

# Council to fly the Palestine flag for a day

*Green councillor Chas Booth, put forward a [motion](#) to Council today arguing that the City Council should fly the Palestinian flag as a gesture of solidarity with the ordinary people of Gaza. This is what he said in support:*

“Let me start by saying that I support and welcome everything in the Leader’s motion on the subject of Gaza. Indeed, in some ways, it is more comprehensive than my own motion. The horrendous loss of life and ongoing violence in Gaza is something we simply cannot ignore.

“We cannot sit on our hands.

“And while the influence of The City of Edinburgh Council in such matters is small, it is not completely insignificant. Time after time those caught in conflict tell how much it mattered to have support from abroad, however faintly heard.

“Making our views clear to the Israeli Consul and the Palestinian President is the least we can do in the face of the continuing deaths of innocent civilians including many women and children in Gaza.

“And we should, of course, do what we can to assist the victims of this violence, through the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal. The proposal to fly the DEC flag is one we support. So, I support the Leader’s motion with the indication, as stated to the leader, that the Palestinian flag will be flown for one day.

“That is because there is one element of my [motion](#) which has provoked some debate and, while it is symbolic, I believe that it is an important symbol. And that is the flying of the Palestinian flag from the City Chambers.

“Only a few months ago, in December, the council chambers paid tribute to Nelson Mandela. It was one of those occasions where local politics rises above party differences and where there was a great deal of pride in the recognition that the capital had given to Mr Mandela at a time when he was languishing in prison and branded a terrorist in some quarters.

“Time erases differences and gives perspective. Back in the 1980s when Edinburgh was acknowledging Mr Mandela there were plenty of people ready to snipe at the city’s stance, ready to argue that it was petty tokenism, to say that a small city like Edinburgh had no business in international affairs. That it was a “complicated situation” in South Africa and that we should avoid taking sides.

“These arguments seem absurdly myopic now. Of course there is complexity. But there is still right and wrong. Racism is wrong. Anti-semitism and islamophobia are wrong. And the killing of innocent civilians, including many children, is wrong.

“That’s what I feel about what is happening in Gaza just now. Do I believe it is acceptable to fire rockets into Israel? Of course not. In coming to a resolution in the Middle East there will be negotiation and compromise for all parties. But this is not a conflict of equal powers – the death toll tells its own story. 67 Israelis have died, the majority of them soldiers. And over 2,000 Palestinians, the vast majority of them innocent civilians.

“This is the awful consequence of the disproportionate use of force.

“That is why I put forward this motion, seeking to fly the Palestinian flag in light of the continuing tragedy in Gaza. Of course, there is no monopoly on suffering and anguish but it is to recognise that ordinary people in Gaza have borne the brunt of conflict and in seeking to fly the flag we are

seeking solidarity with them.

“With the ordinary people of Gaza.

“The Palestinian flag represents the Palestinian people – not one political group or faction within Palestine but the whole people. It has been used in diplomatic and state occasions all over the world since 1964. Indeed, as recently as July last year the Palestinian flag flew in the Knesset to mark the visit of a group of Palestinian Authority delegates. If it is good enough for the Israeli Parliament, why is it not good enough for our own city chambers?

“The City Chambers has seven fixed flagpoles and five portable ones, so there is plenty of space to fly both the DEC flag and the Palestinian flag side by side if we so choose. In the face of the horrendous loss of life and disproportionate violence in Gaza, it is essential we do what we can to express our solidarity with the innocent victims. Flying the flag of those who are overwhelmingly the victims in this conflict would be one way to show our solidarity.

“That is why I put forward the motion and why I am pleased the Capital Coalition has accepted that principle and agreed to fly the flag of Palestine for one day.

Councillor Chas Booth is the Green Councillor for Leith.

The council had earlier heard from representatives of the Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign and the Association of Palestinian Communities in Scotland.

Albie O'Neill who appealed to the council on behalf of SPSC said after the meeting, “The flying of the Palestinian flag above the city chambers in Scotland's capital sends a message to the world that Edinburgh stands with the people of Palestine. Alongside its support for the humanitarian appeal for Gaza, Edinburgh council is continuing its proud tradition of supporting the oppressed peoples of the world. Thirty years ago support was given to the people of South Africa, today it is the people of Palestine. This is a proud moment for the

city of Edinburgh.”

Wael Shawish of the Association of Palestinian Communities in Scotland had earlier told the full council of the horrors of living under occupation. He said “Palestinians will be heartened by this fantastic show of solidarity. At a time when the people of Gaza face continuing attacks, this small gesture from the capital of Scotland gives them hope, hope that the pressure from across the world will help bring about a lasting peace which can only be realised by the establishment of a free and democratic Palestinian state.”



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## Rise in new homes across Scotland

Official figures published today reveal that the number of new homes in Scotland has risen by seven per cent in the last year, the first annual increase since before the recession.

In Edinburgh there are new developments planned for Greendykes, North Sighthill, Leith Fort, Gracemount and Pennywell and Muirhouse. In 2013/14 the City of Edinburgh Council built over 1200 new social rent, mid market rent and low cost home ownership homes. [Click here](#) for the details and a map of completed new homes.

The new figures show that 15,957 new homes were delivered in Scotland in the year to March 2014, compared to 14,895 in the previous year. This is the first increase since 2007-08.

The figure includes new build housing, rehabilitations, and conversions. Private sector house building and housing association rehabilitations accounted for the largest share of this growth, with private sector-led new build completions

rising nine per cent on the previous year, to 10,686.

The latest statistics also confirm that the Scottish Government remains on track to deliver on its target of 30,000 new affordable homes by 2016.

A total of 6,850 affordable homes were completed through the Affordable Housing Supply Programme in the year to June 2014, up nine per cent on the previous year. Approvals were up 25 per cent to 7,067, while starts were up 55 per cent at 6,530.

Local authority housing figures show that in the last year to March 2014, 1,140 new council houses were built in Scotland, the highest total in 25 years.

The Scottish Government has invested over £135 million through its Council House Building Programme, which has provided more than 4,000 new homes across Scotland since 2009.

Housing Minister Margaret Burgess said:

“It is encouraging to see that the number of new homes in Scotland has risen in the last year, driven in large part by an increase in the number of private sector completions.

“This is the first annual increase since before the recession, reflecting the growing confidence within the housing market, which the Scottish Government has helped to stimulate through investment in initiatives designed to support the sector, and help people into home ownership.

“Nonetheless, new housing supply remains well below pre-recession levels and I recognise that the house building industry continues to face a number of challenges. We are committed to working with organisations across the housing sector to address these, and work towards the shared goal of securing a sustained increase in housing supply.

“While we are making progress, the powers of independence would provide full flexibility over budgets, investment and

innovative financing, allowing us to do even more to support the supply of new homes.”

Mrs Burgess continued:

“The statistics also confirm that our Affordable Homes Supply Programme is performing strongly, with completions, approvals and new starts all up on the previous year.

“Since 2011 we have delivered more than 21,000 new affordable homes, bringing us over two-thirds of the way towards our five-year target of 30,000 new homes. We have also delivered over 15,000 homes for social rent, bringing us three quarters of the way towards our five-year target of 20,000 new homes.

“Council house building figures are at a 25-year high in the year to March 2014, with 1,140 new council houses built in Scotland. Over 4000 new council houses have been delivered through the Scottish Government’s Council House Building Programme since 2009.

“The supply of affordable housing continues to be a high priority for us, and we are working with the entire sector to increase the supply of affordable homes and deliver vital support for construction and house building companies throughout Scotland.

“This commitment is underlined by our £1.7 billion investment in affordable housing over the current parliamentary term, supporting an estimated 8,000 jobs each year.”

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## **Get your fitness plan off to**

# a fighting start at Edinburgh Leisure

✖ Edinburgh Leisure is calling on the public to combat cancer and get their new-season fitness plans off to a fighting start at the same time.

Edinburgh Leisure has joined forces with Macmillan Cancer Support to host a series of Body Combatathons at venues across the city from August 26th – 28th with the aim of raising awareness of the charity's excellent work and boosting vital funds.

Customers can take part in one, two, three or up to seven hours of the Combat Cancer Combatathons.

Based on the hugely popular Body Combat classes, the event will blend various combat sports renowned for their fitness and fat-burning benefits.

The combatathons are the latest event resulting from what is proving to be a successful partnership between Edinburgh Leisure and Macmillan Cancer Support, which was agreed in 2013 with the aim of raising funds for the charity and also raising awareness of the health benefits of exercise.

Events to date have included the Longest Day golf, and various sites hosting Macmillan Coffee Mornings, raising in the region of £6k in 2013.

Edinburgh Leisure is going for a target of raising £10K for Macmillan Cancer Support in 2014.

Ian Grimwade, Head of Business Development at Edinburgh Leisure, said: "At this time of year many of us are wanting to get fit and healthy again after the summer holidays. So we are challenging people to get their new fitness plans off to a

fighting start, and help a brilliant cause at the same time, with the Combat Cancer Combatathons.

“We are encouraging as many people as possible to sign up for this adrenalin-pumping event, which will not only help raise cash to kick cancer’s butt, but also raise awareness of the benefits of exercise. Plus it promises to be fantastic fun!”

Jayne Forbes, Edinburgh Fundraising Manager for Macmillan Cancer Support, said: “We are delighted to be working with Edinburgh Leisure. They are helping us to make a real difference to people affected by cancer. We help people in many ways, from specialist nurses and doctors, to help and advice for people who have financial worries as a result of their cancer diagnosis. None of this would be possible without the help of our supporters who contribute 98% of our funding. Please look your trainers out and get to a Combat Cancer event near you!”

Participants simply make their donation of £5.

Combatathons are taking place at:

Gracemount Leisure Centre, Tuesday 26th August, 19.30-21.30

Drumbrae Leisure Centre, Thursday 28th August, 09.30-11.30

Meadowbank Sports Centre, Thursday 28th August, 18.00-21.00

Customers can call the centre or simply visit reception to book their place and pay their £5 donation. For further information visit [www.edinburghleisure.co.uk](http://www.edinburghleisure.co.uk)



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# Economy committee consider impact of Festivals



As thousands of visitors descend upon Edinburgh for the summer Festivals, the Scottish Parliament's Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee took time to examine the economic benefit of one of the biggest cultural events in the world.

MSPs will investigate the issue during a one-off session yesterday afternoon.

The Committee explored the economic impact of the Festivals for Edinburgh and the wider parts of Scotland, the significant cultural and social benefits they generate, and what more can be done to increase the attractiveness of Scotland to international visitors through future development of the Festivals' world-leading cultural brand.

You can watch the YouTube video [here](#) (it lasts for an hour and a half!)

The Committee questioned the following witnesses:

Faith Liddell, Director, Festivals Edinburgh

Lady Susan Rice CBE, Managing Director, Lloyds Banking Group [Scotland] and Chair of Edinburgh's Festivals Forum

Kath Mainland, Chief Executive, Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society

Amy Saunders, Senior Adviser, International, Creative New Zealand

Gordon Dewar, Chief Executive, Edinburgh Airport

Convener of the Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee Murdo

Fraser MSP said ahead of the Committee meeting: “The Edinburgh Festivals are firmly established as some of the most creative and innovative Festivals anywhere in the world, attracting thousands of people to Edinburgh and Scotland every year.

“Our Committee will be asking how businesses in Edinburgh and across Scotland can realise the maximum economic benefit from hosting this artistic spectacle but also examining how our tourism industry responds to the challenge of the demands placed on it during August.”

Faith Liddell, Director, Festivals Edinburgh said: “Edinburgh’s Festivals are Scotland’s world-class cultural brands with an international reputation and appeal unmatched by any other cultural events on the globe. We are distinctively Scottish and yet profoundly international, drawing artists, audiences and media from every continent and over 70 countries each year.

“The Festivals are economic powerhouses, cultural platforms, forums for national and international debate, drivers of ambition and creators of cohesion. We are committed to capitalising on our enormous global value for the benefit of Scotland and look forward to working with the Committee to further examine our role.”

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## **Edinburgh Festival Fringe Review : Spectacappella! \*\*\*\***

There are some things in life that are horrifically tricky to master, yet impressive to behold once mastered: poaching an egg, juggling, speaking foreign languages, writing a decent review... *A cappella* singing is right at the top of this list.

The release of teen comedy *Pitch Perfect* in 2012 and the continued success of US drama *Glee* have brought a *cappella* back into the spotlight and updated its image from one of tired barbershop quartets to a modern, edgy medium, one that young people are excited to be involved in. **All The King's Men** are at the forefront of this revolution. Named in 2012 as the **best university a cappella group in the UK**, they celebrate their sixth birthday this year and are stronger than ever, counting amongst their patrons Paul Phoenix of The King's Singers and Michelle Carlin of Sydney University.

Opening with a lively mix of Prince's "*I Wanna Be Your Lover*" and Clean Bandit's "*Rather Be*", from the very beginning the group showcased where their strengths lie. Whilst the treble of **Ben Taylor-Davies** was clear and well-controlled in their first number, it was sometimes obscured by the power of the group as a whole.

There is a tremendous sense of fun within ATKM, one that sometimes leads the group a little out of the control of musical director **Jonny Stewart**, yet the audience has no objections. Sharp choreography (often a challenge for a *cappella* groups) and intelligent arrangements abound: Cee Lo Green's "*Forget You*" is standard fare for most a *cappella* groups, yet it was given new life by the seemingly impromptu arrival of **Thana'a Mohajer** with Kanye West's "*Gold Digger*"- Mohajer, one of the strongest voices in the group, also bends over backwards (quite literally) to display the strongest thighs.

Another highlight included **Rufus Talks'** rendition of Paolo Nutini's "*Last Request*"- a quieter moment that provided a welcome respite from the quick pace of ATKM's set.



The surge in popularity of a *cappella* singing is surely a

positive phenomenon. Soundtracks recorded in a booth with a sound engineer can hide a multitude of sins, and television shows and films sometimes lead young singers to believe that perfection can be achieved within minutes. ATKM is tribute to the hard work that goes into the mastery of what is in fact a very tricky medium, and they are a credit to their MD.

**Spectacappella!** is showing at 15:10 at The Space @ Symposium Hall, until August 23rd 2014. **All The King's Men** can be found on Facebook ([facebook.com/ATKMLondon](https://www.facebook.com/ATKMLondon)) and on their website ([www.all-the-kings-men.com](http://www.all-the-kings-men.com)). Their latest release, **Royal Flush**, can be purchased for £10 from [allthekingsmenlondon.-bigcartel.com](http://allthekingsmenlondon.-bigcartel.com).



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## Edinburgh Festival Fringe Review – Candy Gigi: I'm Not Lonely \*\*\*\*

Candy Gigi: I'm Not Lonely

Heroes @ the Hive

Until Aug 24

I arrived late to Candy Gigi's show, so I missed her opening scene in which she scrubs her teeth with a toilet brush for four minutes before trying to make out with a young male audience member. It was a taster of what was to come from the 2014 New Act of the Year finalist.

Grotesque almost doesn't do justice to the manic, gastronomically in-your-face, clownishly sexualised humour that Candy Gigi Markham, probably fairly safely, can call her

own.

With the theme tune from EastEnders blaring out, and a "Please find me funny" poster behind her, the newly single 25-year-old from South Woodford, Essex, wearing her mother's soiled wedding dress in an off-shoulder style, and with lipstick smeared over her face, gorges herself, variously, on red apples and an iceberg lettuce (garnished with parsley). Then she regurgitates them while eyeing up and sitting on the lap of her hapless male victim. "Why don't you kiss me?", she asks plaintively.

"I recently started having some counselling," she blurts out by way of explanation after an awkward silence. "I suffered problems with confidence and self-esteem. I've got too much of it! I love myself and I don't understand why boys don't fancy me. I'm pretty, I'm cute, I'm intelligent."

And then she's at it again, this time bashing the lettuce for good measure. "It's an unpredictable vegetable," she says.

A musical theatre graduate from north London's Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, Markham has a clear eye for the absurd. "You think this is easy?" she screams at the eight-strong audience. "I used to want to be a doctor. Then I woke up one day and thought: 'That's what I want to be: this.'"

A giant inflatable penis, a pig's nose and a can of whipped cream spray also feature, as do some broccoli and a banana, but the guy in the front row manages to hold out, even when his wannabe girlfriend starts grating a baby doll in a last-ditch come-on.

There's a surreal, Pythonesque, refreshingly off-the-wall feel to Markham's deadpan acts of desperation, and sprouting up from the raging ugliness is a resplendent voice which suddenly breaks into "I dreamed a dream" from Les Misérables. It's her first Edinburgh solo show, and, if her determination and wild imagination is anything to go by, it won't be her last.

Submitted by [Lee Levitt](#)



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# Edinburgh Festival Fringe Review – Aye Right How No? \*\*\*\*



The subject of the Scottish Referendum has been with us for a long time and a lot of the discussion is quite serious.

Aye Right How No is a comedy slant on the question of independence. Its hosts Vladimir McTavish and Keir McAllister do a very good job of bringing a lighter side to it all.

Able assisted by the very funny Propaganda Now lads using some great visuals it all worked very well. I especially liked the David Cameron speech spliced with a wee bit of Still Game – that was genius.

Different guests appear every night. These have included Rory Bremner (loads of guests in one!) and Des Clarke.

You can come away from this show with no idea how you will vote but hopefully you come away with a smile on your face after an hour of comedy on a subject which is too often too serious.

The show runs until 24th August 6.30pm The Assembly Rooms

George Street.

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# Scottish Seabird Centre are hiring



And we think you might have to be a bird lover!

North Berwick's multi award-winning visitor attraction, the Scottish Seabird Centre, is seeking an experienced Project Manager to progress plans to extend the existing Centre to house the National Marine Centre.

The National Marine Centre will build on the success of the five star Seabird Centre, creating additional education and visitor facilities by sympathetically expanding the existing building. This will allow the charity to achieve more of its conservation and education objectives and further enhance facilities for both locals and visitors.

The Project Manager role is a newly created, temporary post that will ensure that the National Marine Centre is fully planned, funded, built, fitted-out and opened.

The successful applicant will prepare and implement an agreed 12-month project programme; work with potential project partners, funders and supporters; and ensure that all plans fit with the Centre's charitable objectives.

A central part of this new job will be to ensure that the charity plays an increasing role in highlighting the international importance of Scotland's outstanding marine environment and wildlife; as well as the need for Scotland's seas, coasts and marine wildlife, including seabirds, to be properly protected and looked after for future generations.

Tom Brock OBE, Chief Executive of the Scottish Seabird Centre, said: "It is a very exciting time at the Seabird Centre as we look forward to playing an increasing role in environmental education and conservation, as well as continuing to improve a wonderful facility for both visitors and the local community.

"Candidates must have extensive project management and fundraising skills, as well as relevant experience and qualifications. A proven track record in fundraising and project delivery is also essential. We are confident that an enthusiastic and dedicated candidate, who is the right fit for our committed team of staff, trustees and volunteers, will be working with us very soon."

This is a full-time role (although part-time working may be considered) for an initial fixed period of 12 months (this may be extended depending on success and available funding). Salary is dependent on skills and experience. The deadline for applications is Friday 19 September.

For more information please visit [www.seabird.org](http://www.seabird.org)

Facebook /ScottishSeabirdCentre



# Thursday in Edinburgh – what's on today



**Live Music Now: Andrew Waite and Seth Tinsley.** The accordion, voice and guitar duo perform a mixture of traditional and self-penned songs and tunes in response to John Ruskin's artworks and other portrayals of the Scottish landscape.

6-6.30pm, [Scottish National Portrait Gallery](#), 1 Queen Street. Free and unticketed.

 **The Drawing Room:** an informal, artist-led drawing session.

Developed by contemporary artists, each session is inspired by the GENERATION exhibition and also reflects concerns in the artists' own work. All materials supplied, no experience necessary. This session will be led by **Robert Baldock** and **Emma Bowen**. 5.30-6.45pm, [Royal Scottish Academy](#), (Scottish National Gallery), The Mound. Free and unticketed. Part of GENERATION By Night.


**Lunchtime concert: Charles Eliasch (baritone), Sofia Dimitrova (soprano) Will Shaw (piano.)** 1.10-1.50pm, [St Mary's Cathedral](#), Palmerston Place. Free: retiring collection.

**Free Fringe Music at The National Museum of Scotland.** Today: **Andrew Waite and Seth Tilsey**, accordion, guitar and vocals. 2-2.40pm, [National Museum of Scotland](#), Chambers Street.

**Lunchtime Concert: Julian Layn** (Switzerland), piano. 12.15pm, [St Giles Cathedral](#), High Street. Free.

**Informal Concert: Piano Speak.** Will Pickvance performs popular piano improvisations and witty repartee. 'A Bach fugue evolves into a bebop classic on its way to becoming a version of Nirvana's *Smells Like Teen Spirit*.' 1.30pm, [St Giles Cathedral](#), High Street. Free.

**Conserving Stephen Campbell:** Kirsten Dunne and Sarah Laing discuss the labour of love involved in installing Campbell's immersive installation *On Form and Fiction* (1990). 6pm, [Royal Scottish Academy](#), (Scottish National Gallery), The Mound. Free and unticketed. Part of GENERATION By Night.

 **Blackwell's Edinburgh presents Writers At The Fringe:** every Thursday during the festival Blackwell's invites a selection of Scottish performers to give a taste of their work. New and unpublished works stand alongside established writers. This week **Sarah Sheridan, Jake Walker Curley, Jim Hall, Nicola White** and **Matthew Zajac**. 5.45-7.45pm, [Blackwell's, South Bridge](#). Free tickets available from the shop's front desk or by calling 0131 622 8216, or from the [Fringe Box Office](#).

**Rocks:** through video, photography and live performance, *Rocks* presents the journey of rocks from beach to stage, and the trajectory of a poem from idea to communication. 6-6.15pm, [Edinburgh College of Art](#), Main Building, Lauriston Place. Free; no booking required. Part of ECA Masters Festival 2014.

**Edinburgh Book Fringe 2014: Scotland '44 – Ideas for a New Nation.** **Dominic Hinde, Lee Bunce, Oliver Escobar-Rodriguez** and **Laurie MacFarlane** launch their new publication, which proposes ideas for a fairer, greener and more decentralised society for Scotland over a thirty year period, 2014-2044. 1pm, [Word Power Books](#), 43-45 West Nicolson Street. All welcome! Admission free – donations also welcome!

**iBeacons Camera Workshop: Otherie.** Come and try an app that enables you to attach photos to specific places inside buildings and then share them with other people who visit the same places. Invent a game that can be played with this set-up! 11.30am-1.30pm, [Edinburgh College of Art](#), Main Building, Lauriston Place. Free but places are limited and must be booked via [eventbrite](#). Part of ECA Masters Festival.

**Gayfield Twilight Talks: Garden in Mind** – designing for health and well-being. **Annie Pollock**, Director of Landscape Design and Architecture at the University of Stirling's Dementia Services Development Centre and **Celine Sinclair**, Chief Executive of The Yard, discuss the role of landscape design in creating health-giving environments. Introduced by leading architect **Richard Murphy OBE**. 6-8pm, [The Yard](#), 22 Eyre Place Lane. Free tickets can be booked via [eventbrite](#).



**War Poets Collection Guided Tours:** Edinburgh Napier University houses a small special collection of material relating to the fascinating history of its Craiglockhart campus, which began life in 1880 as a Hydropathic establishment and was requisitioned by the military in 1917 as a hospital for shell-shocked officers (**Seigfried Sassoon** and **Wilfred Owen** met here.) In the 1920s it became home to the Convent of the Sacred Heart and Craiglockhart College of Education.

**Catherine Walker** will provide a guided visit and talk about the many interesting characters who have had links with Craiglockhart over the years. 11am-12 noon or 2-3pm, War Poets Collection Exhibition Area, [Edinburgh Napier University Craiglockhart Campus](#), Glenlockhart Road. Free, but each tour is limited to 12 people, so please book by calling 0131 455 4260/4274 or emailing [events@napier.ac.uk](mailto:events@napier.ac.uk) **The War Poets Collection Exhibition** is open to the public for viewing during campus opening hours – all welcome! There is more information about the War Poets Collection on its [website](#).

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# Five things you need to know today Edinburgh



**Holyrood recess**

**Museum Lates**

**Your team**

**Doctor Who Premiere**

**Edinburgh Apps**

From tonight at midnight The Scottish Parliament enters what is known as purdah: that time between the parliamentary session and the Scottish Independence Referendum on 18 September 2014 when no new legislation can be passed.

No matter what your politics are this is an historic moment in Scotland. We will be at the count at Ingliston on 18 September and propose to bring you live rolling coverage of the event. If you have strong views then now is the time to let us know them. [Write to us here](#) for publication.

## Deadlines for the Scottish

# Independence Referendum

The following are the deadline dates

- Registering to vote – Tuesday 2 September 2014
- New Postal vote applications and Changes to existing postal votes – 5pm Wednesday 3 September 2014
- New applications to vote by proxy and changes to existing proxy Votes – 5pm Wednesday 3 September 2014
- Emergency proxy applications, without attestation – Wednesday 10 September 2014
- Emergency proxy applications, attestation required – 5pm on Thursday 18 September 2014

Further information on the council [website](#) about how to register – or you can get a form from your local library.

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The National Museum of Scotland is open late tomorrow night. You may still be able to get a ticket to this event filled with music brought to you by DJ Lord Holyrude on his vintage gramophone. More details [here](#).

Have a look at what happened at the last adult only event at the Museum!

[Museum After Hours](#) from [National Museums Scotland](#) on [Vimeo](#).

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We have a whole area of our site set up to accept your content. Called EdinburghReportage it is firmly based on the same platform as [Guardian Witness](#), and the nice people at The Guardian allow us to use it under our branding.

Our latest storyboard is for you to put up photos of your team – this can be a team that you play for or one that you support. You might have some video content – or you may like

to use this space to give us some match reports from matches that are not covered by mainstream media.

But please do use it – it is a playground for our readers! And if you have any suggestions for new storyboards then let us know!

[Click here to make your contribution to Your Team.](#)

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Doctor Who fans will already know that this Saturday is the start of the new season with Peter Capaldi as the Doctor. But did you know that you can watch a special screening of the first episode on Thursday afternoon as part of The Guardian Edinburgh International Television Festival?

*“Peter Capaldi’s first appearance as The Doctor will be show on BBC1 and in selected cinemas around the world on Saturday 23rd August but the episode will premier in Edinburgh, as part of the Festival, on Thursday 21st August. The feature length escapade ‘Deep Breath’ is set to be a spectacular beginning of an exciting new chapter in The Doctor Who saga.*

– See more at:  
<http://thisisedinburgh.com/whats-on/the-guardian-edinburgh-international-television-festival-2014/#sthash.HLe3n8ca.dpuf>

Enjoy Edinburgh tell you how:

[Post](#) by [Enjoy Edinburgh](#).

Tickets for the public screenings can be booked in person at The Filmhouse Cinema, by phoning 0131 228 2688 or online at <http://www.filmhousecinema.com/>. Timings for the screenings can also be found on the Filmhouse website.

Tickets for Doctor Who and Dynamo: Magician Impossible will cost £10 / £8 concession, Showrunners £6 / £4 concession.

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Forward-thinkers are being challenged to come up with innovative solutions to help improve the lives of people in Edinburgh.

[EdinburghApps](#), run by City of Edinburgh Council, pits teams and individuals against one another to create fresh and creative concepts using Council and partner data.

Launched in 2013, the event offered winners business support and the opportunity to work with the Council to develop their concepts further.

Now the competition will return for a second year, in partnership with [Transport for Edinburgh](#) , and will centre on two themes: Health and Culture and Sport.

Designers, developers, start-up businesses and other entrants will be able to use data provided to create apps, websites or other concepts. Ideas should either help citizens live healthy and independent lives or encourage interest and participation in culture and sport.

This year's [EdinburghApps event](#) will launch on 5th September with an Ice Breaker evening at the School of Informatics Forum, where anyone interested in entering will hear more information about the challenge and themes.

Participants will then be given seven weeks to work on their ideas before presenting them at a judging and awards event on 26th October. A series of drop-in sessions will be run during this period to allow competitors to discuss their entries further.



Convener of  
Finance and  
Resources Alasdair  
Rankin

Councillor Alasdair Rankin, the city's Finance & Resources Convener, said: "Technology is key to creating a thriving, equal society and events like these show the multitude of ways we can harness its benefits.

“We were incredibly impressed by the range and quality of entries in 2013 and I look forward to seeing what this year’s entries have to offer.”

Organisers are hoping to attract a similar calibre of entries to last year’s EdinburghApps, which was won by Joint Equipment Store, an app that helps Council lorries operate more efficiently, and Trashman, another app helping the public to locate their nearest recycling bank.

Thanks to the competition these apps are now due for release by the Council in October.

EdinburghApps also ran an interim Hackathon in June, when participants were challenged to use data from the Council, Scottish Government and other partners to come up with solutions to improve road safety.

If you are interested in taking part in this event, visit the [EdinburghApps website](#) and register on the event page or email [edinburghapps@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:edinburghapps@edinburgh.gov.uk).

Find out more about the Council’s Open Data Strategy [on the website](#).

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# Livingston 4 Hearts of Midlothian 1

**Petrofac Training Cup 2nd Round, Wednesday 20 August 2014 – Almondvale Stadium**

A young Hearts team crashed out of the Petrofac Training Cup following a 4-1 defeat to fellow SPFL Championship side Livingston at the Almondvale Stadium on Wednesday evening.

Hearts Head Coach Robbie Neilson made ten changes to the side that defeated Hibernian in the Championship on Sunday, opting to give some of Hearts youth team their opportunity to show what they could do. An indication of this was the fact that half the Hearts team made their first team debuts.



The home side took the lead after just six minutes through White and this proved to be the only goal of the first half. Hearts David Smith came close to levelling the tie early in the second half but, in truth, the Livvy Lions dominated the game. White added a second goal 15 minutes before the end before substitutes Hippolyte and Robertson added two more. Hearts grabbed a consolation in the dying seconds although even this was an own goal from Talbot.

A night to forget for Hearts as their young team bowed out of the Petrofac Training Cup after the Maroons first defeat in competitive fixtures this season.

**Livingston:** Jamieson, Talbot, Fordyce, Kyle Jacobs, Keaghan Jacobs, O' Brien, Gallacher, McKenna, White, Glen, Mullen

**Hearts:** Hollis, Robinson, D. Smith, Oliver, Keatings, McKay, Gordon, Beith, L. Smith, McGhee, Henderson.

**Referee:** Crawford Allan

**Att:** 3,807

**Top man:** Those Hearts supporters who made the short journey tonight. Not an evening they'll care to look back on with any great affection.

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# Scottish Independence Referendum – Today's views

✖ The big news today is oil.

Sir Ian Wood who recently retired from The Wood Group which he took over as the family business and turned into an

international success, has spoken today about the remaining oil reserves in the North Sea.

The Scottish Government commissioned Sir Ian to write a report on the oil industry and how to maximise recovery of oil from the seas around Scotland. You can read that publication in full [here](#). Known as The Wood Review the document refers to the amount of 24 billion barrels of oil six times.



The review also recommended that a stronger regulator is put in place to monitor the industry. But as at February this year Sir Ian himself said nothing about independence or any allegiances. Nor has he now. Further in the report he advocated future exploration which he felt was at an all-time low. He highlighted the recent find of 1.8 billion boe in the Norwegian oilfields bordering the UK Continental Shelf which shows how lucrative further exploration might be. He advocated increased exploration and drilling.

Wood has however come out today with a statement that he estimates there is only 30 years of oil left to explore which some believe is a contradiction of his earlier report and others believe is a knock out blow for the Yes campaign.

Scottish Development International quote Bob Keillor the current CEO of the Wood Group who also mentions 24 billion barrels left in the North Sea. You can read all of that statement in its context [here](#).

Fergus Ewing MSP and Energy Minister in The Scottish Government said: “Sir Ian is of course entitled to his views in the debate on Scotland’s future – but there is a wealth of expert opinion on the huge scale of Scotland’s long-term oil and other energy reserves, and the opportunities which that will offer us as an independent country.

“This is ultimately a debate about exactly how big Scotland’s

remaining oil reserves are, and most countries are not nearly lucky enough to be in that fortunate position.

“The estimate of up to 24 billion barrels of oil remaining is the industry’s own projection – and Sir Ian’s own recent report also referenced the remaining reserves in the North Sea as being up to 24 billion barrels, meaning there is potentially as much still to come in value terms as has already been extracted.

“Sir Ian’s estimates would appear to be based on projections which only go as far as the year 2050, but which are themselves substantially higher than those of the OBR.

“Professor Sir Donald MacKay – one of the most respected experts on the industry – has said that the OBR’s oil projections are ‘precisely wrong’ and that the UK Government’s figures are missing a ‘mountain of black gold’. That view is backed up by this week’s report from the impartial N-56 think tank, which has estimated that remaining oil revenues are several times those officially estimated.

“And Professor John Howell, the chair of petroleum geology at Aberdeen University, has said that there are at least 40 years of oil production in the pipeline, not even counting fields which may yet be discovered.

“Oil is a bonus for an independent Scotland’s economy, and not the basis – our onshore tax revenues, excluding oil and gas, are roughly the same as those in the rest of the UK. As Standard & Poor’s have observed, even without North Sea oil and gas, Scotland is a wealthy country which, as an independent country, would qualify for their ‘highest economic assessment’.

“North Sea oil will be a fantastic asset for an independent Scotland for decades to come, and we propose a stable tax and regulatory regime for the sector to help maximise recovery and revenues – unlike the fragmented regime under successive

Westminster Governments.”

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Better Together had their say on oil too. This is what they say:

“The campaign to break up the UK has flip flopped on its oil estimates after one of the world’s leading authorities on oil and gas said their projections of future tax revenue from the North Sea were too high.

The SNP Government have consistently predicted that there are 24 billion barrels of oil equivalent left.

However, in a statement released today, Sir Ian Wood, former Chair of the Wood Group and author of a major review of the oil and gas industry earlier this year, said that there are 15-16.5 billion left.

This is between 45- 60% less than the Nationalists estimate.

SNP minister Fergus Ewing has previously stated that oil and gas production would last until the end of the century, and has repeated consistently that there are up to 24 billion barrels of oil left.

However, in an interview on STV News tonight, Fergus Ewing completely switched his position, agreeing with Sir Ian Wood’s calculations, without mentioning it is completely different from his own position.

Reacting to Sir Ian’s intervention today Fergus Ewing said that Sir Ian was “absolutely right” to identify the opportunity Scotland has to extract “15 – 16 billion barrels of oil”.

The nationalists have previously rejected the advice of the impartial experts at the Institute for Fiscal Studies that a separate Scotland would face £6 billion worth of cuts because

they disagreed with the oil forecasts used.

**Labour Shadow Energy Minister Tom Greatrex said:**

“It doesn’t happen very often but tonight a nationalist minister has been caught telling the truth”

“If Fergus Ewing, speaking on behalf of the Scottish Government, accepts Sir Ian Wood’s projections then it is now time for the nationalists to come clean on the risks separation poses to public spending.

“The experts have said we would face £6 billion worth of either tax rises or spending cuts which the nationalists rejected because of their own, flawed, oil estimates.

“We do not have to take the risks of separation based on the nationalist’s dodgy sums. We can have the best of both worlds – a strong Scottish Parliament with more powers guaranteed backed up by the strength, security and stability of the UK by saying No Thanks to separation on 18 September.”

\*\*\*

A survey released today shows that English voters reject a currency union with a separate Scotland by a ratio of 2:1, according to Better Together.

53% of those surveyed disagreed that a separate Scotland should continue to use the pound with less than a quarter of those polled supporting a currency union.

That is one of the key findings of the Future of England Survey 2014 (FoES). Over 3,600 adults in England were questioned by YouGov as part of research undertaken by Cardiff University and the ESRC Scottish Centre on Constitutional Change, based at the University of Edinburgh.

This poll comes the day after Alex Salmond twice described using the pound as a “transitional option.” Mr. Salmond made the remarks during an interview on Good Morning Scotland.

The SNP have previously claimed there is support across the rest of the UK for a currency union. However, this poll follows a similar one in April of this year that demonstrated

that more than half of those living in England, Wales and Northern Ireland disagreed. The poll, commissioned by international currency transfer service UKForex, showed that 53% of the 1,600 respondents opposed a currency union if Scotland votes in favour of separation in September.

**Scottish Labour MSP Jackie Baillie said:**

“It is not surprising that the majority of people in England do not support a currency union. It wouldn’t work for Scotland or the rest of the UK. For us in Scotland it would mean handing over control of our economy to what would then be a foreign country.

“A currency union would not happen if we left the UK. That’s why we need to know Alex Salmond’s Plan B for what would replace the pound. Would we rush to adopt the Euro? Or would we set up a separate unproven currency?

“With just one week until up to one million postal votes are sent out across Scotland, it beggars belief that people are being asked to make such a huge decision without knowing what currency we would use. This really matters to people. How can we talk about paying for our schools and hospitals in a separate Scotland if we don’t know what currency we would use for that? How can families plan for the future if we don’t know what money our wages, pensions and benefits would be paid in?

“The choice facing Scots couldn’t be clearer. We can take a leap in the dark with Alex Salmond and independence. Or we can have what most Scots want – more powers for Scotland without taking on all the risks of separation. It’s the best of both worlds. We should say No Thanks to putting that at risk.”

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A number of leading nursing trade unionists in Lothian declared their support for a Yes vote as the one opportunity to protect the NHS in Scotland. Ahead of a statement by Health Secretary Alex Neil on the NHS in Scotland, nurses and members of NHS for Yes gathered near the Scottish Parliament to highlight the risks a No vote poses to our health service.

Community nurse Geoff Earl, who was present at Holyrood for the Neil announcement, said: ‘As a nurse it is crystal clear to me that the best way to protect the NHS in Scotland is with a Yes vote. Since devolution, the Scottish Government has shown it can be trusted to deliver for nurses across our

health service. When a pay rise was promised, it was delivered earlier this year. Meanwhile, Westminster let nurses down south of the border, reneging on its promised pay increase.

‘As the Westminster Tory government systematically breaks the NHS in England into bits, the Scottish Parliament has enabled us to keep our health service in public hands. But there is no doubt in my mind that a No vote will mean that budget cuts south of the border will hit our NHS in Scotland hard.

‘A recent report by the Commonwealth Fund found that the NHS in the UK was the world’s best healthcare system – ranking top for efficiency, safety and cost. Privatisation puts that at risk. A Yes vote is our one opportunity to protect our NHS and ensure it remains world class.’

Senior charge nurse Andrew Notman, who was also present, said: ‘In my personal view the only way to protect services and preserve fairness for staff within the NHS in Scotland is to vote Yes. We need the freedom to choose our own path on how we provide health services for the Scottish people, that is owned by the people of Scotland and run to meet their needs.

‘We cannot do this while Westminster controls the purse strings and pushes an agenda of privatisation, fragmentation and cuts.’

Community mental health nurse Michelle Robertson said: ‘Only a Yes can protect our NHS. The rush towards privatisation south of the border began under the previous Labour government and has spiralled out of control under the Tories.

‘Currently in the unelected and undemocratic House of Lords a number of peers are involved are involved with private health care companies giving each scope to benefit financially from the growing privatisation of the NHS England.

‘So although health is currently devolved, it’s naïve to think that Scotland won’t suffer as a result of privatisation south

of the border.'

Co-founder and chair of NHS for Yes Dr Willie Wilson said: 'More and more people – both those who work in the NHS in Scotland, and those who depend on it – are coming to realise that only with a Yes vote can we protect our public health service from the damaging effect of rampant privatisation south of the border.'

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Have you been watching Referendum TV? It is being live broadcast from Hill Street each day during the Fringe. Featuring Lesley Riddoch and Iain McWhirter with guests it sets out to offer a view on the independence referendum. They admit to being mainly Yes voters but aim to give a fair hearing to both sides.

Watch today's show here:

***The Edinburgh Reporter produces a selection of remarks and comments and pointers to articles about the Scottish Independence Referendum whenever we can.***

People living in Scotland are invited to vote in the referendum on independence from the United Kingdom on 18 September 2014. The referendum question is "Should Scotland be an independent country?"

Whether you intend voting Yes or No to that question, your views, and those of others, have a place here. We invite comments and we also invite you to write about what you think by using our Submit your Story feature [here](#).

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# Edinburgh council offers nationality checking service



A new 'check and send' service has been launched to help people in Edinburgh to apply for British Citizenship.

People who use the [Nationality Checking Service](#) offered by The City of Edinburgh Council increase the chance of their applications being approved without unnecessary delays.

Trained staff offer a one-stop shop for applicants, who previously had to either travel to South Lanarkshire or south of the border to get documents checked or risk losing original documents by submitting them directly.

Registration staff will make sure that the correct paperwork is being submitted, photocopy all documents and return the originals, check that applications are filled out properly and then send them by special delivery to arrive at the Home Office in Liverpool the next again working day.

Completed forms sent with the right documents are processed more quickly and cuts down on red tape. Having the forms and documents checked first by trained officials reduces these risks and may also cut the time spent waiting for a result.

The Nationality Checking Service is a partnership between the Council and the Home Office, with a total of 16 existing members of registration staff being trained.

The service is available to any person eligible to apply for British citizenship regardless of where they live.

Councillor Alasdair Rankin, Finance Leader at the City of Edinburgh Council, said: "People seeking British citizenship have to adhere to a strict application system and have to pay

simply to apply, so it is important that they get all of the details correct. Being able to speak face to face to trained staff here in Edinburgh will offer reassurance that they are submitting all of the relevant documents properly.

“This will also generate much-needed funds at a time when every local authority is under huge financial pressure and being forced to make cutbacks.”

The City of Edinburgh Council checking service team are not able to give advice or answer queries regarding applications – these should be directed to the Home Office on 0845 010 5200.

Fees for the service are: single adult, £66; couple, £120; family, £168; child under 18, £36. These are payable to the Council and are in addition to any fees due to the Home Office.

Anyone interested in using the Document Checking Service can contact the team at Lothian Chambers on George IV Bridge on 0131 529 2614.

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## Thingummyjig is back!

✖ Thingummyjig is back at Edinburgh Corn Exchange on 23 and 30 August and tickets are still available.

Thingummyjig was STV's top rated music and dance programme in the 70s and 80s.

After a gap of over twenty years the Haddington Corn Exchange was selected to revive the show as part of East Lothian's Homecoming Events. Jack McLaughlin who has a real affection for East Lothian having started his broadcasting career on the

pirate ship Radio Scotland which was launched from Dunbar. His book about the first days of pirate radio from East Lothian, *Pirate Jock* was published last year.

East Lothian has a strong tradition of Scottish music. The first band featured on Thingummyjig was Jim Johnston from Tranent and Jim also wrote the theme tune for the programme. Bobby Colgan from Macmerry was on drums for that first series and still plays a part in the local music scene.

Some of the original stars of the show such as Alastair MacDonald, Tom Alexander , Morag McKay, the John Carmichael Band and East Lothian's Bobby Colgan all formed part of the line-up with new local musicians and of course joining them on stage the Thingummyjig Dancers.

The night was hosted by the Laird of Coocaddens himself Jack McLaughlin who fronted every edition of the show on television.

Tartan Events was formed in September 2013 and includes three of the original team Jack McLaughlin (show host), Charles Davidson (production) and Cliff Martin (show director).

After a sellout show at Haddington Thingummyjig is now coming to the Corn Exchange in Edinburgh on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of August

[Ticket details here.](#)

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**Church to discuss sex**

# trafficking at the Fringe on Thursday

✖ Sex trafficking is to be discussed by the Church of Scotland at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Members of the Church and Society Council are teaming up with the author and cast members of a play titled 'Broken Dolls' – which explores the realities of human trafficking – for a talk-back session tomorrow after the 6.30 performance at Riddle's Court in the Lawnmarket.

The play has received rave reviews from the critics.

Broken Dolls recounts the story of Narcisa, a young Moldovan girl, tricked and sold into the sex industry when a seemingly innocent interview turns into her worst nightmare.

At the General Assembly of 2012, the Church of Scotland, in a report, drew attention to the anguish and misery caused by human trafficking. It called for action to reduce the demand for sexual services throughout Scotland.

Graham Blount, Church and Society Council Secretary, said: "We welcome this chance to explore human trafficking, its impact and Scottish responses to it; and invite you to join us for the play and discussion."

Tickets can be purchased online at the [Edinburgh Fringe Box Office](#).

The Edinburgh Reporter interviewed the stars of Broken Dolls and you can watch that interview [here](#)

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# Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2014 – REVIEW – Jack Dee's Help Desk \*\*\*.5



**Jack Dee's Help Desk, Assembly George Square 6:30pm, until 24 August, See venue for ticket availability and pricing**

Known for his generally glum persona, Jack Dee's one-week run in Edinburgh was marked with very apt, dark skies before his Tuesday evening show. The audience were drenched while queueing for his new format, 'Help Desk', the content of which is as unpredictable as the Scottish weather.

If you have a problem, from the mundane to the major, this is your opportunity to submit it to Jack and his team of 4 comedians who differ each night. This variable is vital to the success of the evening, with another variable being the problems which people are willing to submit and their chance of being chosen and discussed. On this occasion, Mark Steel, Hannah Gadsby, Lou Sanders and Clive Anderson joined Jack to delve into the back-stories of a number of the dilemmas, attempting to conjure humour and some sort of solution from each scenario.

The production didn't quite pack as big a punch as might be expected from such a talented five-piece; the exchanges between the audience and the helpers sometimes dragged. Having said this, it is a refreshing concept and many astute observations were made. It would be excellent to see this show polished and perhaps in a TV or radio format.

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# Welcome to my Gilded Edinburgh



by Donald Anderson

More so than most capitals throughout the world Edinburgh is somewhat of a gilded gateway to its home nation. It's partly due to its stunning beauty, it's partly down to the city's reputation as an international culture hub, but it's also because Edinburgh is a small city in a small country.

Getting around what you want to see in Edinburgh is much easier than most capital cities and getting beyond the city into fantastic countryside is equally easy. Edinburgh Airport is the main point of arrival, from here the gothic grandeur of the city centre lies only a few minutes away by a variety of means. Getting to the city centre is easier than ever and Edinburgh now has some of the best links of any European city with shiny new trams, a superb shuttle bus service and arguably the best taxi service in Britain.

Once you've set yourself up in where ever it is you'll be staying and are out and about in the town it's good to have an idea about what you plan to see and how to make the most of Edinburgh's many treasures.

I'll start with the City of Edinburgh itself. This urban area is split into two zones, the Old Town and the New Town, the former of which contains many of the city's most significant landmarks. It is amongst the medieval spires and renaissance highrises that you'll find such treasures as the National Museum of Scotland, the John Knox House, Holyrood Palace and,

most prominently of all, the magnificent Edinburgh Castle.

The National Museum is the city's most popular free attraction, but there is also the Museum of Childhood, the Edinburgh Writers Museum, guided tours of the Scottish Parliament, and a huge array of shows during the Festival Fringe season when the city throngs with revellers enjoying what must be the greatest arts and entertainment show on Earth. For pure, simple pleasure, however, nothing quite beats a long walk around the ancient architecture and mystical, winding closes.

On foot sightseeing in Edinburgh's Old Town is great all year round and is at its finest when accompanied by an expert historian and storyteller. The best way to unlock the tales beneath the surface is book yourself on a Mercat walking tour. A Mercat tour is a never-to-be-forgotten experience wherein the often lurid (and true) tales of Edinburgh's infamous past come to light. Tales of murder and body snatching are brought to life alongside the stories of Edinburgh's famous historical figures. Descend into the sprawling sub-terrain Blair Street Vaults on a ghost tour or to hear the fascinating history of why they were created; learn about the story of the Royal Mile and Edinburgh Castle, and set out on a spooky night walk. Edinburgh's New Town is characterised by meticulously planned Georgian terrace streets and beautiful classical monuments.

The area's grid arrangement stands in striking contrast to the organic curves of the Old Town. It is where you will find many free to enter attractions such as the National Galleries of Scotland and the Scottish National Portrait Galleries. Be sure to shop in the fashion houses of Multrees Walk and George Street, where upmarket retail abounds, but take time to just soak up the atmosphere in an array of classy restaurants and bars. Edinburgh city centre is an amazing and easy place to explore on foot.

There are, however, a huge selection of open top sightseeing

bus tours circulating throughout the veins of the capital. Most of them have their initial departure points at Waverley Bridge and St Andrew Square. From these locations they ferry their passengers high and low, corner to corner. Most offer pre-recorded audio commentary and there's almost always a live English speaking guide on-board. All of them are hop-on hop-off allowing you explore deeper into some of Edinburgh's nooks and crannies in your own time.

It's a great experience in of itself, but it's also a great way to sample the city's many great places and attractions. The best part about the bus tours is that the scope of available routes reflect the ubiquitous nature of Edinburgh's borders.

The city centre is but one small (albeit significant) aspect of the Edinburgh sightseeing experience. Services such as the Edinburgh Heritage Tour make specific visits to outlying areas of natural beauty, including the Royal Botanical Gardens – one of my very favourite places and perhaps one of the country's best free attractions, and all the spots that have earned the praise of UNESCO .

The Majestic Tour leaves the inner city and heads north towards Leith, where you can take in the shoreline of the Firth of Forth and climb aboard Royal Yacht Britannia. There's even a City Sightseeing hop-on hop-off tour which includes a wonderful Horrible Histories commentary narrated by Terry Deary the famous author himself – great news if you're travelling with kids! Edinburgh's status as the 'gilded gateway' I mentioned previously extends far beyond the airport and [bus tours](#) of the immediate outlying districts.



So far I've focused on the 'gilded' aspect, the beauty and diversity of the inner city, but what epitomises the gateway? I'll start with something that provides a virtual passport to



the rest of Scotland. A 3-5 day ['Historic Scotland Explorer Pass'](#) provides free access to 72 of Historic Scotland's cultural attractions. This incredible variety features everything from the biggest and boldest to the oldest and most poignant.

A few particularly famous highlights are Edinburgh Castle itself, Linlithgow Palace, Stirling Castle and Urquhart Castle. You can buy passes online and they are redeemable at the Edinburgh Castle Historic Scotland Pass pick-up point. With knowledge that the explorer pass can act as your ticket around the country's best, what about tours that visit them? A highly recommended coach day tour operator based right in the centre of Edinburgh is Rabbies. Rabbies are long established tourism professionals who have been lighting the way for international visitors for years.

Their best loved day tours take small, close-knit groups on some wonderful explorations of the Scottish Highlands, Borders, and even Northern England. Landmarks aside a lot of the tours also incorporate such things as whisky tasting sessions, golf in the land where it was invented, loch cruises, light hiking portions and castle visits.

The scope of things to discover both in and outside Edinburgh is staggering, and only a few introductory examples have been listed here, more than enough for a good long weekend and even more. The yearly international festivals themselves can keep you occupied for many days. Edinburgh is a small and beautiful capital of a small and beautiful city, and there's something for everyone with superb world class attractions, wonderful historic streetscapes that gladden the eye or simply some of the most beautiful countryside in the world.

A gilded gateway to help you create some magical memories and treasured experiences in one of the loveliest places there is. I love it, and I'm sure you will too. Donald Anderson is a director at the PPS Group – the UK's largest independent

public affairs company. Born and bred in Edinburgh, Donald served for many years as a Labour Councillor, on the board of VisitScotland and was leader of The City of Edinburgh Council for many (it was actually 7.5 years!) years where he spearheaded the City's economic and tourism development at a time of great change and growth in Edinburgh and the Lothians.

For more information please email [CityXplora](mailto:info@cityxplora.com) at [info@cityxplora.com](mailto:info@cityxplora.com)

Submitted by [Iain Coupar](#)



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## **Council need your views on community payback orders**

Edinburgh residents are being asked to comment on a scheme which orders offenders to work unpaid in the community as part of their sentence.

Community Payback Orders can be imposed on offenders by the courts as an alternative to a short prison term, and can last between six months and three years. They give those involved the chance to address their behaviour and also to repay communities by carrying out unpaid work.

The public consultation has been launched by the City of Edinburgh Council, which administers the scheme in Edinburgh. The council want to know what you think of offenders working in communities and the effectiveness of community payback as a way to reduce re-offending.

Examples of unpaid work carried out by the scheme include:

- Refurbishing rundown gravestones, including a memorial in Craigmillar to an abandoned baby;
- Maintaining the VAT Run mountain bike trail in South Queensferry;
- Clearing overgrown paths in Figgate Park;
- Building and filling flower planters for the Queen's Baton route.

As well as using the questionnaire to comment on the community payback scheme, individuals and community groups can also recommend projects that may benefit from unpaid work through the online [suggestion form](#).

All local authorities are legally required to carry out an annual consultation on the unpaid work aspect of community payback orders.



Vice-Convenor of  
Health, Social  
Care & Housing –  
Cammy Day

Community Safety Leader, Councillor Cammy Day, said: “We’re really keen to hear what people think about community payback orders, and the work carried out by the people subject to them.

“They are an excellent way for organisations such as charities to get practical help, and they give offenders the chance to repay communities for their offences.”

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# Dramatic reviewer shortage at Edinburgh Fringe

Every year the Edinburgh Fringe gets bigger. This year there are over 3,000 shows in the Official Fringe Programme, plus perhaps another thousand free shows. But as the number of shows goes inexorably upwards, the number of reviewers has failed to keep pace. Quite simply Edinburgh Fringe has got too big to review.

Lyn Gardner recently wrote about feeling alone as the only Broadsheet reviewer left at Edinburgh Fringe and how that the Nationals had deserted the Fringe, choosing to focus instead on the much smaller and easier to handle International Festival. This has left the fringe coverage to the festival press and (mainly students) writing online for websites or theatre blogs.

But the festival press and online reviewers can in no way provide the huge number of reviews demanded by the shows performing at this year's fringe. If there are say, 4,000 shows and each show would like four reviews, that's a total of 16,000 reviews needed. Who will provide them ? The result is that many shows this year have struggled to get any sort of review at all.

As ever, it seems that performing at Edinburgh Fringe is a considerably more attractive proposition than reviewing it.

Submitted by [Phil Jacobs](#)

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# Tupiniquim – Great Crepes and Fundraising!



## Tupiniquim Crepe Stand

Over the course of the past four years, [Tupiniquim](#), the Brazilian crepe kiosk at the top of Middle Meadow Walk, has developed its own special place in Edinburgh's culinary heart.

Showcasing outstanding gluten-free crepes and excellent freshly-squeezed juices, the Tupiniquim family has many admirers across the city and beyond. They've had open air cinema screenings next to the kiosk and this summer added the "Bamboo Belly", a stage for performers to entertain the public. It has been lively throughout August with Festival shows.

If it's not a business you've come across on your travels then you should plan a trip over to the top of Meadow Walk where they are based and try one of their fabulous crepes or pancakes from their regularly changing menu with a freshly squeezed juice.



## Release the Chicken Crepe

Sadly, the owner of the kiosk has decided to sell it, and they don't have enough to buy it from him. They would love to continue spending their days feeding their friends and building on the lovely community they have built up. To take things into their own hands, they've set up a [Kickstarter](#) with the ambitious target of raising £10k in just 12 days, starting today and running until 30 August.

This is no small ask, but "mony a mickle maks a muckle", so let's make this happen. Full details over on their [Kickstarter](#)

# Edinburgh Festival Fringe INTERVIEW – Hedluv and Passman



**Hedluv and Passman: Doin' it Dreckly, Gilded Balloon 10:30pm,  
until 25 Aug, £11/10 (£9/8 concessions)**

“In Cornwall they regard themselves as modern day folk heroes. But the moment they cross the border they become... a joke. Still, with seeming indifference they plough on.”

Cornish rappers [Hedluv and Passman](#) spoke to us about performing at this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe, their plans for the future and the meaning of some Cornish phrases.

Photo: [www.cornwall-living.co.uk](http://www.cornwall-living.co.uk)

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## Edinburgh International Book Festival in Photos – Take 3

Another selection of authors from the Book Festival, this time from Tuesday's guest list at Charlotte Square. The Festival runs until the 25th August.













# COMPETITION – Win £100 voucher for Halfords



**School's back: Remember your best driving behaviour**

**It's not just our little ones that need to think about their behaviour at the start of the school year**

*THIS COMPETITION ENDS ON THURSDAY 21 AUGUST 2014 at 12 MIDNIGHT.*

Now that the schools are back, Road Safety Scotland (part of Transport Scotland) and The Scottish Government have partnered with Halfords to offer one lucky driver the chance to win **£100 worth of vouchers**. The competition aims to raise awareness among parents and carers of the influence their driving behaviour can have on their children's behaviour when they in turn take to the wheel in the future.

Before parents and carers embark on the – often stressful – school run, it is important that Scottish drivers remember their backseat passengers will, one day, become drivers and that they pick up their driving habits from a very young age. The campaign draws on Early Years and Road Safety research which demonstrate that children's future prospects are greatly influenced from a very young age by their parents' and carers' behaviour.

Neale Kinnear, Principal Psychologist in the study of human behaviour and transport at the Transport Research Laboratory

said: “Children are always learning from their parents’ behaviour, whether inside or outside of the car. Children not only soak up what is going on in their world, but also try to make sense of it to develop their own behaviour. What they learn as a child will inform their future behaviour and social interactions.

“Research has demonstrated this effect in driving whereby young drivers’ behaviour and crash risk is influenced by their parents’ driving behaviour. Parents, therefore, can protect themselves and their child passengers now, and in the future, by adopting basic safety-related approaches which can improve safety now, and for future generations.”

For your chance to win, simply answer the following question:

Name(required)

Email(required)

Which driving behaviours may your child pick up from your own driving behaviours?(required)

▼

Submit

Δ

### Full Terms & Conditions:

1. The promoter is Stripe Communications Limited which has its registered office at 86/3 Commercial Quay, Edinburgh

EH6 8LX on behalf of Scottish Government which has its registered office at St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG.

2. The competition period will start at 9am on 20 August 2014 and end at midnight on 21 August 2014.
3. To enter, entrants should use the drop down options above.
4. By entering the Competition, you accept these terms and conditions.
5. Each applicant has a chance to win £100 worth of Halford vouchers.
6. There will be one winner.
7. The Winners will be notified via email.
8. Scottish Government shall not be responsible for any inaccurate contact details provided by Qualifying Entrants/Winners in accordance with paragraph 7 above, which results in the Prize not being delivered.
9. The Prize is non-transferable and non-negotiable. No cash alternative will be offered. All prizes are subject to availability. Scottish Government reserves the right to substitute the Prize with an alternative of equal or greater value in the event that the Prize becomes unavailable.
10. The Scottish Government accepts no responsibility for any fault occurring to the item following purchase. Any faulty item should be directed to the retail outlet (Halfords).
11. Scottish Government's decision will be final and binding. No correspondence will be entered into.
12. You agree that by entering into the Competition, your submission may be used by Scottish Government for the purpose of conducting this promotion.
13. These terms and conditions are governed by the laws of Scotland.

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# New marine strategy launched on Portobello Beach



Plans to tackle the problem of marine litter were launched on Portobello Beach yesterday by Scotland's Environment Secretary Richard Lochhead.

Costing Scotland £16.8 million every year, marine litter impacts on our environment, wildlife, industry and tourism. A *Marine Litter Strategy for Scotland* details the scale of the problem and almost 40 new actions to minimise coastal and marine litter.

It reveals:

- The majority of litter found on Scotland's beaches and seas is made up of plastics, which present a significant risk for marine wildlife
- Marine litter is a significant issue for the fishing industry – vessels participating in the Fishing for Litter initiative landed over 374 tonnes of litter between 2011-14 and it is estimated that the problem costs every vessel in the Scottish fleet as much as £17,000 annually
- We are already doing a lot in partnership with stakeholders including KIMO, Marine Conservation Society and Keep Scotland Beautiful but are seeking to do more and improve co-ordination of projects
- Efforts will be focussed not only on clearing up litter that has already entered the marine environment but also

on preventing it from ending up there in the first place – 80 per cent of marine litter is thought to have been dropped on land



Launching the strategy Environment Secretary Richard Lochhead said:

“Scotland’s marine environment is one of our greatest assets and it is in everyone’s interests to preserve it. Marine litter is a significant problem and a staggering amount of discarded materials – particularly plastics – wash up on our beaches every single day.

“I want this to change. It is dangerous for our marine wildlife, is damaging and costly for our fishing fleet and is an unnecessary blight on our wonderful beaches, which are enjoyed by thousands of visitors from home and abroad. Great work is being done by initiatives like Fishing for Litter and beach clean ups – but we can all do so much more. I hope that everyone sits up and listens to these startling statistics on the marine litter problem and takes responsibility for disposing of litter in the proper way to prevent its negative impact on our seas and coastlines.”

Scotland Programme Manager for the Marine Conservation Society Calum Duncan said:

“Through our Beachwatch project, the biggest of its kind in Europe and now in its 21st year, thousands of Marine Conservation Society citizen scientists have not only been cleaning their beaches but also gathering proof of the increasing trend in marine litter, bringing into stark focus the scale of the problem. We are therefore pleased to see the Scottish Government’s proactive approach to strategically tackle marine litter. The strategy incorporates some MCS



recommendations such as extending Port Waste Reception Facilities to include fishing vessels, expansion of the KIMO Fishing for Litter initiative, encouraging alternatives to plastic micro beads in personal care products and highlighting the need to tackle sources of sewage related debris. The Scottish marine litter strategy provides a great opportunity to enhance education and awareness, as well as providing the tools and input to facilitate change. Marine litter is a wasted resource, and we can all play a part in reducing it.”

Keep Scotland Beautiful Chief Executive Derek Robertson said:

“For too long, we as a nation have turned a blind eye to our litter problems, both inland and in the marine and coastal environment, the Marine Litter Strategy is a significant milestone in our fight-back against the problem. Keep Scotland Beautiful has been instrumental in co-ordinating the battle against litter for 50 years, and most recently through its Clean Up Scotland campaign, in which over 250,000 volunteer actions have been taken to tackle litter since 2013.

“The charity believes the Strategy has a major role to play in bringing Government, businesses, charities and individuals together to build a greater sense of pride in our coastal communities through education, enforcement and improved litter prevention activities and innovative infrastructure. We look forward to working co-operatively to ensure the implementation of the Strategy is successful – helping us make Scotland the cleanest country in Europe”.

Photos courtesy of The Scottish Government

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# **Business course : Focus on Discipline 20 August 2014**

Following a series of expensive unfair dismissal cases being reported in the media this year, HR and health and safety experts Law At Work (LAW) are calling on business leaders to focus more attention on their disciplinary procedures.

The Edinburgh based firm has revealed that the highest number of calls (80%) to their legal managers are related to staff conduct issues as companies strive to set out clear and concise directives when conducting disciplinary proceedings. Such is the demand for advice, LAW is hosting a seminar aimed at providing HR professionals, senior management and business owners with guidance through the minefield of disciplinary procedures.

The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) produced a 2011 report on Conflict Management confirming that “the scale of workplace conflict is remarkable and has increased in the recession”. The report found that almost half of those surveyed say that their organisation has increased its use of disciplinary action (49.5%), grievance procedures (47.7%) and mediation (49.4%). Almost 62% of employers had reported increasing instances of training line managers to handle difficult conversations and two in three respondents (65.3%) quoted that troubleshooting by HR departments has gone up.

Donald MacKinnon, Director of Legal Services at LAW explained that employers need to take discipline procedures seriously and protect themselves from potentially damaging situations. He said:

“Effective management of workplace grievances and disciplinary procedures must be viewed as an important fabric of any business. It can often be a daunting and tricky area for

companies to handle themselves and can be an expensive mistake if mismanaged.”

“There are a number of basic steps that businesses must be prepared for in order to undertake successful and well managed investigations or disciplinary procedures. Our experience demonstrates that employers can frequently turn a potentially fair dismissal into an unfair one by failing to apply basic procedural steps or using outdated policies and procedures, which in turn could leave them exposed to costly tribunals and damaging claims.”

The seminar will cover practical elements including investigating disciplinary hearings and grievances, how best to interview and manage witnesses, making decisions on suspension or dismissal and what to do if criminal investigations are required.

The interactive “Focus On” seminar takes place in Edinburgh on Wednesday 20th August from 9.30am-12.30pm, HSBC, 80 Hanover Street, Edinburgh, EH2 1EL. Places are priced at £60 + VAT for LAW clients and £120 + VAT for non-clients.

To find out more about LAW’s training schedule and to request your place, please visit:

<http://www.lawatwork.co.uk/focus-on/disciplinary-dilemmas-edin>

Submitted by [Katie Burnett](#)

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## Edinburgh Old Town’s latest fine art gallery

Edinburgh’s Old Town welcomed its latest addition to the art

scene with the opening of HoeyynArts Gallery.

Heralded by Chinese drumming and a Lion Dance, the gallery opened with fanfare to the surprise and delight of many neighbors on Blackfriars Street just off the Royal Mile. Curious onlookers and guests braved the Edinburgh weather to see the Lion Dance performance celebrating the auspicious opening of the gallery dedicated to the work of Malaysian Chinese Artist Hoeyyn.

The opening was complemented by a brilliant performance by Misa-Lisin, a traditional Langasan Theater performance troupe of aboriginal dancers, and performance artists from Taiwan doing celebratory dances of blessing and good wishes for the success of HoeyynArts.



Hoeyyn is an accomplished artist with numerous awards and successful exhibitions in London Mayfair, Edinburgh, and Malaysia. She holds the Platinum Award as Top 10 Malaysian Outstanding Artists. Trained in traditional Chinese art as well as modern western styles, Hoeyyn brings a unique blend of styles and materials to her contemporary pieces.

Hoeyyn's mixed media artwork includes at times using palettes for frames, coffee for ink, and canvasses made of hessian cloth, rough recycled paper, and wood blocks. The intimate gallery highlights this variety as well as the opportunity to meet the artist in residence.

The centrepieces of the opening exhibit were three pieces of work commissioned for the MATRADE conference in London in 2013. They depict the multi-cultural society in Malaysia and

the regional cooking styles that blend effortlessly in the unique culinary environment that is Malaysia. Other pieces include a cube montage of whimsical cat faces and two intimate portraits of her father, depicted in a thoughtful pose, and her mother, a Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) doctor depicted examining a young patient.



HoeyynArts Gallery guests included friends, collectors and promoters each drawn by their own interests in the talented artist, as well as figures from the national and international art scene, such as Scotland's Mark Powell Elligius and Italy's Guglielmo Greco Piccolo. All were impressed by the transformation of the intimate space into an inspirational setting for fine art. The artist herself expressed her desire for the public to be inspired and to reflect on her diverse body of work, its themes and the materials used. While mostly exhibiting Hoeyyn's work, HoeyynArts Gallery will occasionally invite guest artists to exhibit in the forum.

HoeyynArts Gallery is open 7 days a week from 11AM to 6PM. For more information, visit <http://hoeyynarts.com> or <http://www.facebook.com/HoeyynArts>.

Submitted by [HoeyynArts](#)



# Wednesday in Edinburgh – what's on today



**Titian in Ten:** ten minute pop-up talks delivered by NGS staff. Gain an exclusive insight as staff from across the galleries offer different perspectives on Titian's masterpieces. 2pm, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed.

**Edinburgh Napier University Postgraduate Web Chat:** if you are from the UK and have applied to start **postgraduate** study at Napier this September, this is the perfect opportunity to ask questions you may have about the university, your application or the city of Edinburgh. Talk online to staff and other potential postgrad students. 4-6pm – register in advance [here](#).

**Lunchtime concert:** Clare Treacey (soprano), Seho Lee (piano.) 1.10-1.50pm, [St Mary's Cathedral](#), Palmerston Place. Free: retiring collection.

**Rocks:** through video, photography and live performance, *Rocks* presents the journey of rocks from beach to stage, and the trajectory of a poem from idea to communication. 6-6.15pm, [Edinburgh College of Art](#), Main Building, Lauriston Place. Free; no booking required. Part of ECA Masters Festival 2014. Also at same time on Thursday 21st August.



**Guided Tour of the National Library of Scotland:** tour of the building and introduction to the library's collections and history. 10.30-11.15am (approx), [National Library of Scotland](#), George IV Bridge. Free, but numbers limited so booking

essential. Book online via [website](#) or call 0131 623 3734. Please notify the library of any special access requirements.

**Edinburgh Book Fringe 2014: Andrew Ladd and Andres Neuman.** Andrew Ladd's debut novel *What Ends* is 'an exquisitely conjured elegy for a vanished way of life.' In 1980 the McCloud family welcomes its third child, the last to be born on Eilean Fior, a small west coast island. Life there is grim, the population has fallen to thirty, but the McClouds stubbornly maintain their guest house business. Then a plague of rats threatens to wipe out the island's last remaining hopes. *What Ends* follows each of the McClouds as they navigate their increasingly fragile lives. **Andres Neuman's** latest novel *Talking To Ourselves* concerns Lito, whose seriously ill father Mario takes him on a road trip to try to create a life-long memory for his son, while Lito's mother Elena tries to find solace in books, and soon embarks on a precarious adventure of her own. 'A story about how we are transformed by loss, physically and emotionally.' 1pm, [Word Power Books](#), 43-45 West Nicolson Street. All welcome! Admission free – donations also welcome!

**Free Fringe Music at The National Museum of Scotland.** Today: **Robyn Stapleton and Claire Hastings**, traditional vocal duo. 2-2.40pm, [National Museum of Scotland](#), Chambers Street.

**Lunchtime Concert: Fresh SOLOs.** 12.15pm, [St Giles Cathedral](#),  
☒ High Street. Free.

**Nitekirk at Greyfriars Kirk:** a place of peace, an open sacred space welcoming people of any age, background and belief. Drop in for candlelit contemplation, music, art, refreshment, poetry and a sense of space in the midst of the Fringe.. An opportunity for welcome, reflection and community. 8.30-11.30pm, [Greyfriars Kirk](#), 1 Greyfriars. Free. Nitekirk is supported by Greyfriars' local ecumenical partners.

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# Five things you need to know today Edinburgh



**20 mph plans**

**Films in the quad**

**Ceilidh Club is back**

**Outlander**

**Best Coffee in Town**

The council has plans to roll out twenty mile per hour zones across the city and they are now running a consultation. They are keen to engage with a wide range of people to hear their views.

The consultation and engagement programme will involve a rolling programme of meetings and drop in sessions in each of the neighbourhood areas. Leaflets and posters will be distributed widely to community councils, registered tenants associations, equalities and community groups, libraries, community centres, Council reception areas, local offices and doctors surgeries. An exhibition of the proposals will take place from 1 – 14 September in the Central Library, George IV Bridge and maps of the proposals will be available in Morningside and Gilmerton libraries from 1 September.

<http://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/20mphLeaflet.pdf>

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More films in the Old Quad tonight. Tonight is Coen Brothers night with Fargo and The Big Lebowski. [More details here](#). £5 per person.

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Ceilidh Club will be back at Summerhall on 9 September 2014 from 8-11. [More details here on their Facebook page](#).

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Outlander is one of those books that you will either be into or not. VisitScotland want you to know all about it though! They have an interactive map [here](#).

Author Diana Gabaldon was inspired by the landscape in Scotland and based the book on our hills and glens – and Edinburgh of course!

Watch what some of the cast have to say here:

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Coffee keeps us going. Cake is often on the menu too....

We are pretty fond of this little cafe on Frederick Street who Facebooked a photo of the Lemon Drizzle below. What about you? Where is your best coffee place?

Do share with us! Click on our EdinburghReportage ad to go straight to the coffee storyboard and tell us, send us photos or a wee video!



[Post](#) by [Cairngorm Coffee Co.](#)

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# The Edinburgh International Book Festival – Bonnie Greer



Author, playwright and critic, Bonnie Greer spoke to an enthralled audience at the Edinburgh International Book Festival this week about her upbringing in Chicago, her political activism and the current turbulent situation in Missouri following the shooting of 18 year old Michael Young.

She began by reading from her memoir of her experiences of Chicago immediately following the assassination of Martin Luther King and drew parallels to the racial unrest in Ferguson Missouri today. After 6 years of the Obama administration, which promised such hope to the African American community, she feels that there is still inherent racism across America exacerbated by resentment of the central government's largesse towards the black community, saying "This is the worst time I have seen in my entire life in the USA."



She spoke at length on the 2nd Amendment to the American Constitution, the right to bear arms, saying that 'while every other amendment gives you a right, the 2nd Amendment states a right. American's believe that God gives you a right to bear arms. The West was won at the point of a gun". She believes that every nation has their own particular irrational fear – in the UK it is the fear of immigration, of being 'swamped' – while in the US it is the fear of home invasion. This subliminal fear is deep rooted across all communities, black and white; her father had six guns and slept with one beneath his pillow. She admitted that she thought after the Sandy Hook gun massacre there was a chance that the American people would accept more gun control, but conceded that "To disarm America

would be to dismantle the constitution of the United States,” and was therefore unlikely.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival continues until Monday 25 August. Full details of all events in the programme can be found [online](#).

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## Portobello : missing man

***UPDATE – Man now traced safe and well***

Police Scotland are appealing for information on the whereabouts of a 69 year old man who has been reported missing from the Portobello area of Edinburgh.

Phillip Whyte, who suffers from Alzheimers, was last seen near in the Joppa/ Coillesdene area on Tuesday 19th August around 10.30am.

Phillip is described as being white, 5ft 8 inches tall, medium build, short black greying hair and was last seen wearing light beige jacket with corduroy on collar and cuffs, light beige trousers.

A Police Scotland spokesperson said: “We are worried about Phillip as he is a vulnerable man who has been missing from his home since this morning. Anyone who believes they have seen Phillip is urged to contact police immediately.”

Any information please contact Police Scotland, Tel:101