

Edinburgh Festival Fringe

REVIEW – Wingman ****

As Wingman opens, Richard Marsh is not in a good place. Richard Marsh, writer and cast-member of Wingman, and a Fringe First recipient and BBC Audio Drama award-winner, has filled Pleasance 10 on his return to the Fringe. But Richard Marsh the character isn't doing so well.

Rich's mum is dying, and his jerk dad, Len, left him 20 years ago with nothing except a dread that the son will repeat the sins of the father. Then Rich is told that mum's dying wish is that he and Len scatter her ashes together in the Lake District.

Happily, what transpires is much more than an odd couple road trip. Rich and Len end up negotiating a series of surprising wrong turnings and getting hopelessly lost. And although they don't get very far, by the end of Wingman they've some a long way.

Marsh and Jerome Wright as Len are engaging actors who allow us to warm to Rich and Len even as they reveal their failings and weaknesses. One supposes that preparing for a Fringe run in a play that demands so much of its two-man cast engenders a relationship not unlike that of a dysfunctional family. The sections of the script that are cleverly constructed in verse can distract from the kitchen sink drama of Wingman, but they are used to good comic effect and pay back in spades as the basis of the emotional punch at the end of the show.

Justin Audibert's simple direction moves us with the minimum of fuss from hospital to crematorium to flat to park. Marsh uses his scripting to allow himself to introduce the quirky characters of mum and Brigitte, a sexy Welsh badger of a woman, in a few strokes. As disaster and redemption duel in

the midst of a script leavened by humour that is by turns bawdy, aural, visual and linguistic, the audience are gripped to find out whether Rich and Len can do mum proud, despite themselves.

Find out for yourself at Pleasance 10 at the Pleasance Dome (Venue 23), 2:10pm, Aug 5-11 and 13-25.

Submitted by [Ricky Brown](#)



‘Old Meets New’ walking map from Marriott Hotels highlights Edinburgh festival venues with a story

With an increasing demand for performance space during Edinburgh’s August festival season, many fascinating old buildings have acquired new life as festival venues. The ‘Old Meets New’ interactive walking map from Marriott Hotels lets locals and visitors alike explore examples of older venues with an intriguing story, highlighting Edinburgh’s outstanding flair for blending the historic and modern.

By clicking on the locations featured on the map, festival-goers can learn about each building’s history, current role and importance to the local community, as well as view high-quality photos that give a taste of each venue’s atmosphere.

There’s also a proposed walking route to help those new to the city navigate their way between the various venues, gaining a

rich overview of this beautiful city in the process.

Each featured venue has a unique character and story that make it worth a visit in its own right, with the added benefit that, throughout August, they all play host to a range of music, theatre and comedy performances.

The 'Old Meets New' walking route starts at the Acoustic Music Centre at St. Bride's in the city's West End, a former church that is now home to a vibrant community centre and diverse programme of folk and international music. It continues on past The Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Centre on Palmerston Place, a former private residence that is now a spiritualist centre staging a number of talks, spoken word events and musical performances throughout the Edinburgh Fringe, before reaching Henry's Cellar Bar on Morrison Street, a uniquely intimate underground space that is one of the capital's favourite live music venues.

The route then heads into Edinburgh's Old Town to visit the new pop-up café run by Filament Coffee in the India Buildings on Victoria Street, before heading on to Bedlam Theatre, a distinctive neo-gothic church and home to Britain's oldest student-run theatre. The tour then finishes in the atmospheric Rowantree Bar in The Caves, a popular Fringe venue housed in the ancient vaults under South Bridge.

Visit <http://marriottuk.tumblr.com/> to view the 'Old Meets New' Edinburgh festival map and learn more about the project and the featured venues.

Submitted by [Joanna Harrod](#)



Alan Stubbs' message to Hibs' supporters



Hibs' Head Coach Alan Stubbs has issued a rallying call ahead of today's first game of the season at Easter Road against Livingston.

Writing in the official programme, Stubbs said: "This is my first competitive game in charge at Easter Road, although the phenomenal welcome I've received so far from everybody at the club means it already feels like home.

"Our recent Open Training Session enabled us to connect with our fans and we want that bond to strengthen further over the course of the season.

"I would like to congratulate Hibs supporters Dan Wallace, Neil Speirs and Josh Taylor on winning gold medals at the Commonwealth Games and to congratulate Scotland on hosting such a hugely successful event.

"Looking back on Tuesday night's Petrofac Cup tie at Ibrox, I thought that overall, especially during the 90 minutes, our performance was dominant.

"It took us about 10 minutes of the match to get into our stride and to display the confidence to get on the ball and play.

"But after that I thought we continued to become stronger as the game went on and we were unlucky not to win the match comfortably.

"In my opinion, the sending off changed the game, but even after we went down to 10 men we still continued to perform well and we showed great resilience and character throughout.

“The players deserve a lot of credit for summoning up the courage to produce that type of performance. All I’ve done is given them belief, direction and reassured them to not be afraid to make mistakes.

“Mistakes will always happen in football, but what really matters is how quickly you learn from them and how effectively you correct them.

“I’m a very competitive person and I’m here to win games, so naturally I was disappointed that we lost the Cup tie and the players were all hurting afterwards too.

“But when you take a step back and you look at the bigger picture, there were several positives that emerged from the game – all building blocks that we can use in our continued development as a squad.

“I firmly believe that if we can produce that type of performance on a regular basis then we will win a large percentage of our games.

“The majority of our squad have been through a hugely challenging and traumatic nine months, but Tuesday night proved that a big change has happened and we are now taking steps forward together.

“Our confidence and belief will continue to grow each week with the full backing of our fantastic supporters. We want the fans to get behind the players and we want the players to give the fans something to cheer about with everybody pulling in the same direction.

“Our aim is to become a team that truly represents Hibs supporters – winning games and playing the right way.

“Our fans have invested in the club both financially and emotionally and we want to repay that commitment by achieving a continued level of success that everybody can be proud of.

"We've started on a journey here at Hibernian and, although we acknowledge we won't reach our goals immediately, we are making steady progress and hopefully everybody can see that development.

"Saturday's match against Livingston will be a difficult match against a well-organised team in a massively competitive league, but we'll be targeting three points and a positive start to the new campaign."

Edinburgh Festival Fringe Review – Robin Ince's Blooming Buzzing Confusion ****



The opening scene of Robin Ince's new show is an image of an MRI scan of his brain. He points out that from a medical perspective, apart from a large occipital lobe, his brain is absolutely average. This I cannot agree with. This brain is the seat of a mind that is far from ordinary. The pace and scope of his shows is breathtaking, with such volume, passion and enthusiasm that he is now sporting a very hoarse and husky delivery. Robin Ince is quite, quite brilliant. There is nothing mediocre or middle of the road about Robin Ince's shows. He ranges from vein-popping rage to ecstatic wonderment in the blink of an eye. You had better keep up and not miss a second as he will barely give you time to catch your breath between laughs before he is on the next thing. One moment he is thoughtfully reminding us that our inner monologue is a

unique and beautiful part of being human, the next he's discussing adverts for butter.

This particular show is based around the premise that the human brain is the most complex organism in the known universe, with incredible plasticity and potential; unique within the animal kingdom. Ince becomes genuinely enraged when he considers how many of us don't use our brains and instead get comfy on the sofa of life. Fast, funny and inspirational, Ince exhorts us to use the fabulous potential of our brains, to retain the capacity for childlike enquiry we were all born with.

The blooming buzzing confusion of the show's title relates to his fascination with perception, Reality Tunnels and the effects of chemicals on the brain. This includes the exaggerated 'waggle dance' of bees on cocaine. (Well, it is the fringe...) There are also dolphins on LSD and monkeys who attack their own image in a mirror. (He is quick to point out he is a vegetarian animal lover in case this gives you the wrong impression.)

This show is inspiring, life affirming and fabulously funny. He reveals how his EEG reacts to Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds and then very differently to the Lighthouse family, how he has a new job as Undersecretary to the Tooth Fairy and how much the electricity bill for your brain would be. And for goodness sake, if you see him, don't admit to liking Gogglebox or he might rupture something.

Robin Ince's Blooming Buzzing Confusion at The Stand Comedy Club until 12th August

Edinburgh Festival Fringe Review – Jimeoin – Is It.....?



Born in England, raised In Northern Ireland and living in Australia, Jimeoin would have been the perfect act to close the Commonwealth games, but what do Weegies know about talent?

OK I accept that I am probably slap bang in the middle of his target audience but for me there is no funnier comedian at the Festival.

Here's a warning though if you're after clever political satire or angry anti-establishment rants then look elsewhere, but if you're just looking for a good laugh then check Jimeoin out.

Last night's show was well worth leaving the comfort of my warm house and braving the miserable weather, not to mention trying to find a parking space within walking distance and don't get me started about the price of a G&T and a bottle of Magners.



For the first three minutes Jimeoin didn't say a word yet the audience were in stitches watching him dance as only a 48 year old man can. (Personally I thought he looked cool). He then went into a hilarious routine about the differences between a 'quick hello' and a 'big hello' digressing at time for some audience participation and a very funny use of props.

As always he had the audience hanging on his every word and facial expression and his style of observational humour was second to none.

My favourite parts were when he discussed his relationship with his wife, who sound like a nasty piece of work who doesn't realise how lucky she is to be married to him although my own wife disagrees with my assessment.

Unlike many younger comics, Jimeoin only swore when the joke required it and his ability to improvise was evidenced when someone sneezed in the middle of one of his anecdotes and he instantly said 'bless you' then talked for five minutes about sneezing before return to his story.

I had the pleasure of meeting him in person earlier in the week when he was promoting next weeks show which will include Catherine King signing for the deaf although how she will be able to keep up is beyond me.

The hour past far too quickly and he ended the show with a series of self composed songs with a superb final twist.

If you only get to see two shows this month, I recommend that you go to see Jimeoin at the EICC twice.

Jimeoin will be appearing at the EICC (Venue 150) until 24 August. Shows start 7.30pm and the seating is unserved. Tickets £17.50 Concessions £15.00 weekends £14.50 weekdays Concessions £12.00.

Fringe Acts to rally for Gaza medical aid

A one off concert is taking place to raise medical funds for Gaza at the Edinburgh Fringe this week.



Dean Owens

Headline acts such as Frankie Boyle, Shappi Khorsandi, Shooglenifty, The Bevvies Sisters, Dean Owens and Black Diamond Express will be performing at The Assembly Rooms to raise money in aid of Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP). The British based charity that deliver health and medical care to those worse affected by conflict, occupation were the first UK aid agency to respond to the attacks in Gaza.

The benefit night has been put together by Edinburgh based collective Artists for Gaza for the first five days of the Gaza crisis and after. With over 9567* Palestinians injured in attacks and 30% of Gaza's population displaced MAP need your help to help those in need.

Tickets are available at [Edinburgh Fringe website.](#)

Saturday in Edinburgh – what's on today



SATURDAY 9TH AUGUST 2014

Comic Art Masterclasses with Kev F Sutherland: join Kev, a writer and artist for the Beano, Marvel and many other comics, to find out all there is to know about making comic strips and manga. By the end of the session the group will have produced a comic containing a strip by each participant and will each have a character portrait of themselves drawn by Kev. For ages 8+. 10.30am-12.30pm, [Morningside Library](#), 184 Morningside

Road. To book a place at Morningside call 0131 529 5654 or email morningside.library@edinburgh.gov.uk **OR** 2-4pm, [Newington Library](#), 17-21 Fountainhall Road. To book a place at Newington call 0131 529 5536 or email newington.library@edinburgh.gov.uk

The Edinburgh Book Fringe presents social historian and Vice-Principal of St Hilda's College, Oxford, **Selina Todd**, who will discuss her book, ***The People: The Rise and Fall of the Working Class 1910-2010***. 'Her narrative documents the voices of working class people...Brilliant and well-researched.' (New Internationalist) 'The scope and range ..is impressive...taking in working class culture, music and dance crazes, and the move from a world of clerks, secretaries and manual workers to DIY superstores, Sunday working and the demise of trade union power.' (The Scotsman) 1pm, [Word Power Books](#), 43 West Nicolson Street. Free.

Soundproof: sound/art/noise/music. 8pm-3am, [Forest Cafe](#), 141 Lauriston Place. Free.

The Mute, the Hidden and the Mysterious: a new body of work showcasing artist Kate Walters' renowned talent for capturing the intimate relationship between humans and nature. Watercolours, oils, monotypes and drawings. Today until 31st August 2014, 10am-5pm Monday to Saturday, 1-5pm Sundays, [Arusha Gallery](#), 13a Dundas Street.

GENERATION tours at Modern One: free, discussion-led tours of the [GENERATION](#) exhibition, focusing on key themes and artists. 11-11.45am and 1-1.45pm, [Scottish Gallery of Modern Art ONE](#), 75 Belford Road. Free and unticketed. Free bus from Scottish National Gallery on The Mound – see timetable [here](#).

Southside Elderly Club presents a Chand Raat/Commonwealth Celebration (for ladies only): Ghidra (dance), Bollywood Dance, Hina/Mehndi Design, tasty snacks. 7.30pm till late, St Thomas Aquinas High School, 2-20 Chalmers Street. More information from M Malak on 07867 576345.

Lunchtime Recital: Catherine Jones, Mezzo-Soprano and Stephen Wood, piano. 1.10pm, [St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral](#), Palmerston Place.

Five things you need to know today



Edinburgh International Book Festival opens today

New hotel for Leith

Fringe and Festival reviews

Gaza Protest

Edinburgh International Festival

The Book Festival has an atmosphere all of its own. The Edinburgh Reporter loves the press yurt!

Over 800 events will take place in Charlotte Square Garden from today onwards. There are still tickets available but sometimes it is just nice to sit in the garden and soak up what is going on around you and see who you can see....

Under the headline 'Let's Talk', there will be discussion of such diverse topics as the Middle East, two world wars, the Commonwealth, economic migration, society, identity and the future of Scotland.

Nick Barley, Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival said: 'The Book Festival provides a crucial forum for dialogue, where we can listen to and learn from one another, particularly in this year of momentous events in Scotland. Our thought-provoking conversations with both authors and audiences will permeate through Charlotte Square Gardens as we welcome writers and thinkers from many countries and cultures to Edinburgh, some for the first time in their careers. We offer a platform for emerging voices that are set to shape the world's literary stage in years to come and launch some of the most talked-about books of the year. Come and join us for a stimulating, entertaining, endlessly fascinating Festival.'

A number of events have already sold out: George R R Martin, author of the *Game of Thrones* series and Haruki Murakami, who makes his first trip to Edinburgh to launch the English edition of his latest novel *Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage*, proved exceptionally popular and sold out within hours while two later additions to the Scotland's Future strand of events – talks by First Minister Alex Salmond and former Prime Minister Gordon Brown – also sold out immediately. However there are still tickets for events throughout the programme including Rowan Williams launching his new book of poetry, Kirsty Wark discussing her debut novel, Sarah Waters previewing her new book, Irvine Welsh, David Peace, Katy Brand, James Robertson, Bonnie Greer and many others.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival opens this morning at 9.30am and continues until Monday 25 August 2014. Full details of the programme can be found at www.edbookfest.co.uk. Tickets to all events can be purchased online at www.edbookfest.co.uk, by phone on 0845 373 5888 or in person at the Box Office in Charlotte Square Gardens

The Royal Yacht *Britannia* has acquired the iconic heritage

vessel MV Windsor Castle.

In a near £1 million investment, this classically designed ship is to be converted into a 25 bedroom luxury 'boatique' hotel. She will be berthed permanently, adjacent to *Britannia* in Edinburgh's historic port of Leith.

Launched in August 1963, she was the last ship built by the Blythswood Shipbuilding Company, Glasgow, and was previously the Northern Lighthouse Board's (NLB) tender *Fingal*. She was Leith registered but spent most of her NLB service working out of Oban for 30 years, followed by her last 6 years, based in Stromness, Orkney.

At 239 feet long, she is nearly two-thirds of the size of *Britannia*. The vessel was sold by the NLB in 2000 to Tamahine Shipping and has been maintained to the highest standards ever since, at her berth on the River Fal in Cornwall.

The ship is scheduled to arrive in Leith during the week of 25 August, 2014, and undergo an 18 month conversion, scheduled to open in Spring 2016. Developing a floating hotel represents natural organic growth for *Britannia*, having the requisite management skills in-house, and servicing demand from both day visitors and evening event guests for quality accommodation, adjacent to the Royal Yacht. Officially Scotland's best visitor attraction, for each of the last nine years, and the UK's No.1 attraction (TripAdvisor 2014), *Britannia* is already renowned for delivering the highest quality of customer experience; and this hotel will fit neatly within the overall brand.

Britannia's Chief Executive Bob Downie said, 'After many years of searching for the right ship, we are delighted that we have been able to acquire this iconic vessel and look forward to opening Scotland's first boatique hotel. As a youngster growing up in Oban I have very fond memories of seeing

the *Fingal* and I am delighted that the long-term future of another much loved classic vessel has been secured.'



Please add a few words about any of the shows you get to see at the variety of festivals around town this month over on our Edinburgh Festivals page of EdinburghReportage and share your thoughts with our readers. It is very easy to register with Facebook or Twitter and then post short reviews, video or photos. We look forward to hearing from you!

[Click here](#) to add your stories

There will be a demonstration today at 2pm at the top of The Mound.

This has been organised by the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement to highlight the horrors of what is happening in Gaza and in Palestine. This emerged from Palestinian civil society organisations, among them health workers, teachers and farmers in Gaza who have said, "From Gaza under invasion, bombardment, and continuing siege, the horror is beyond words. Medical supplies are exhausted. The death toll has reached 1813 killed (398 children, 207 women, 74 elderly) and 9370 injured (2744 children, 1750 women, 343 elderly). Our hospitals, ambulances, and medical staff are all under attack while on duty. Doctors and paramedics are being killed while evacuating the dead. Our dead are not numbers and statistics to be recounted; they are loved ones, family and friends."

Over the last week two shows at the Edinburgh Fringe have been cancelled; the Palestinian flag is being flown above council headquarters in Dundee, West Dunbartonshire and in Glasgow, planned also for Fife and Aberdeen; the Scottish Government has called for an arms embargo on Israel and for a UN led investigation into war crimes by Israel; scores of MSPs joined protestors outside the Scottish Parliament in their call for

an end to the siege of Gaza.

The demonstration in Edinburgh will be addressed by a number of speakers including Green MSP Alison Johnstone, Gordon Maloney (NUS Scotland), Mike Arnott (STUC General Council). Albie O'Neill of the Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign said on behalf of the organisers of the march "The people of Scotland are repulsed by what is happening in Gaza and are demanding that the slaughter of innocents must end. But they are also demanding that something be done to force Israel to cease its illegal practices in Gaza and the rest of Palestine. Illegal detention of minors, use of live ammunition against unarmed protestors, land theft, illegal settlements, the list goes on.

"Scotland has a proud tradition of standing in solidarity with oppressed people across the world, this is another expression of that solidarity which will be welcomed in Gaza and applauded across the world as we stand together in the fight against apartheid Israel. Only the isolation of Israel through boycott, divestment and sanctions will force them to stop."

The cast of The City who were due to perform their hip hop opera at The Fringe have been unable to find an alternative venue. Today at Bristo Square they will perform their show without any sound as a protest against what they see as an infringement of their right to free speech.

We met with the cast of The City before their run was due to start.

And then as if there was not enough buzz in the capital the Edinburgh International Festival began last night with its opening concert at the Usher Hall.

The programme is below – although if you cannot make up your mind then there is a lovely idea from EIF in Suggest my Fest which you will find on the EIF website.

<http://www.eif.co.uk/sites/default/files/mag-pdf/eifbrochure2014-websitedownload.pdf>

Missing teenager

✖ UPDATE 9 August 2014

Police Scotland confirm that Cara Wilson has been traced safe and well.

The 14-year-old was found on Lothian Road, Edinburgh at around 12.40pm today.

The public are thanked for their assistance during this enquiry. A 14 year-old schoolgirl has been reported missing in Midlothian and police are seeking help from the public to try and find her.

Cara Wilson was last seen within her home in Gorebridge about 11.30pm last night 7th August 2014.

Cara is described as 5ft 8" tall, slim build, long dark brown hair white trainers, black leggings and a sleeveless coral top.

She was last seen in Cockburn Street, Edinburgh on Friday 8th August 2014 and concern is now growing for her welfare.

Anyone who believes they have seen Cara is asked to come forward.

A police spokesman said: "Cara has left her home and we are keen to trace her as soon as possible.

"Members of the public are asked to contact police immediately if they can assist officers with their investigation to trace her.

Anyone with any information can contact Police Scotland on

Matthew Kennedy joins Hibs on loan from Everton



Scotland under-21 internationalist Matthew Kennedy has joined Hibs on an initial six-month loan from Everton and the teenage winger says he is excited to be reunited with Alan Stubbs.

Winger Kennedy is the latest player to be introduced during the summer transfer window – following goalkeeper Mark Oxley, defender David Gray, midfielder Scott Allan and striker Farid El Alagui.

Kennedy, 19, experienced loan spells with Tranmere Rovers and Milton Keynes Dons last season and also featured for Everton's under-21 side – then managed by new Hibernian Head Coach Stubbs.

Originally with Kilmarnock, Irvine-born Kennedy moved south to Everton in August 2012 and says he is now thrilled to be returning to Scotland to join Hibernian on loan.

Kennedy told the club website: "I'm really excited about being here – Hibernian are a massive club and I'm looking forward to working with Alan Stubbs again.

"He was my manager with the under-21s at Everton and I've always enjoyed working with him, so everything about this loan move made sense.

"I'm looking to play as regularly as possible and to help

Hibernian climb back up into the Premiership.

"I trained for the first time today (Friday), but I feel like I've settled in really quickly and I already know some of the players here.

"I've played with Danny (Handling) and Sam (Stanton) with Scotland under-21s and I played with Heff (Paul Heffernan) and Michael (Nelson) at Kilmarnock.

"This is a new challenge for me and I'm determined to make the most of it by being part of a successful Hibs team."

Stubbs welcomed the news and believes Kennedy will add extra quality to Hibernian's first team squad.

Stubbs said: "Matthew is a player with huge potential and he will be a great addition to our squad.

"His arrival emboldens what I've consistently said throughout the summer transfer window – we want to bring quality players here to Hibernian.

"I'm delighted to sign someone, who I have worked with over the past couple of years – he knows exactly what I want and I know what he is capable of.

"I would like to thank Everton for allowing me to take one of their talented young players on a six-month loan and believe Hibernian will be a great platform for him to continue his development and to fulfil his potential."

The club are still awaiting international clearance, but should that be permitted then Kennedy will be eligible to make his Hibernian debut against Livingston tomorrow at Easter Road.

Kennedy has been allocated squad number 30 for the 2014/15

Celtic reinstated to Champions League Play Offs



Celtic will play Slovenian champions NK Maribor for the Champions League play-offs at Murrayfield having been awarded a 3-0 win on the night after Legia Warsaw were forced to give up their 2-0 win in Edinburgh on Wednesday night for fielding an ineligible player.

This means that Celtic won the tie on the away goals rule after an aggregate scoreline of 4-4.

UEFA ruled that Bartosz Bereszynski, a late substitute for Legia at Murrayfield, was not eligible to play as he was still suspended.

He was sent off for violent conduct against Apollon in the final match of Legia's Europa League campaign last season and was given a three-match ban.

The defender missed both legs of last month's second qualifying round against St Patrick's Athletic as well as the first leg against Celtic in Warsaw as he had not been named as a registered player in Legia's squad for the St Pat's matches he was not considered to have served any of his ban.

The dates for the play-off ties against NK Maribor are scheduled to take place on August 19/20 and August 26/27 with the second leg taking place in the capital.

BK Maribor are no strangers to Edinburgh having knocked John Hughes' Hibs out of the Europa League 6-2 on aggregate, winning 3-0 in Slovenia then 3-2 at Easter Road in front of the brand new East Stand.

Friday in Edinburgh – what's on today



FRIDAY 8TH AUGUST 2014

The Edinburgh Book Fringe starts today, featuring writers and activists from around the globe. Today **Alan McCoombes**, journalist and founding member of the Scottish Socialist Party, launches ***Restless Land: A Radical Journey Through Scotland's History***, (co-written with Roz Paterson) which looks beyond the kings and queens, the aristocrats and industrialists, the politicians and generals, to the extraordinary men and women from the sprawling masses. An epic story of heroism and betrayal, courage and intrigue, sacrifice and avarice, told with flair and clarity. 7pm, [Word Power Books](#), 43 West Nicolson Street. Free.

Less is Mor – 'not as minimal as it sounds.' 8pm-3am, [Forest Cafe](#), 141 Lauriston Place. Free.

Matisse Collage Sea Creatures: craft event for ages 7-11. 2-3pm, [Central Children's Library](#), George IV Bridge. Free. Part of the Mythical Maze Summer Reading Challenge.

Lunchtime Concert: Kong-Affonso Piano Duo. 12.15pm, [St Giles Cathedral](#), Royal Mile. Free.

Lunchtime Concert: Piano Speak with Will Pickvance. 1.30pm, [St Giles Cathedral](#), Royal Mile. Free.

Messy Nussy Craftiness: Play-Doh fun making wee Nessies. For ages 4-12. 2-3pm, [South Neighbourhood Office and Library](#), 40 Captain's Road. Free. Part of the Mythical Maze Summer Reading Challenge.

Mythical Mazes: fun and games in the library garden. For ages 5-11. 2-3pm, [Blackhall Library](#), 56 Hillhouse Road. Free. Part of the Mythical Maze Summer Reading Challenge.

Mythical Maze Party! Pin the ring on the Minotaur, spider bookmarks, hula-hoop challenge, hunt the mythical character. For under 12s. 2.30-3.30pm, [Gilmerton Library](#), 13 Newtoft Street. Free. Part of the Mythical Maze Summer Reading Challenge.

Lunchtime Recital: Momoko Sakai, cello. 1.10pm, [St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral](#), Palmerston Place.

Curators In Conversation: the five curatorial advisers of *Where Do I End and You Begin* come together to discuss the ideas raised by the works on show and the process of working together across continents. 4pm, [City Art Centre](#), 2 Market Street. Free but booking required via [eventbrite](#). Part of [Edinburgh Art Festival](#).

Expressionist Landscapes: family event to explore the techniques and colour schemes of Expressionist artists and, inspired by the gardens, to create a landscape study in their style. 10.30am-12.30pm or 1.30-3.30pm, [Lauriston Castle](#), 2a Cramond Road South. Tickets cost £5 and must be purchased via the [Usher Hall Box Office](#), online, in person or by phone.

GENERATION TG: [The Travelling Gallery](#) brings the work of five artists working in a range of media, including ceramics, textile wall hangings, digital animations, drawings, sculptures, film, performance and song, to various locations

in Edinburgh this week. The exhibition focuses on what it is like to be a contemporary visual artist in Scotland and includes a film of artists talking about their work to pupils from Edinburgh schools. Today: 11am-5pm, **Portobello High Street**, outside Bank of Scotland, 153 Portobello High Street. Free. Part of the [GENERATION](#) exhibition.

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



Judging Edinburgh's Gardens

Community funding from Yorkshire Building Society

Racing at Musselburgh today

Morning Gloryville

Soweto Spiritual Singers

Judges from around Europe took a closer look at Edinburgh's parks, streets and gardens on Wednesday when they went on a tour of the city including our wonderful Floral Clock.



The panel assessed the capital for this year's [Entente Florale](#), Europe's biggest environmental competition.

This is the first time the capital has represented the UK in the prestigious awards, following on from its success in [Britain in Bloom](#) earlier this year.

Each summer more than 22,000 cities, towns and villages enter the contest, which judges entries on horticultural achievement, community involvement and responsibility for the environment.

On Wednesday the jury spent a full day scoring Edinburgh on everything from the built environment in the High Street, community input in Dunbar's Close Garden and the Cowgate Nursery's outdoor learning strategy.

Lord Provost Donald Wilson hosted the judges, who have travelled from as far afield as Austria and Croatia, during their stay.

He said: "We are honoured to be representing the UK in the Entente Florale this year and are delighted to be able to showcase the hard work carried out by the Council, partners and local groups to the jury.

"It's not hard to see why Edinburgh is such a popular place to live and visit, and this is the perfect opportunity to celebrate the natural and built environment that makes the city what it is."

Amongst the criteria to be assessed for the award are sustainability, landscape, green spaces and tourism and leisure.

As well as the management and design of the city's parks and green spaces, judges focus on aspects like the city's active travel strategy, its attitude to recycling, tourism and leisure and the work of bodies like Historic Scotland, Essential Edinburgh, University of Edinburgh and various community and Friends of Parks groups.

Tommy Steel is workshop manager at the [Grassmarket Community Project](#), a charity which works with homeless and vulnerable people to develop skills in horticulture, cooking and woodwork.

He said: "We involve participants to grow a herb garden in Greyfriar's Kirk and we use the herbs in our training kitchen. By developing their skills in these areas they're also developing self esteem and confidence.

"Being part of Entente Florale gives them a focus. Taking part in the judging day has given them a real sense of achievement, as they see the fruits of their labour."

Find out more about Edinburgh's involvement in the Entente Florale [on the Council website](#).

Edinburgh's Liberal Democrat MP, Mike Crockart, is encouraging all charities in Edinburgh to apply for Yorkshire Building Society's Lasting Legacy Fund.

To commemorate its 150th anniversary, Yorkshire Building Society is inviting charities to apply for a share of £150,000 to help them continue to assist the community.

15 charities will each be awarded £10,000 to fund a specific project that will make a lasting difference to their communities.

Commenting Mr Crockart said: "I am delighted that the Yorkshire Building Society has recently launched this fund in Scotland. It is a brilliant opportunity for charities to make a lasting impact on their community for generations to come.

"There are many fantastic hardworking local charities in Edinburgh and I want to encourage any charity which has a specific project in mind to apply to this fund.

"£10,000 could make a huge difference to the work of any charity and it is brilliant to see Yorkshire Building Society taking extra steps to support charities and local communities."

You can find out more about the fund and apply online by visiting: www.ybs.co.uk/legacy

Middleham-based trainer Mark Johnston saddled Party Line to win the 2013 running of the Archerfield Cup at Musselburgh and he will make a bold bid to record back to back wins in today's renewal with his progressive Alex My Boy.

The three-year-old was strongly fancied to land the East Lothian track's prestigious Edinburgh Cup in June but came

under pressure early in the contest and only began to pick up ground inside the last two furlongs.

Alex My Boy had earlier justified sustained market support when winning a Musselburgh maiden event at the Easter meeting and returned to winning form last time out in impressive style at Haydock. The Johnston raider will be well suited to today's extended trip of 1m 6f and mount Joe Fanning has been in peak form over recent weeks.

Competition for this £25,000 Class 3 handicap is understandably fierce with Alex My Boy facing stiff opposition from the Alan Swinbank duo of Dark Ruler and previous course winner Lady Kashaan, David Barron's rejuvenated Sirvino, and the ultra-consistent Saved By The Bell from the in-form David O'Meara stable.

Best outsider in the line-up could be the Jim Goldie trained Jonny Delta, the mount of Graham Lee. Although down the field in his last two outings Jonny Delta always reserves his best displays for long distance handicaps at Musselburgh.

Racing starts at 2pm with the £12,500 British Stallions Studs EBF Stallions Conditions Stakes run over 5 furlongs. Carluke trainer Keith Dalglish is double handed with his last time out winners Chances Are and Just The Tip, who also scored on her debut at Musselburgh last month.

Both these speedy fillies are certain to go close but preference will be for Bryan Smart's Beverley winner Fendale. This well related colt gained a decisive success over Ocean Sheridan on his racing debut and the Smart team has come into a purple patch.

Gates open at noon, for further information and to book tickets visit www.musselburgh-racecourse.co.uk

At Bristo Square tomorrow 9 and then again on 16 and 23 August they have an offer 2 for 1 tickets at Morning Gloryville is a family-friendly, immersive morning dance experience for those who like to start their day in style! From 9am to 12pm in McEwan Hall, come and wake up with a dance, electrifying music, yoga, massage and coffee. It's taken London, Amsterdam and New York by storm, now it's Edinburgh's turn!



Our photo today is of The Soweto Spiritual Singers who are here singing and dancing for the duration of the Fringe. Catch them if you can!

Or you can just watch this wee video here...

Spate of thefts from sheds in capital



Police are issuing a security warning following a series of thefts from sheds in the South West of the city.

There were a number of incidents today when there were

attempts to break into sheds in the early hours of the morning.

Around 1.30am the occupier of a property in Parkhead Loan disturbed two people attempting to break into a shed in the garden. Around 3.10am a shed was broken into at a property in Broomhouse Crescent and a 36 year old man and a 30 year old man have been arrested and charged with housebreaking.

In the past few months, there have also been a number of reported incidents of sheds being broken into in the Polwarth, Hutchison, Colinton Mains, Redhall, Baberton Mains and Colinton areas.

Inspector Liz Duthie said: "I'd like to remind those who live in the south west of the city to take simple security precautions to safeguard their homes and deter criminal activity.

"All sheds and outbuildings should be locked and secured when not in use and where possible, alarms and motion-triggered lighting should be considered.

"Anyone wishing more advice on crime prevention can contact their local policing team."

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

Four arrested at Murrayfield

Champions League qualifier



Four men were arrested at Celtic's Champions League qualifier at Murrayfield last night.

Celtic were playing at the home of Scottish Rugby as Parkhead is still being used by the Commonwealth Games.

Three men were arrested before kick-off, one for breach of the peace, one for attempting to enter the stadium with alcohol and one for a warrant offence.

During the match, another man was arrested for breach of the peace.

Police Scotland said there were no incidents after the game.

Celtic lost 2-0 to Legia Warsaw, in the second leg against the Polish side (6-1 on aggregate).

The Hoops will go into Friday's Europa Cup draw.

Two game ban for Danny Handling after Ibrox red card



Hibs' midfielder Danny Handling has been hit with a two match ban after his sending off at Ibrox on Tuesday however he will be available for the first Edinburgh derby of the season at Tynecastle on August 17th.

Handling will miss the opening game of the Championship at home to Livingston on Saturday, but the second half of the ban will only take effect when or rather if he next plays in the Petrofac Training Cup.

Handling was shown the red card by referee John Beaton for a 79th-minute tackle on former Hearts winger David Templeton, a decision described as 'harsh' by Head Coach Alan Stubbs.

Earlier the 20 year old had grabbed an equaliser but with Hibs looking the more likely team to win, he mistimed a tackle leaving his team mates with an uphill battle and they eventually lost 2-1 after extra time.

The Easter Road club have revealed that they will not be appealing the decision.

Photo by John Preece

<http://www.photoboxgallery.com/jlp-photography>

Alan Stubbs happy with performance despite defeat



Hibs' Head Coach Alan Stubbs praised his team's performance following the 2-1 Petrofac Training Cup defeat at Rangers and believes the team are on the right track heading into Saturday's Scottish Championship opener against Livingston at Easter Road (9 August, kick off 3pm).

Speaking to Hibs TV's YouTube Channel, Stubbs said: "There were an awful lot of positives from the game. I've told the

players they won't experience that losing feeling too many times if they play like that.

"I don't want us to lose games, but play well. But I know for a fact that if we perform like that then we are going to win a lot of games this season.

"There was disappointment in the dressing room after the game and, for me, that's good to see because it means it hurts and it shows the players really care.

"They're disappointed because they know their effort should have been rewarded; unfortunately it wasn't.

"Now we move on to Saturday and the Scottish Championship is the main focus of our season.

"If we can do well in Cup competitions then that will be fantastic, but our main aim for the season is to finish as high as we can.

"Going by the performance at Ibrox, things are starting to look positive on the pitch.

"The performance answered a lot of questions. The players have gone through a really disappointing nine months.

"But to show the courage to come to Ibrox and to take the game to them means the players deserve an awful lot of credit.

"All I've done is talk to them, give them direction and give them belief, so that they're not afraid to make mistakes.

"We know we've got a long way to go, but slowly and surely we're taking steps in the right direction."

Hibs to face Dumbarton in League Cup



Hibs' Head Coach Alan Stubbs is pleased to have been handed a home tie in the second round of the Scottish League Cup after the club were drawn to face Dumbarton at Easter Road (26/27 August).

Hibs were the first club to be drawn out of the hat and will face fellow Scottish Championship club Dumbarton, who are managed by former captain Ian Murray.

Dumbarton will then return back to Leith eight weeks later for a league fixture on Saturday 11 October.

Speaking to hibernianfc.co.uk, Stubbs said: "I'm glad that we've been drawn at home – that's a real positive and we're confident we can get a result against anybody at Easter Road.

"Nevertheless it will be a difficult match against a well-organised team that love to attack and then we'll have to face them again in the league just over a month later at Easter Road.

"It will be nice to welcome back two former Hibs players, Ian Murray and Guillaume Beuzelin, who I've met since I joined the club and it promises to be a fantastic Cup tie."

Two arrested following heroin seizure in Niddrie



Police in Edinburgh have arrested and charged two men after £176,000 of heroin was recovered from an address in Niddrie Marischal Drive yesterday.

A quantity of amphetamine and herbal cannabis, valued at £1000, was also discovered at the property.

A 38 year old man and a 37 year old man are appearing at Edinburgh Sheriff Court today.

Area Commander Mark Rennie said: "Drug dealing is one of the crime problems which concerns local residents the most in East Edinburgh. It's one of our agreed local ward priorities and we have been doing a lot of activity around it over the last few months as part of Operation Wolf. This substantial recovery of class A Drugs in the Niddrie area yesterday will ensure that local drug dealers understand our continued commitment to targeting the problem".

Renewed appeal to trace missing man



Police have issued a renewed appeal to trace a man reported missing in the Capital five years ago.

As part of Police Scotland's commitment to the continued review of missing person cases, officers are currently looking at the disappearance of John Coleman, who was last seen in Leith Street on 1st May 2009.

The 57-year-old (52 at the time he went missing) was known to visit various areas of Scotland including Montrose, Aberdeen, Inverness, Dundee and Perth, as well as Northern Ireland. However, no positive sightings have ever been confirmed to police.

Officers are now urging anyone who believes they know of John's current whereabouts to come forward.

John is described as white, around 5ft 9in tall with a medium build, brown eyes and medium-length brown hair. He speaks with a Glasgow accent, and was last seen wearing a beige jacket.

In addition, he also has the word "John" and a rose, dagger and Irish harp all tattooed on his left arm.

Detective Inspector John Kavanagh said: "We have never given up with our efforts to trace John and will continue to review his disappearance.

"Several years have now passed since he was last seen however, I would ask anyone who believes they have information that can assist with this enquiry to contact police immediately.

"In addition, we continue to urge John to make contact with friends, family or police and let us know he is safe and well."

Those with information can contact Police Scotland on 101.

Witness appeal following assault on bus



Police are appealing for witnesses after a 43-year-old man was assaulted on a bus in Edinburgh last month.

The incident happened on the No. 14 Lothian bus at around 9pm on Friday 18th July, as it travelled along Peffermill Road. The victim pushed the emergency button, causing the bus to stop. While he was engaging the driver in conversation, another passenger pushed the victim out the door of the bus, causing him to strike his head on a boundary wall.

Police are now appealing for any witnesses who may have information that can assist with the investigation.

PC Kevin Walls said: "This assault resulted in the victim receiving a wound to the head and he required hospital treatment. We are now looking to speak to anyone who was on the No.14 bus around 9pm on Thursday 18th July to come forward."

Police warn of 'Ringing the Changes' fraud



Police are reminding local businesses to remain extra vigilant

to an ongoing fraud known as 'Ringing the Changes' following an incident at the Haymarket Bar at the weekend.

Enquiries are underway after a man and woman used deception tactics in the pub in West Maitland Street at around 11.55pm on Saturday 2nd August, before making off with £100.

The woman firstly asked bar staff for a number of £20 notes to be changed into £10 denominations. The staff duly obliged but refused when they were then asked by the same woman to change the denominations into £5 notes.

Finally, the woman asked for the cash to be changed back to the original £20 notes but only handed back a proportion of the cash to the member of staff, who did not realise at the time that the pub had been short-changed.

Inspector Emma Croft, who is based at West End Police Station, said: "The couple involved in this incident have used confusion techniques to obtain far more money than they were due, and we are obviously keen to identify them as soon as possible.

"We would urge business owners and members of the public to be vigilant to such behaviour, and we would also ask anyone aware of suspicious behaviour to contact Police Scotland immediately."

The first suspect is described as female, of Eastern European appearance, aged between 35 and 40, around 5ft 2in and of medium, stocky build. She had dyed auburn hair tied up in a bun and was wearing a black and white striped t-shirt, a black cardigan and jeans.

The man in her company was also of Eastern European appearance, aged between 32 and 38, between 5ft 7in and 5ft 9in, of medium build, and with short black hair and stubble. He was wearing a black shirt, black jumper, black shiny leather quilted body-warmer and dark trousers.

Anyone with any information that may help with the investigation or who witnessed the 'Ringing the Changes' incident in the Haymarket Bar should contact Police Scotland on 101 or phone the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh



Silver Cloud

Canonmills Bridge

Edinburgh Festivals

Today at Fringe by the Sea

Competitions

Silver Cloud was in port at Leith last night but this morning heads off for Kirkwall in Orkney and then onwards to Reykjavik. The ship has almost 300 guests on board, most of whom were out at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo last night when The Edinburgh Reporter was invited aboard for dinner. There are over 200 staff on the luxury cruise ship, part of the eight strong Silversea fleet which is celebrating 20 years in the cruising trade this year. She had just arrived from London on the first part of her week long voyage.

This was the view from the Promenade deck yesterday evening.



A planning application for change of use at Canonmills Bridge has been made. The plan is to convert the building (by the looks of it they will demolish and build new) into a restaurant with retail space and nine flats above.

You can see the whole planning application [here](#). Any objections must be lodged with the council by Friday. When The Edinburgh Reporter checked there were 115 public comments, though you cannot read the content online.

We would love you to share your photos, videos and reviews with us of anything you see at the festivals which are on right now.

Head over to our sister site [EdinburghReportage](#) which is the home of our user-generated content which we will then share with our readers.



At Fringe by the Sea today they have Tribute Thursday. Here is what they say about it:

Hotel California bring their fantastic Eagles show to the big Spiegeltent. All the hits are there, delivered with a scary authenticity, and considerable musical skill. Dirty Harry bring the tribute night to a rousing close with the sound of Blondie brought to life by a fantastic band and their spectacular front woman. You'll believe it's Debbie Harry, we promise!

But of course Fringe by the Sea is many things for many people. There are events for young and old alike, in their

fabulous seaside location. [More details here.](#)

We have three competitions running right now and we have to say that for all parents out there (or children who read these pages!) then we have a great competition coming up in the next day or so. Watch this space.

Two of our competitions – one to win tickets for a champagne dinner and Tattoo tickets for Friday night – close today at 5pm. So enter now! Good Luck.

[Our competitions section is here.](#)

Thursday in Edinburgh – what's on today



THURSDAY 7TH AUGUST 2014

Come on Over, Over: Watch Thieves, [Lake Montgomery](#), [Hailey Beavis](#), [Faith Elliott](#) and [Caro Bridges](#). 8pm-1am, [Forest Cafe](#), 141 Lauriston Place. Free.

Lunchtime Concert: Piano Speak with Will Pickvance. 1.30pm, [St Giles Cathedral](#), Royal Mile. Free.

Gayfield Creative Spaces presents its first Twilight Talk: Material Goods, Quality and the Marketplace: Paul Simmons,

founder of Timorous Beasties and textile designer Laura Spring discuss their experience of creating thriving studios through design innovation and quality production. 6-8pm, Lyon and Turnbull, 33 Broughton Place. Free but booking required via [eventbrite](#).

Amadeus Duo: Alina Bzhezhinska (harp) and Margaret Preston (flute) perform an eclectic mix of classical music and new works by modern composers. 6-6.30pm, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed.

Books in Focus: Surrealist Erotica. The 'Books in Focus' sessions focus on artists' books held in the special collections of the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art. This session is a preview of some of the publications which will be included in a forthcoming display at Modern Two, featuring explicit Surrealist erotica by artists and writers including **Hans Bellmer, Marcel Duchamp, Georges Bataille** and the **Marquis de Sade**. Owing to the nature of the materials, suitable for **over-18s only**. 11.30am-12.30pm, Reading Room, [Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art TW0](#), Belford Road. Free but places are limited and must be booked by calling 0131 624 6268 or emailing gmainfo@nationalgalleries.org

Ghosts in a Gallery: the third incarnation of the **Edinburgh International Festival's** highly successful pop-up performance series, exploring love in the face of extraordinary sacrifices and challenges faced during the First World War. Written for soprano, tenor and piano, it features some of the most poignant and beautiful art song and Lied from Western classical music. 2.30pm, [Scottish National Portrait Gallery](#), 1 Queen Street. Free and unticketed.

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. This week: Bert Flitcroft, Dorothy Cummings McLean, [Michael Malone](#),

Sureshini Sanders and Rosemary Goring. Free tickets available from Blackwell's front desk or by calling 0131 622 8218. For more information contact Ann Landmann at events.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk or call 0131 622 8216.

Lunchtime Recital: Shane Brogan (classical accordion), John Pfaff (piano), Bill Blackwood (clarinet and flute) and Peter Galinsky (clarinet). 1.10pm, [St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral](#), Palmerston Place.

The Generator! By Night: unleash your childlike, creative side at the crazy art lab and have fun imagining the art of the future. Take inspiration from art works on display in the [GENERATION](#) exhibition and jump into a world of experimentation, exploration and invention. Special evening opening of the children's Generator! activities **for adults only**. 5-7pm, [The Royal Scottish Academy](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed. Part of Generation By Night.

Phill Jupitus: Sketch Comic Lectures. A talk by Phill Jupitus and Hannah Gadsby about the works they have seen at the Scottish National Gallery, the works that Phill has created this week, and those of members of the public who have joined in the project. An enjoyable, personal look at art with the occasional surprise guest. 6.30-7.30pm, Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed.

Welfare Rights Advice from SWOP: free confidential welfare rights advice from SWOP (South West Outreach Project.) 10am-1pm, [Oxgangs Library](#), 343 Oxgangs Road North. Call 0845 3024607 and quote 'SWOP project' to book a place.

Comic Art Masterclass with Kev F Sutherland: make your own comic strip and get your caricature portrait drawn by Kev, a writer and artist for the Beano and Marvel. 11am-1pm, [Portobello Library](#), 14 Rosefield Avenue. To book your place call 0131 529 5558 or email

portobello.library@edinburgh.gov.uk

Comic Art Masterclass with Kev F Sutherland: make your own comic strip and get your caricature portrait drawn by Kev, a writer and artist for the Beano and Marvel. 2-4pm, [Craigmillar Library](#), 101 Niddrie Mains Road. To book your place call 0131 529 5597 or email craigmillar.library@edinburgh.gov.uk

Mythical Stories and Crafts: a different mythical story and a related craft every week. For under 12s. 2.30-3.30pm, [Moredun Library](#), 92 Moredun Park Road. Free. Part of the Mythical Maze Summer Reading Challenge.

Lunchtime Concert: Bellevue Rendezvous. Scottish-based trio of Gavin Marwick (fiddle), Cameron Robson (cittern, jaw harp) and Ruth Morris (nyckelharpa), plundering Europe for strange and interesting tunes. The nyckelharpa is a traditional Swedish instrument rarely seen in the UK. 12.15pm, [St Giles Cathedral](#), Royal Mile. Free.

GENERATION TG: [The Travelling Gallery](#) brings the work of five artists working in a range of media, including ceramics, textile wall hangings, digital animations, drawings, sculptures, film, performance and song, to various locations in Edinburgh this week. The exhibition focuses on what it is like to be a contemporary visual artist in Scotland and includes a film of artists talking about their work to pupils from Edinburgh schools. Today: 11am-5pm, **Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre**, Groathill Loan. Free. Part of the [GENERATION](#) exhibition.

Where to eat and drink in Edinburgh – Pop in to Pommery at the Signet Library

The Signet Library just off the Royal Mile is one of Edinburgh's most beautiful buildings and usually a well-kept secret. That is until the Pommery bar pops up in August serving champagne, afternoon teas, sharing platters and of course fresh grilled lobster with wedges! Steeped in history, The Signet Library is an impressive building. Described by King George IV as "the finest drawing room in Europe" making it the perfect location for this sophisticated pop-up dining café.



The Signet Library

There really is nothing better than popping in for a glass of perfectly chilled fizz en route to the Opera, before you head to the Book Festival square, or before you go and see a rip roaring comedy extravaganza at one of Edinburgh's multitude of summer festivals. You can even sit outside if the weather is behaving and soak up the buzzing atmosphere of the Royal Mile.

As I mentioned before it's not just the fizz that makes this such a great pop up but the fabulous food on offer too – they have a good selection of hot and cold soft drinks including speciality teas and coffees, beers from Knops brewery in East Lothian, wines and a selection of home baked cakes and scones and show stopping afternoon teas piled high with sweet and savoury delights and of course a glass of champers if you wish.



The Menu!

We went to investigate this year's Pommery bar on Monday evening before going to see a show at the Assembly just five minutes' walk away. They have a selection of champagnes from Pommery and also offer a tasting flight which gives you the opportunity to try all of the options before deciding on your favourite tipple. We decided to jump in the deep end and order a bottle of the Brut Rose (£65) as a special treat.

The sharing platters are a great option and would be perfect for lunch featuring a meat antipasti, vegetarian selection and a seafood option. Two of us decided to share the seafood platter (16.50) which was a generous sized portion including beetroot cured salmon, Belhaven smoked trout pate, Shetland smoked salmon, soused mackerel, dill sauce and a selection of oatcakes and bread. The beetroot salmon had a lovely flavour, the pate zingy and light and the sauces went really well, plus home-made oatcakes are always a winner for me! My partner tried the oysters (£4) which were served with a gin, coriander and pink peppercorn vinegar which was fabulous.



Oysters and Seafood Platter

For main courses we were feeling rather decadent and ordered the sweet & succulent whole fresh lobster with garlic aioli & potato wedges (£30 with the online discount voucher or £37.50 full price) – heaven if you are a seafood lover like me. Huge fun was had breaking into the claws to dig out the meat and dip it in the mayonnaise not the most elegant of eating adventures but it was fun! Our friend was tempted by the Pommery Burger and home-made wedges (£14.50), which had smoked cheddar on it and served in a brioche bun as all good burgers should be.



Lobster and Garlic Aioli

Desserts feature some true classics including strawberries and cream and lemon posset which were sublime (yes I tried them both!), the boy had a chocolate brownie with ice cream and judging by the speed it disappeared I would say it was a hit.

As the sun goes down, the Pommery Bar is transformed into an evening venue with stunning lighting and a disco ball adding to the fun of the festival. Definitely a must do for this summer and the perfect place to celebrate – but be quick its only here for August!



The Pommery Shop

Check out the [fantastic offers at Pommery Bar this](#) month or head along to one of their special events including:

Champagne Tutored Tasting – Sara Hicks, UK Ambassador Pommery Champagne

13 / 14 / 15 August – 5.30 pm / 7 pm. This event is a unique experience for champagne lovers or novices alike. Engaging and energetic tutored tasting of four seasonal Pommery champagnes from Sarah Hicks, followed by sharing platters and a further glass of champagne in the cafe bar.

Chocolate, Whiskies and Cocktails – Annabel Meikle – The Whisky Belle

10 / 17 / 24 August – 2 pm. A luxurious experience for an indulgent Sunday afternoon, this is an engaging interactive introduction to whisky. Taste two whiskies and two whisky cocktails showcasing The Famous Grouse family, paired with exquisite chocolates from The Highland Chocolatier.

Four Beers and a Burger – Meet the Brewer – Knops Beer Company Ltd

4 / 11 / 18 August – 7 pm. The Pommery Bar serves brilliant artisan beers from local lads Knops Brewery. Sample the beers and meet the brewer, hear the tales behind the ales and enjoy one of our superb Pommery Burgers.

Single Malt Sundays- Annabel Meikle – The Whisky Belle

10 / 17 /24 August – 5 pm. Take a journey around Scotland in a glass. Sample four regional single malt whiskies and be expertly guided through the variety of styles. Enjoy a selection of Scottish tapas bites made to enhance the experience. Perfect for sharing with friends.

Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Ticket & Dinner Package – book quick as the rest of the Tattoo tickets have sold out! ([or enter our competition here before 5pm on Thursday 7 August 2014!](#))

Why not enjoy a pre-dinner Pommery Champagne Cocktail and three course meal before enjoying the Royal Tattoo? The ticket and dinner package starts from just £75 per person and is an ideal way to entertain clients, staff or friends. Book via www.heritageportfolio.co.uk

For the latest news and offers follow @PommeryBar on Twitter or Facebook or visit www.thesignetlibrary.co.uk/pommery-champagne-cafe-bar. Fringe tickets can be bought online at www.edfringe.com.

just Festival: Manchester International Roots Orchestra

✖ 'It was like paradise coming to the RNCM' – that's how **Michael Cretu** describes the start of the **Manchester International Roots Orchestra (MIRO)** of which he is Musical Director. Michael came to the **RNCM** (Royal Northern College of Music) in 1992 as a double bassist and later also studied composition. He always wanted to bring people from different cultures together to make music: at **St John's Church** on Saturday evening an exhilarating concert showed just how successful he has been in fulfilling that dream.

From traditional West African songs to new compositions, from a haunting Kurdish solo to a fast rap about dragon taming, the diversity of the material and the talents of every member of the orchestra were stunning. MIRO counts refugees, RNCM students and local and international musicians from all traditions amongst its numbers. Michael himself is Romanian and much of his playing is inspired by gypsy tunes, although he can clearly turn his bow to anything, from African music to jazz. He likes to bring together folk music, Arabic music, classical music, jazz, gypsy music: music – and perhaps even more importantly musicians – from all around the world.

Saturday's line-up consisted of **Holly** on kora (a traditional 21-string West African instrument), **Pat** on drums, **Mina** on oud and ney, **Farshid** on santour, **Zorro** on guitar, **Tshepe** on piano and **Michael** on bass, joined by solo singers **Kazem** and **Dana** and rappers **Remi** and **MNIB**.

Michael began the evening by leading the orchestra in his own composition *Balkan Connection*, a tune that moved from a slow double bass and guitar melody, picking up to a fast flamenco-esque rhythm as other instrumentalists came in. Drums, kora and oud all added to the crescendo of sound, then faded away leaving the bass and guitar alone once more to wind the piece down. Next came *Banilay*; bass, kora, guitar, drums and ney

backed Holly's singing which, together with MNIB and Remy's powerful rap, reinterpreted a traditional song telling wealthy men to 'be loyal', to consider the poor and not to abuse their power.

✖ Perhaps one of the most beautiful and haunting performances of the concert came from Dana, who sang *Karass Zarda*, 'a song of love about a lady who wears a yellow dress', in his native Kurdish. The real message of the song is the struggle for Kurdistan's freedom. Dana's wonderful voice conveyed a depth of feeling so great that it was almost hypnotic and very moving.

Dana was followed by Kazem, with *Iryligh*, an Iranian song about 'being away from where you belong', an experience shared by many of MİRÖ's members. Kazem's pure strong voice drew the audience in immediately. His second piece, *The Sultan of Hearts* was preceded by a simple but arresting introduction on santour; bass, drums, ney and oud then combined as Kazem sang his way to an exuberant, uplifting close.

The return of the migrating birds from Africa inspired Holly's composition *Mystic Bird*, which speaks of hope and kindness as the kora and bass meet in an increasingly frenetic rhythm. Tshepe then calmed the mood with a dream-like, wistful piano solo, beautifully played, before Holly, MNIB and Remi performed *Salia*. The djembe is a traditional African drum: legend has it that Salia, a renowned djembefola in Guinea, played so well that his music tamed a dragon and persuaded him to dance. MNIB and Remi's energetic and exhilarating rap had even an Edinburgh audience tapping its feet. (And that's quite adventurous for us...)

The finale, *Time for Change*, an outstanding composition by MNIB, brought the whole orchestra – and indeed the audience too – together in an immensely uplifting and engaging

performance. Zorro and Holly sang, Remy and MNIB rapped, and Pat's impressive drumming providing an exciting close to a wonderful evening. Music is a language that everyone can understand: the Manchester International Roots Orchestra brings that shared language to the world in a unique and inspirational way – or, in MNIB's own words,

‘It's like the whole world is here in one room, and you don't need no flight tickets to see it.’

MIRO is based at RNCM and supported by **Community Arts Northwest**. You can find out more about MIRO [here](#).

This concert was part of the **just Festival**, which continues until 25th August 2014 with a great programme of performances, family events, talks, exhibitions and films: The Edinburgh Reporter's article [here](#) has more details.

Edinburgh Festival Fringe – **Bianco_Here Be Dragons *******

If like me you were taken to the circus as a child, you may be expecting an evening of animals jumping through hoops and clowns making rather obvious jokes. Well forget all that – ‘Bianco_Here Be Dragons’ **NoFitState Circus's** sensational new show, is a different thing entirely.



For a very important start, there are no animals. This is **contemporary circus**, a professional touring production staged by some of the most skilled performers you are likely to see in a tent, or indeed anywhere else. In an intricately

choreographed programme artists fly up and down ropes, aerialists swing from clouds, a man strips (well almost..) on a tightrope and, in a breathtaking finale, snow falls as a girl (the incomparable **Sage Cushman**) dressed in a white wedding gown dances on a trapeze. The high level acrobatics are interspersed with some slapstick humour, but even that is part of the dramatic story unfolding before us. The players have fun, run about, shout, ride bicycles, throw balls, cartwheels and flowers; this show is about the ordinary and the extraordinary, everyday life and once-in-a-lifetime drama. Scenes of rollicking light-heartedness give way to scenes of great passion. We are drawn into these characters' stories; our spirits follow their flights across the skies, their soft landings – and their hard bumps.





'Bianco_Here Be Dragons' is a perambulatory experience – in other words, the audience walks around as the story unfolds. Scenes are shifted, stewards move us back and forth – it feels at times as if we are looking through a window. This does call for a certain amount of effort on our part, but it is effort well repaid; we very quickly find ourselves engaged in this travelling world. Ethereal voices tell us stories, figures appear then vanish. In some ways the effect is dreamlike, in others it's larger than life.

'There's only the passion, messiness and infectiousness of life' (Firenza Guidi – Artistic Director)

A huge part of the Bianco experience is the music; the band is truly outstanding and could easily perform by itself. Lead singer **Andy Moore** has an impressive voice and knows how to use it – he moves seamlessly from song to chant and back again and plays several instruments. **Annette Loose's** sax is evocative and soaring, her voice mesmeric. The equally excellent **Doug Kemp** and **Calum McIntyre** complete the group. **Blaze Tarsha**, who must be one of the most versatile and charismatic performers in the company (she can even manage five hoola-hoops in one hoola) leaves the trapeze to sing with the band at one point – and yes, she can sing beautifully as well.

Annette Loose originally joined the circus in 2004 as a sound

engineer, becoming part of the band two years later. She has travelled widely with NoFitState and loves the way in which every member has chosen to join the company and as a result has total commitment to it. She speaks highly of the Fountainbridge site and of the warm welcome back that the circus has received from local shops and businesses after its very successful initial visit last year.

Speaking before the show, **Firenze Guidi** explains that she aims above all to teach the performers to convey emotion and humanity. Expert aerialists who can't do this are, she says, only gymnasts: her artists are just that – artists: people who communicate great feeling through their art. If the audience takes that feeling away from the show 'My job is done.'

This is a fabulous show for all ages: recommended.

'Bianco_Here Be Dragons' is on at the **NoFitState Big Top (Venue 194)** every day *except* 11th and 18th August until 25th August 2014. Times vary: see [Edinburgh Fringe](#) website for details. **Please note** that this show does involve standing and walking about – there are no seats.

Maggie Dixon resurrected by Grassmarket festival muralist

A Scottish muralist will capture a local author on a giant 32 foot canvas installed in the Grassmarket throughout August, and in true festival spirit members of the public can also be included – if they turn up in period costume!

Edinburgh-born Chris Rutterford specialises in the production of epic artworks. He has set up a 'live studio' in the Grassmarket where he is painting author Alison Butler into a huge depiction of the execution of Maggie Dickson, a local character who survived the hangman's noose in 1724. Alison Butler wrote *The Hanging of Maggie Dickson* and will represent her in the painting.

Chris is inviting the public to get involved and will paint visitors' faces into the mural – especially those in period costume. The completed 32 foot high, double-sided mural will focus on the gallows on one side and a traditional horse market on the other as the Grassmarket has been used as both over the centuries. Chris says the mural aims to evoke the rich history, culture and spirit of this ancient and famous part of Edinburgh's Old Town.

"I'm really hoping that we can bring some history back to life and get local people involved too as that's what makes community art so special," he adds.

"My murals capture history in action and I think that's why people find them so interesting to look at. It's a huge honour to be invited to paint in such historically significant places and in effect become a little part of their history. It's going to be a busy month in the Greater Grassmarket but I'm really looking forward to it."

Chris will be painting the mural daily Monday to Friday and is easily recognisable in his paint-spattered Jacobite outfit and distinctive red top hat. The trained illustrator and writer is making a time lapse video of the mural project and after the festival the mural will be split up and put on display at sites across the city.

Alison Butler has her first sitting for Chris at the alfresco Grassmarket studio at midday tomorrow, Wednesday 8 August, and will be available to explain Maggie Dixon's fascinating story

to the public. Maggie survived the hangman's noose after coming back to life on her way to the graveyard and has been a popular local historical figure ever since.

Alison Butler says: "I'm deeply honoured and thrilled to be involved in Grassmarket mural. In writing my novel, the Grassmarket and Margaret Dickson have become very dear to me and Chris Rutterford's depiction of Maggie means her story will be heard over and over again. I couldn't ask for more."

The project has been commissioned by Greater Grassmarket Business Improvement District in order to provide some alternative entertainment during the festival.

"In August the Grassmarket is normally filled with markets every day, and following feedback from businesses and locals we decided to do something different this year," says Georgia Artus, Greater Grassmarket Project Manager.

"Working with Chris to create this piece of public art is a fantastic start to what will be a year's worth of activities delving into the stories of the local area. We can't wait to see the faces of visitors, locals and historical figures intermingled in the mural.

"Our area is filled with fascinating local businesses, selling everything from homemade gelato and antique bookshops to fossils and tweed, and we hope this project will encourage visitors to explore and enjoy the area."

Submitted by [Samantha McKay-Challen](#)



The Voice Festival: an acapella workshop & showcase this Friday!

The Voice Festival UK is a charity dedicated to bringing people together through music. It aims to cultivate *a capella* communities in the UK by providing learning, performance and networking opportunities.



On Friday, the Voice Festival will host an afternoon **workshop** led by the superb five-piece *a capella* group **Simply Soweto Encha**. The group will give an introduction to South African oral and dance traditions, vocal harmonies and energetic rhythms, teaching participants how to relax into creativity.

The workshop will be followed in the evening by a **Showcase** featuring a set from each of the participating youth, university and community groups, as well as a special collaborative number created during the workshop. Performers will include **Chacabella, Out of the Blue, Rachael's Voices, Aberpella, The Sons of Pitches, The Accidentals** and the **Vocalites: Sweet Nothings**.

The day's activities will wrap up with an opportunity for

socialising with fellow *a capella* singers and supporters.

The workshop will run from 3.30 to 5.30pm and the Showcase will take place from 6.30 to 8pm. Tickets cost £6/£5 for the workshop and £10/£8 for the Showcase. They can be purchased direct from [The Voice Festival UK's website](#); tickets for the Showcase can also be purchased from the [Edinburgh Fringe Festival website](#).

Appetite Direct wins Edinburgh International Festival contract

Appetite Direct has been chosen to cater Edinburgh International Festival venues for the next three years in a five figure sponsorship deal which takes the company one step closer towards its goal of doubling turnover within five years.

The multi award-winning event caterer Appetite Direct provides impressive food for private and corporate events of any size and has had a close working relationship with the EIF since launching eleven years' ago. The Newhaven-based company has increased in size by 20% in the last 12 months and this three-year EIF contract helps secure the future of Appetite Direct's 10 full-time and team of 30 part-time staff while also creating two further full-time jobs.

Appetite Direct owner Nigel Kennedy says: "We are really excited about this prestigious sponsorship deal with the EIF as we have always had a great relationship with the team there. This shows a real confidence in our company while

reinforcing our commitment to the arts in Edinburgh, which the EIF does such a brilliant job of promoting.

“It also puts our name in front of some of the key businesses in the city, which is obviously great for our brand, and takes us a step closer to our target of doubling turnover to around £1.4m within the next five years.”

Jonathan Mills, Edinburgh International Festival Director, says: “We’ve enjoyed working with Appetite Direct for a number of years. They have always been a superb natural echo of our commitment to quality, excellence and innovation. I am delighted that our relationship is developing with the company and look forward to offering our guests and artists our combined hospitality.”

Appetite Direct was awarded Independent Event Caterer of the Year at last year’s CIS Excellence Awards and has also been shortlisted for this year’s Scottish Event Awards, being held on Wednesday 8th October in Glasgow. The company also has an exclusive deal Gilmerton House in East Lothian, plus a contract with the National Trust for Scotland which will see Appetite Direct catering at a number of historic venues across Scotland.

Submitted by [Samantha McKay-Challen](#)

