied. 2-4pm, Main Gallery Floor, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free: no booking required. Also at same times on Friday 12th December 2014.

Silent Prayer at St John's: as an experiment, the church will be open for silent prayer and contemplation as people go home from work. The session will start with a short introduction and end with a brief prayer: come and experience the peace of God in the busy run-up to Christmas. 5.15-6pm, [St John the Evangelist Church](#), Princes Street. All welcome.



Nordic Film Festival: a diverse mixture of fresh and classic features, documentaries and shorts showcasing some of the most celebrated and emerging filmmaking talents of the Nordic region. This year's theme is **Horizons**. Today: **Ani Simon-Kennedy's *Days of Gray (15)*** ' in a world where nobody speaks, language doesn't exist. On the dry and arid plains, men are

hunters, protectors of a society bound by strict rules. Men hunt outsiders. A young boy meets an outsider and begins to question his world, plagued by the awareness that as he grows up he faces becoming a hunter himself'. 5.45pm, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road; book [online](#) or call box office on 0131 228 2688. Note: this film has no dialogue. Nordic Film Festival is presented by **day for night**, and will continue on 17th December 2014.

Festa di Natale: the Italian Cultural Institute invites you to its Christmas party. 5.30-7pm, [Italian Cultural Institute](#), 82 Nicolson Street. **Booking essential**: email rsvp.iicedimburgo@esteri.it.

Cafe Voices: Midwinter Tales. Join storyteller and author **Donald Smith** for an evening of seasonal tales, gritty and gracious, with an **open-floor section** for storytellers to tell their own tales, all in the relaxed surroundings of the Storytelling Court. 7-9pm, [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#), 43-45 High Street. Tickets cost £5 and can be booked online [here](#) or by calling the box office on 0131 556 9579.

The Hobbit Double Bill – Plus! *An Unexpected Journey* (12A) and *The Desolation of Smaug* (12A) followed by a special midnight screening of ***The Battle of the Five Armies*** (tbc). 6pm (*An Unexpected Journey* + *The Desolation of Smaug*), then 12 midnight (*The Battle of the Five Armies*), [Cameo](#), 38 Home Street, Tolcross. Book online [here](#) for the first two films and [here](#) for *The Battle of the Five Armies*, or call box office on 0871 902 5723.



Grassmarket Winter Lights Spectacle SwitchOn



A giant Winter Lights display and Christmas Spectacle involving 3-D projections will light up the Grassmarket from tomorrow, Thursday 11 December.

Greater Grassmarket, in association with The Grassmarket Hotel, mclcreate and Edinburgh Arts Collective Projector Club, is hosting the large-scale 3D lights display on the corner of Victoria St and the Grassmarket tomorrow and Friday 12th December, and again on Thursday 18th – Friday 19th December.

The display will take place between 5pm and 8pm with live showings each evening at 6.30pm and 7.30pm.

Mamma's Pizzeria will be providing complimentary mulled drinks and panzerotti mince pies for visitors on the night, and Red Dog Music is having a Christmas shopping evening with prizes, demos, festive munchies and live music.

The project was commissioned by Greater Grassmarket Business Improvement which has also provided local businesses with free LED light Christmas trees for outside their premises to help create a visual spectacle and attract visitors to the area.

Georgia Artus, Greater Grassmarket Project Manager, says: "The Winter Lights Spectacle will be fantastic and the combination of the Greater Grassmarket area's heritage along with the vast array of unique shops, restaurants and bars makes it the perfect Christmas destination."

Submitted by [Samantha McKay-Challen](#)



Lookout for purple Nissan Skyline, registration N40 SKY



Police in West Lothian have alerted forces across the UK to look out for a rare car stolen earlier today as part of a high-value robbery.

The car, a purple Nissan Skyline, registration N40 SKY, is worth £47,000 and is one of only around 20 in the UK.

It was taken during a break-in to a house in Livingston around 10am today in which watches, jewellery and cash worth over £150,000 was stolen.

Police believe the car was immediately driven south and are investigating reports of it being seen in North West England on the M6 motorway in the early afternoon.

Detective Constable Brian Thompson, who is leading the enquiry, said: "This was a high-value housebreaking where a considerable amount of cash and property was stolen, and it is essential we recover this and bring those responsible"

"I am appealing for anyone who has seen this car today, or who has any other information about this theft, to call Police on 101, or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

Scottish SPCA advises people not to buy pets as Christmas presents



The Scottish SPCA is advising people not to buy pets as Christmas presents for fear of a surge in abandonments. As Scotland's animal welfare charity prepares for its busiest time of year, they hope many pets will be spared the heartbreak of being dumped like unwanted gifts.

Chief Superintendent Mike Flynn said, "It's an upsetting reality that in the weeks and months after Christmas our centres are often asked to take in puppies, kittens and other pets given as presents once the novelty has worn off.

"Or, even worse, some of these pets are abandoned and left to fend for themselves.

"Clearly in these instances the owners hadn't realised that the young pet which was great fun at Christmas would need to be housetrained and properly socialised and that this would require effort on their part.

"Every year we stress that animals should never be bought on a whim or given as surprise presents, but some people clearly aren't getting the message. In January this year we took in over 240 dogs, a 9% rise on the previous year and around 250 cats – over 30% more than in 2013.

"Although we can't be certain, it's possible many of these animals were bought as gifts and for that reason we are asking people to consider whether they have the time and financial resources to be able to properly care for an animal."

In order to reduce the risks of people taking on pets to give away as presents, the Scottish SPCA will stop rehoming puppies, kittens and baby animals between 19 December and 3 January.

Chief Supt. Flynn added, "We have to ensure our rescue animals aren't being taken on by someone who just wants a new pet for Christmas.

"However, our animal rescue and rehoming centres will be open to the public throughout the festive period, including Christmas Day, and young animals can be reserved during this time.

"Our message is simple, a pet is a lifelong commitment and not a present which can be given at Christmas and then forgotten about."

FLASH COMPETITION! – Win tickets to see Edinburgh Capitals

Edinburgh Capitals are playing Coventry Blaze this Saturday at 6:00pm at Murrayfield – and you could be there courtesy of the team who have given us two pairs of tickets for the match.

Entries must be in by Friday 12 December at 5:00pm

Name(required)

Email(required)

Who are Edinburgh Capitals playing on 13 December? (required)

Fife Flyers ▼

Daily newsletter from The Edinburgh Reporter?

Submit

Enter now to be in with a chance of seeing the best Ice Hockey team in the city!

One of their players Riley Emmerson is an enforcer who has kept other teams in check this season. He is 6'8" tall and weighs in a 250lb. He is on target to exceed his points total from all previous seasons.

A recent addition to the team Emmerson said: "The club and the fans have made my family and I feel so very welcome since we got here. They have been amazing with the toys for my son

Liam. Edinburgh is an amazing city to live in and we're enjoying our experience. The fans have been great and we hope to repay them for their loyalty by continuing to win."

Scott Neil said, "Riley has certainly helped the rest of the guys be able to concentrate on playing and it's also been a big bonus that he is putting up good numbers too. He plays an honest, hard hitting game and has shown good discipline. However, I think he sometimes gets penalised unfairly, purely down to his size. He is a great guy to have on the team and I am pleased he and his family are enjoying all that Edinburgh has to offer."

Capitals home games for December are:

Capitals v Coventry Blaze Saturday 13th 6pm

Capitals v Fife Flyers Sunday 14th 6pm

Capitals v Belfast Giants Sunday 21st 5.45pm

Capitals v Dundee Stars Tuesday 23rd 7.30pm

Capitals v Hull Stingrays Sunday 28th 6pm

Capitals v Fife Flyers Wednesday 31st 4pm – Hogmanay Hockey

Tickets can be purchased on game nights for all Capitals games, or online at www.edinburghcapitals.ticketsource.co.uk

Theft of tyres from Queensferry Road garage



Police are appealing for witnesses following a housebreaking at Farmers Autocare, Queensferry Road which took place over the night of Tuesday, December 9, between 8.20pm and 7.45am when entry was forced to storage containers in the forecourt.

Around 70 tyres were stolen from the garage, with an approximate value of £3100. Enquiries reveal a transit type van may have been involved at some point during the night.

Police are appealing for any witnesses who may have seen this van to come forward.

PC Grimwood said: "The suspects have used a transit type van to transport the stolen property.

"We are asking for anyone who was driving past Farmers Autocare between 8.20pm and 7.45am and perhaps saw tyres being loaded onto a vehicle or persons acting suspiciously to contact Police Scotland immediately on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

Bield's tenants handbook is a model to follow



Scotland's leading care and housing provider which has its HQ here in Edinburgh are predicting they will have a 'publishing hit' on their hands when they launch of their new Tenant Handbook this month.

Bield have spent more than 18 months working on the all-encompassing 'bible' for tenants – which they hope is now set to become a model handbook within the sector.

The Handbook, which has been spearheaded by Tenant Participation Officer, Chris McShane, aims to provide tenants with all the necessary information they will need in one handy folder.

Chris McShane said: "It has been a lot of work pulling together the new Tenant Handbook, with tenants at the heart of the consultation process. I am delighted we have reached the stage where we are now ready to issue to tenants.

"We were keen to put it together after finding the original needed updating, given the significant changes that have happened within the organisation over the last few years.

"As a result, we were looking for the new Tenant Handbook to incorporate these changes, on top of ensuring that all of the original key information remained within."

Chris continued: "When putting together the new book, we wanted to make sure that everything was as clear and concise as possible. We have avoided the use of jargon which was unnecessary and made some parts difficult to understand. Tenants will now be able to refer to the Handbook quickly and easily whenever they need to.

"Tenants have contributed to the development of the new handbook through meetings with myself and through the work of our national tenant body, the Partnership Forum."

The new Handbook will be available online, as well as in print, for all of their tenants in their housing developments. An audio version will be available for all tenants who prefer this option.

Aileen Morton, Marketing Officer at Bield said: "This guide is incredibly important for our tenants as it contains all of the need-to-know information about their homes and developments.

"This information and the changes within the organisation are the main reasons as to why we decided to pull all of the relevant information together into one easy to use, up-to-date and understandable booklet.

"We hope that by doing this, we can help our tenants live by

our 'free to be' motto, safe in the knowledge that they have everything they need to live happily and independently in one of our developments."

Newkirkgate centre to be renovated



Good news for the Foot of the Walk where money will be spent by the new owners of the shopping centre to give it a new look.

The Newkirkgate Shopping Centre in Leith is to benefit from a complete renovation and rebrand to enhance the customer experience following a £400k investment from owners, NewRiver Retail.

Having acquired the shopping centre in December 2013, the significant investment from NewRiver Retail will regenerate the Centre.

Phase one of the refurbishment works started in September and included the installation of new stonework above and between each retail unit, additional high level wood cladding, external paintwork and improved lighting. New branding and signage will be installed in the next few weeks.

Phase two of works will begin in early 2015 and will see paving replaced throughout the centre and a new bike rack installed.

Newkirkgate has also welcomed a brand new retailer to the centre, Store TwentyOne, which opened its doors earlier this month bringing eight new jobs to the area.

Store TwentyOne offers shoppers stylish, fashion led clothing and accessories for women, girls, boys and men. It evolved from a manufacturing business established in London in 1932, supplying clothing to the West End and in particular, Marks & Spencer stores. There are now 16 Store TwentyOne stores located across Scotland, three of which are in Edinburgh.

Scott Darroch, centre manager for Newkirkgate Shopping Centre said: "The Newkirkgate has been a part of the Leith community for many decades and plays an important role in providing day to day amenities for our shoppers.

"We are committed to ensuring that the centre moves with the times and continues to provide a relevant offer. The introduction of Store TwentyOne will offer our customers a second clothing retailer and we are excited to welcome them to our line-up.

"We thank our customers, the retailers and the local community for their support whilst our refurbishment works continue."

Cllr Frank Ross, Convener of the Economy Committee, said: “This is great news, an improved centre and additional retail will provide more employment to people in Leith. The centre is at the heart of the local community and this investment should help to attract more businesses into Leith creating a more vibrant shopping experience for residents and visitors alike.”

People’s Postcode Lottery helps the Book Festival expand



Funding from the People’s Postcode Lottery will help the book festival reach even more people next year.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival announced today that, thanks to generous support of £175,000 from players of People’s Postcode Lottery, plans were now being put in place to develop a wide-ranging programme of exciting literature events and activities outwith Charlotte Square Gardens which will focus on instilling a love of books and an enjoyment of reading for all levels of ability, all ages and all communities.

Nick Barley, Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival, said “At the heart of the Book Festival is a holistic and integrated approach which aims to expand participation in literature and develop highly engaged, knowledgeable audiences. The vast majority of our events – for

all ages – are participatory, making the Book Festival one of the leading forums for interaction, debate and discussion.

“We want to replicate these forums across Scotland by creating a vibrant and wide-reaching new outreach and learning initiative which will focus on engaging adults, young people and children and fostering a love of reading and words. The funding from players of People’s Postcode Lottery will enable us to start work on this project early in 2015.”



Clara Govier, Head of Charities at People’s Postcode Lottery said: “I am delighted that players of People’s Postcode Lottery are now supporting the Edinburgh International Book Festival. The festival in itself is known for being one of the best in the world and it is great that funding from players will help ensure that Book Festival events reach more people across the whole of Scotland.”

By programming the widest range of events for people of all ages and backgrounds and ensuring services are of the highest quality, the Edinburgh International Book Festival creates a stimulating learning environment where exploring, experimenting and broadening one’s horizons becomes an intrinsic part of enjoying the Festival. In August 2014 The Book Festival’s Outreach programme delivered a total of 44 events in over 40 venues across Scotland involving 29 authors and illustrators.

With the support of the players of the People’s Postcode Lottery, the Book Festival will build on this expertise to give greater numbers of people access to authors and live literature events across Scotland.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival is the largest public celebration of books in the world, with 800 authors

from over 40 different countries appearing in around 750 events every August. The 2015 Festival will run from 15 to 31 August and full programme details will be announced in June 2015.

Reenactment of WWI football match



In Football Remembers week, Wester Hailes Education Centre reenacted a little of the football match which everyone knows about from the First World War.

Private William Tapp wrote in his diary "It doesn't seem right to be killing each other at Xmas time." I don't know what our General would say if he knew about this."

In December 1914, thousands of soldiers around Ypres in Belgium took part in a spontaneous and informal truce – a moment of humanity from history. It was made all the more poignant as so many were to fall in battle, including Tapp, who was killed a few weeks later. Football Remembers focuses on the games of football played in No Man's Land in the context of the Christmas truce.

Earlier today pupils at WHEC put on uniforms, greatcoats and helmets to play with a vintage football, and footballing legend John Robertson of Hearts was there to offer his thoughts on going to Contalmaison this summer and some keepie-uppie skills. Stuart Sinclair who is the teacher in charge of Modern Studies and History has led the children

through the curriculum to learn about the atrocities of war one hundred years ago.

Contalmaison is the village in France where the sporting battalion known as McCrae's led the vanguard on 1 July 1916 where they were mown down by machine gun fire and three Hearts players died.



Scott McWatt releases new video shot in Edinburgh

Contemporary folk singer-songwriter Scott McWatt has released a new video to accompany his new single, 'It's A Wonderful Life'.

The song comes from his most recent album, *A Ceist Amá*, which was released in November 2013. The album featured the unique concept of every calendar month representing each song. The album can be streamed and purchased on [Bandcamp](#).

'It's A Wonderful Life' represents December and has aptly been filmed in and around Edinburgh's Christmas Market to capture the feeling of the lyrics involved in the song.

All proceeds from the track download will go to the Children's Hospice Association Society (CHAS) charity.

REVIEW – Temples at Liquid Room



Their debut album, *Sun Structures*, has been out for 10 months, yet Temples' take on music that originated in the 1960's doesn't sound dated at all. The psychedelic outfit, who on the night are accompanied by the Mad Alchemy liquid light show, appear neatly dressed, sonically profound and collectively mercurial.

Temples don't create tension. They got straight to the action and begin with the album's title track. The set was dominated by *Sun Structures* with only a couple of b-sides slipped in. The studio to live transition is as immaculate as the band's outfit for the evening. Every little detail is spotted in their live performance as rhythm guitarist and keyboardist, Thomas Walmsley, adds the touches to the sound from the synth.

Temples didn't have too much to say to the crowd and skipped straight to the next song after a sip of beer. Songs such as 'Colours to Life' and 'A Question Isn't Answered' were executed at pitch perfect studio quality with added psychedelic jams for the audience to trip out too with the hallucinatory backdrop.

The one-song encore of 'Mesmerise' added a felicitous conclusion to the gig with a near 10-minute pleasantly turbulent rendition that had the audience fascinated and struggling to leave long after Temples departed the stage.

Homecoming: Station Stories – a Victorian interlude at Waverley this week



A train carriage travels through a wintry landscape. You are the passenger in that carriage, and as you watch the swirling snowflakes from your cosy seat, an unknown voice begins to tell you a story. It's a story that begins quite simply; the speaker tells of his life on the far north coast, of the wild winds that often caused his home and all its contents to shake....his voice remains calm and everyday as his words lead you to the shocking climax. The story ends; you sit back – but not in your cinema seat, for you are in the middle of a modern day railway station.



Station Stories in Aberdeen
last week

If you're in Edinburgh this week, take a break from the shopping and head into Waverley. Yes **Waverley Station**; not the first place that springs to mind perhaps, but from Wednesday to Saturday you will have the chance to lose yourself in another world, as **Cryptic** presents **Homecoming: Station Stories**. Acclaimed artist **Sven Werner** of **Outland Productions** has spent a month visiting communities across the country, asking people what 'inspiring Scotland' means to them and the journeys they have taken; from their responses he has created three short films, cinematic worlds in miniature.



The films will be shown via a striking **Victorian peepshow**; you will be invited to sit on a stool, don headphones and, with a black cloth over your head, experience a story (or all three) by looking through the lens of an antique camera. I tried this out when I came across Sven's event in Aberdeen last week, and was amazed at how quickly I was drawn in; within seconds I had forgotten about the busy station concourse and was completely absorbed in the story.



The show at Aberdeen

Sven (who handcrafted each work himself) and his assistants are all on hand, dressed in appropriate Victorian costume, to tell you more and introduce you to this unusual and enjoyable project. Sven aims to introduce people to magical, poetic worlds, bringing them closer to the stories in their own lives; he uses miniature models in his film and installation works to create an atmospheric intensity. The 5 minutes I spent under the black cloth certainly left a lasting impression – I'm still thinking about the experience a week later.



So instead of fighting the crowds in Princes Street, escape for a few minutes to an enchanting world. Station Stories will be at Waverley 11am-7pm Wednesday 10th to Saturday 13th December 2014, and is a free, non-ticketed event for all ages. I recommend it.

Cryptic is an internationally-renowned producing art house aiming to 'ravish the senses' with performances that fuse music, sonic art and multi-media. Founded in Scotland in 1994 by **Cathie Boyd**, Cryptic presents today's most imaginative international artists and nurtures the creative talent of

tomorrow.

Homecoming: Station Stories is part of the Scottish Government's **Homecoming Scotland 2014's Tales of Home** programme, managed by **Event Scotland** and funded by **Creative Scotland** in association with **ScotRail**.

