

Council plans to roll out Transport for Edinburgh



‘Transport for Edinburgh’ can be the future of public transport in our Capital – Councillor Lesley Hinds

The Council is set to create a new organisation to integrate transport services in the Capital. Transport for Edinburgh will be set up initially to integrate the tram and bus services, with Lothian Buses and Edinburgh Trams confirmed as the operators. In the longer term, Transport for Edinburgh could become responsible for implementing the Council’s wider transport vision.

Details of company structure and the tram operating agreement will be presented to the full council meeting next week. Transport for Edinburgh will initially oversee both tram and bus services but, with an integrated transport strategy, there is potential to look wider and bring in pedestrian and cycle routes into the approach and to consider other transport issues.

Transport Convener Lesley Hinds believes the new Council owned and run organisation has the potential to make a big impact on transport in Edinburgh. She said:- “Edinburgh’s new tram service is fast approaching and we’re developing the service in a way that fully complements our award winning bus service. What I’d like to see in the longer term is a publicly run transport organisation that can implement transport strategy in a fully integrated way to the benefit of everyone who wants to get around the city.

“This is the perfect time to start to look beyond the tram launch and to develop a new approach to transport in Edinburgh. With their existing knowledge and expertise Lothian

Buses is very well placed to thrive with the tram and I'm very pleased that we're working in partnership with them.

"The tram and bus services will be fully integrated with tickets and timetabling delivered through one system to make journeys easier. Any profit made will go back into Edinburgh's transport system.

"Our first priority is to get trams up and running. There is much work to be done on the development of Transport for Edinburgh and, at an appropriate time, we'll launch the new brand and develop in a way that places a focus on integrating and improving all modes of transport available in Edinburgh.

"We're looking closely at other transport systems as we do this but the priority of course is to develop something that works best for Edinburgh.



Ian Craig CEO of Lothian Buses said:-"This is a very welcome development for the city, its residents, visitors and businesses. Public transport is so key to all of our daily lives and the vision being put forward today by the Council should be embraced as committing to the ongoing provision of safe, socially-inclusive, affordable, integrated and high-quality public transport.

"Particularly in the immediate term, this allows the transport provision of bus and tram to the public to be integrated and presented as one multi-mode offering to our customers, rather than distinct and separate entities.

"Ensuring that Edinburgh's public transport system, in its widest sense, keeps pace with the growth, economic development and social demands of the city is imperative and the formation of Transport for Edinburgh recognises this."

The Council report sets out a company structure and financial

model which incorporates Lothian Buses (referred to in the business plan as Busco) and Edinburgh Trams (Tramco) into an arrangement where both companies report into Transport for Edinburgh (Topco). The fifteen year financial model shows a positive outlook with a forecast profit of £3.7m over the period with an operating surplus in the fourth year of operations.

The tram on its own is forecast to run with a £42m operating surplus. Maintenance and refurbishment costs for the tram system (totalling £87m and which isn't part of operating costs) would be covered by an infrastructure access fee of £39.6m payable to the Council by Tramco and through the dividend of £55.2m paid to the Council by Lothian Buses and Tramco. There is potential for additional funding to be achieved on items such as advertising and ticket optimisation.

The project remains in line with the revised budget (£776m) approved by the Council in September 2011, with work either ahead of schedule or in line with the revised timescale reported in December 2011.

Current remedial works are nearing completion and the council say this will not impact upon the financial position or the project timeframe.

The Council will publish an updated target programme, agreed with the contractor, towards the end of September.

The full report will be available on the Council's [committee papers online system](#) from tomorrow morning.

Edinburgh International Book Festival REVIEW – Nick Cope Sing-along *****

Nick Cope is a children's' songwriter and performer who was appearing at the Edinburgh International Book Festival as part of the festivals 'Making Music' strand, celebrating the joy and importance of singing and song writing. Aimed squarely at families this event was a real celebration of music and was enjoyed by both young and old who were in attendance.

Faced with an audience of children ranging from 6 months to 6 years (not to mention a number of parents and grandparents) Nick took to the stage with his guitar, completely undaunted by what he saw before him. He is very much at ease with children and by the end of his first song some of the older toddlers had already gravitated to the front of the stage. Nick's songs are full of fun and cover everything from counting and animals to how plants grow and are often accompanied by actions, demonstrated ably by Nick himself.

As the show progressed the number of children dancing in the aisles increased and on one particularly bouncy number a toddler mosh pit was created at the front! Great fun for all concerned, even for the watching parents. Indeed one of Nick's strengths is that his songs are very listenable for parents as well as children. His melodic indie-pop makes a welcome change from so much other music aimed at this age group of children.

For Nick's last number he handed out cardboard guitars and glasses (he is a wearer himself) and asked some of the more enthusiastic youngsters to accompany him on stage for his final number. They of course jumped at the chance and loved their moment of fame! Nick is a natural entertainer, clearly loves performing for children and put on a brilliant show that

was enjoyed by all in the audience. I might even have been singing one of his songs as I cooked dinner last night...

Submitted by [Duncan Wright](#)



The Pajama Men (Shenoah Allen and Mark Chavez) *****


✖ The Pajama Men (Shenoah Allen and Mark Chavez) at the Assembly Roxy is a wonderfully engaging and picaresque American mini-epic. This ludicrously accomplished narrative sketch comedy is laugh out loud hilarious throughout but still weirdly touching; partly because the myriad of characters brought to life remain sympathetic and universal, to be laughed along with, rather than at.

Somehow we're all there, as barrel-chested mid West cops, a Grimm mid-European King and dysfunctional manservant, bitchy Manhattan queens, dysfunctional teenagers, scary bikers, or the rest. (the character changes are seamless, the story-telling breakneck and total, not a limb or a digit unused to comic effect). The tale, told as you might expect, by two blokes in their Pajamas, knits its absurd episodes into a satisfying world with consummate skill; born from impro. this show retains a delightfully improvised feel, uninhibited and experimental, seeing where minds on imagination's rocket fuel can take us, – it's fun, accessible, and sparkling with physical and verbal wit.

Allen and Chavez really enjoy their on-stage world, indeed one of the most appealing things on display here is the warmth and

strength of their comedy partnership. With a beautifully apt live musical accompaniment throughout the accomplished ease of this Albuquerque duo is a real pleasure and delight to watch. Not to be missed.

Five stars!

Category	Comedy
Group	Assembly
Venue	Assembly Roxy 
Date	15-26 August
Time	21:00
Duration	1 hour
Suitability	16+

Submitted by [Ade Morris](#)

Lothian Buses support youth cafe



6VT YOUTH CAFÉ THANKS LOTHIAN BUSES FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT

Lothian Buses are pleased to announce its continued support to 6VT Youth Café by giving the charity another year's worth of adult and children's bus travel. This will help 6VT to continue to empower young people and their families who are at risk to make positive changes with their lives and ensure that as many people as possible can access the facilities and support services they provide.

6VT's initiatives include; provision of an open youth cafe, assistance for vulnerable and young families, homeless children and young people who are seeking employability support as well as ensuring that those at risk are able to attend their drop in activities to receive support and advice.

Dot Thorne, Director, 6VT Youth Café said:"Lothian Buses generous award to 6VT for the second year running is a tremendous boost and will allow us to sustain and support young people most in need to access a range of supports and services. The tickets enable young people to access our service as well as help those most in need to get to important appointments such as job interviews. The tickets also help in our day to day work and enable us to take groups on local outings as part of our youth activity programmes. In this challenging financial climate this support from Lothian Buses is hugely appreciated by all at 6VT Youth Café."

Lothian Buses became involved with the 6VT Youth Café in 2011 when Chief Executive, Ian Craig volunteered his time through the charity Pilotlight who match and manage teams of senior business people to coach local charities through the process of planning for growth, development and sustainability.

Ian Craig, Chief Executive, Lothian Buses said:-"As a key part of Edinburgh life we are delighted to continue to support those in our community. I worked with the 6VT Youth Café team in 2011/12 and was impressed in how greatly their work impacted on those in need of a helping hand and was pleased to continue our assistance in 2013.

"Since then several other members of the Lothian Buses' management team have become "Pilotlighters". They are working with charities tackling issues such as crime, drug abuse and homelessness in Scotland."

Kerrie Jopling, Project Manager, Pilotlight said: "Pilotlight brings senior business people up close to the needs of some of

the most disadvantaged in Scotland. Ian has given first and foremost his tremendous leadership skills and experience. Those skills, along with the rest of his fellow team members, have helped put 6VT on a path to help even more young people more effectively.”

Edinburgh International Festival – Scottish Ballet on Friday



Scottish Ballet to perform UK premiere of *Silhouette* and *Sea of Troubles*, Friday 16 August at 8.00pm

The Scottish Ballet will perform new artistic director **Christopher Hampson's *Silhouette*** and **Kenneth MacMillan's *Sea of Troubles*** on the main stage of the Festival Theatre in an evening performance starting at 8.00pm. It will be the first time *Silhouette* has been performed in the UK and by Scottish Ballet.

This double-bill of *Sea of Troubles* and *Silhouette* replaces Édouard Lock: World Premiere (2013). Due to family illness, Édouard Lock's new work, which was to form part of Dance Odysseys, has been cancelled.



Photos by Andy Ross.

Five things you need to know today



Police to hold Festival Surgery this morning – Alasdair Gray on independence and knighthoods – The Edinburgh International Book Festival pick of the day – Edinburgh Festival Fringe pick of the day – Free Wifi

Police in Edinburgh are holding a special street surgery this week to engage with the public as part of their Festival policing operation.

Between 11am and 1pm today officers will gather at the iconic police box in the Grassmarket to speak with local residents, businesses and visitors to the city, where they will offer crime prevention advice and discuss any issues requiring police attention.

The City of Edinburgh Council's Community Safety Officer will also attend this surgery as part of Police Scotland's commitment to partnership working.

The Grassmarket is one of the city's busiest locations, particularly during the summer months, and police are keen to ensure they speak to a large and varied proportion of those staying within the Capital.

While a number of police boxes have been sold to private buyers in the past 18 months, the one in the Grassmarket is still in operation and Edinburgh Police think it will provide an ideal location for the surgeries.

Everyone is welcome to attend this event and officers say they look forward to engaging with the diverse community the Festival brings to the city centre.

Inspector Gary Dickson from Edinburgh's City Centre Policing Team said: "As part of Operation Assure, we are committed to engaging with the public in a number of different ways to offer advice on keeping themselves and their belongings safe and to ensure they do not fall victim to crime.

"We wanted to host our street surgery in an popular location and the Grassmarket has long since been a destination for the city's visitors, as well as those who live here.

"Our iconic police boxes are always a great photo opportunity for tourists, but they are also instantly recognisable and associated with the police, providing the perfect hub for our street surgeries to take place.

"I would strongly urge anyone wishing advice on crime prevention and personal safety to attend at the Grassmarket on Thursday.

"If, however, you cannot make it to this event, then you can contact Police Scotland with a non-emergency enquiry on 101; visit your local police station or follow @EdinburghPolice on Twitter using #FestivalPolicing."

Author Alasdair Gray appeared at the Edinburgh International Book Festival yesterday afternoon to talk about his recent eclectic creative projects, the looming prospect of an Independent Scotland and to set the record straight on the 'anti-English' debacle that erupted around him in December 2012.

In an event chaired by Book Festival director Nick Barley,

Gray talked about Scotland's great history of exporting its own citizens – citing, among other things, a disparity between Scotland's relatively high level of education and low standard of living compared to England – and how Scottish emigration has enriched the wider world, both in cultural resource and financial fortune. Gray's definition of a Scot as 'any adult living in Scotland able to vote' may be too narrow for some, but the value he places on those who seek to contribute to society was articulately and passionately displayed. Gray sought to use his event to clarify, "in case there is still any lingering doubt", as Barley put it, that he was not anti-English in the slightest, but rather felt that those with the power to put people in the top creative jobs in the country – bodies such as Creative Scotland and the NTS – should look to the people with a deep understanding of the culture of the country in addition to excellence in their own artistic medium. Gray roused a laugh from the rapt crowd when, in response to an accusation that was part-and-parcel of the flak he got after his *Settlers and Colonists* article that he was 'attention-seeking', he remarked that he didn't think he was but "I must be seeking attention, otherwise I wouldn't get so much of it.

Inevitably the conversation between Gray and Barley moved from Scottishness to Scottish Independence, and Gray used the opportunity to outline a few key things about his vision for a post-referendum Scotland. Gray said his interest was in proportional representation, a country where people didn't necessarily know how they would vote in every election, and for political dialogue driven by issues rather than ideology. The discussion then turned to Gray's recent work; most prominently his recent mural on the wall of Glasgow's Hillhead subway station. He also discussed his latest project-in-progress: a new translation of *Dante's Inferno* written in his inimitable poetically swearsy-Scots. When discussing the

accuracy of his text to the original, in light of his lack of Italian language, Gray said he “...decided I was going to be inaccurate to the extent that the words within it were words I could say.”

In the final stages of the conversation, Gray’s status as a national institution was warmly commented upon by an astute audience member, who observed that if he were English he’d have been knighted by now. Gray’s reply that he actually was offered a knighthood by “Mr. Brown’s administration”, but “turned it down when [he] realised there was no money attached to it” will go down in Book Festival history.



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* Standard terms and conditions apply across all age groups.

Today in Charlotte Square there are many good things happening at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. From the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams (you may get a return ticket if you are lucky) to one for which tickets are still available – [Alistair Moffat with James Naughtie on What makes](#)

Scotland the best:-

If there's one man who typifies Scotland's gallus pride in its heritage and landscape it is Alistair Moffat, the historian and cultural impresario who once ran Edinburgh's Fringe. He has written a beguiling book about what he describes as Britain's Last Frontier: the line which separates the highlands from the lowlands. Moffat is joined today by broadcaster James Naughtie, author of the introduction, to share stories about this unique country.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival continues until Monday 26 August. Full details of the programme, and tickets, can be found at www.edbookfest.co.uk.

One for tomorrow night at the Fringe. Get some friends together and catch the last performance of [Man Feelings at Jekyll & Hyde](#) on Hanover Street. It is a late show at 00:45 but well worth staying up for! And it is a free non-ticketed event so you can simply give the guys a donation at the end depending on how much you like it. We have to admit a certain allegiance here as one of the Men, Kevin Kennedy, is about to become our latest contributor on computer games and films....and we are looking forward to that! In the meantime go and see Man Feelings on Friday night – late!

Love. Fear. Joy. Anger. Indifference. These are but a few of the feelings a man may experience (the last one is hunger). But what is a man? And what does him having feelings entail? We'd like to think we have the answer, traveller. Enter: Man Feelings. A show expelling forth numerous sketches, depicting varying degrees of ridiculousness, fearlessness and, of course, manliness. So come... Feel like a man with us.



Free wifi has become more and more widespread and expected over the last couple of years, but this year during the Festival there are free wifi benches in George Street. [The Herald](#) has picked up this good news story, but we have a couple of photos of the benches, which started off in St Andrew Square and now seem to be all along George Street which is currently pedestrianised along some parts.

Now although we love this whole wifi idea can someone tell us how they work..??

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Stockbridge Photography Club Photo of the Week



This week's photo was taken at Edinburgh Zoo, and comes from Linda Russell. Linda works as an independent Children's

Sleep Consultant with families all over the world but in her spare time she loves to relax with her camera.

The club itself was originally a suggestion by Linda. "I wanted to meet up with like minded people," said Linda. "I love the regular tips and photography banter shared at the meetings and over Facebook."

The Stockbridge Photography Club is a non-profit photography club that aims to operate in a different way from the traditional photography club mold. We have informal monthly meetings where we discuss our photos over a cup of coffee and learn about the month's theme- this month we're meeting in LifeCare, Stockbridge.


Outside of this, we arrange photowalks and trips to various locations and landmarks in and around Edinburgh, providing our members with something interesting to photograph, whilst always having someone on hand to answer any questions.

More info about the club, and their upcoming exhibiton, is on their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/stockbridgephotoclub) or follow them on Twitter (@stockbridgepics)

Submitted by [Stockbridge Photography Club](#)



Drugs seized

 Police in Edinburgh have seized £60,000 worth of the class B drug Methylethcathinone from an address in the Wester Hailes area of the Capital.

Officers raided the address in Morvenside yesterday where they

arrested and charged a 34-year-old man and 30-year-old woman. In addition to the drugs, officers also seized £26,000 in cash.

The pair were scheduled to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court today in connection with drugs offences, as well as offences under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

Detective Inspector Stuart Harkness, from Police Scotland, said: "Police Scotland is committed to keeping people safe, and we will always act on any information we receive regarding suspected drug dealers operating in local communities.

"I would encourage members of the public to help make our communities safer by reporting any suspicions they have regarding drugs or associated criminal activity, either by calling Police Scotland on 101, or making an anonymous report through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

"Rest assured that any information received will be acted on, and treated in the strictest confidence."

Police release CCTV image

✖ Police in Edinburgh have released a CCTV image of a man they wish to trace in connection with their enquiries into an assault and robbery in Edinburgh last year.

A 70-year-old woman was entering the common stair of her home in Persevere Court around 10pm on Sunday 18th November when a man approached and engaged her in conversation.

He then grabbed hold of the victim's handbag and pulled it from her shoulder, causing her to fall and be dragged for a short period of time.

The suspect then made off from the area and police were contacted.

Officers are now keen to trace the male pictured in the CCTV images to assist with their enquiries.

Detective Constable Steven Livingstone said: “Fortunately the elderly victim was not seriously injured as a result of this incident, but was understandably shaken by the ordeal.

“The male in the CCTV footage is of interest to our enquiries and he or anyone who recognises him is asked to contact police immediately.

“Similarly, anyone with any other information that can assist with our investigation is also urged to come forward.”

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

Edinburgh Festival Fringe – REVIEW – The 27 Club Jack Lukeman *****

The 27 Club *****

Jack Lukeman

Acoustic Music Centre @ St Bride’s Centre until 24th August

Jack Lukeman and his band return to Edinburgh with a diverse show celebrating the memory of the ill-fated members of the 27 Club. The early deaths of Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin and Jim

Morrison offer fertile material for Lukeman, a noted interpreter of the likes of Randy Newman and Jacques Brel who puts the vocal performance to the fore in understated arrangements befitting the quality of the material.

Backed by an accomplished four piece band, the show opens with a visual history of the 27 Club before launching into Brel and Kurt Weill's Alabama Song – an apposite choice as we segue into a pair of Janis Joplin standards.

While some of the more famous club members are represented by familiar material, Lukeman is happy to pick lesser known songs that draw the listener in, ably demonstrated by a pared down take on The Doors' The Crystal Ship, a mandolin-playing promenade during Robert Johnson's Love In Vain and a richly layered take on Echo & The Bunnymen's Killing Moon. A vocal performer of great subtlety and warm tones, Lukeman can also rock with the best – a suite of Hendrix numbers based around Purple Haze is a great work-out for the band, as is a superlative and uplifting take on The Manic Street Preachers Motorcycle Emptiness.

The show ends with Keep Dancing, one of Lukeman's own uplifting compositions and closes out an hour and a bit as well spent as any you will find on the Fringe this year.

Reviewer: Michael Moloney

Submitted by [Michael Moloney](#)



Irish comedians launch Galway Festival in Edinburgh



COMEDIANS LAUNCH GALWAY COMEDY FESTIVAL 2013 IN EDINBURGH

Top comedians including Jason Byrne and Phil Jupitus took time out from performing at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival today, Wednesday 14 August 2013, to launch the Galway Comedy Festival.

The festival, which takes place over an action-packed week from 22-28 October, has over 50 unmissable shows. With top international headliners, Irish comedy legends and new performers, the Galway Comedy Festival will have something to tickle everyone's ribs.

The 2013 programme includes top comedy headliners **Kevin Bridges, Sean Lock, Lee Mack, Russell Howard, David O'Doherty, Stewart Lee, Jason Byrne, Phill Jupitus and Andrew Maxwell.**

The Galway Comedy Festival is just one of many events happening in Ireland as part of The Gathering 2013. It's a year-long celebration of all things Irish and anyone with a connection or interest in celebrating the traditions, heritage and history of Ireland is welcome to join in the fun. Hundreds of events are taking place throughout the year – ranging from comedy festivals, clan reunions, family-get-togethers, community activities, food festivals and sporting events to larger national celebrations. Visit www.ireland.com for a full list of events.

If that's not enough to get you booking a trip to Galway, **Primal Scream** play Leisureland on Saturday October 26th, and the stand out festival act of 2013, **Chic with Nile Rodgers**, play the Radisson Ballroom on Sunday October 27th.

Tickets for the Galway Comedy Festival go on sale from 9am on Friday 13 September 2013 and can be purchased from www.GalwayComedyFestival.com.

Fly from Glasgow to Shannon or Edinburgh to Knock with FlyBe and travel to Galway within an hour.

For further information visit www.galwaycomedyfestival.com



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Theft on canal towpath



Police in Edinburgh are appealing for witnesses following a theft in the Wester Hailes area of the city.

The incident happened between 8.45am and 9am on the Union Canal towpath on Monday 12 August 2013.

A 33-year-old woman and her husband were walking their dog when the man suffered a seizure.

His wife put him into the recovery position and placed her jacket under his head.

At this time a male stopped to assist before running off.

The woman then discovered that her purse had been stolen from her jacket and contacted police.

Officers are conducting local enquiries to trace the male responsible and anyone who can assist with this investigation is asked to come forward.

The suspect is described as white around 5ft 6ins tall with a slim build and light-brown hair. He had two front teeth missing, a scar on his right cheek and was wearing a dark hooded top and grey jogging bottoms with orange stripes.

Inspector Stevie Dolan said: "This was a sickening and opportunistic theft that took place while the victim was tending to her husband.

"Anyone who was in or around the Union Canal towpath on Tuesday morning and remembers seeing this male is asked to contact police immediately.

"Similarly, anyone with any other information that can assist with our enquiries is also asked to get in touch."

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

First Minister at the Edinburgh International Book Festival



**First Minister will join William McIlvanney on stage at
Edinburgh International Book Festival**

Organisers of the Edinburgh International Book Festival announced today that the First Minister, Alex Salmond, will join William McIlvanney on stage on Friday 16 August at 3.00pm in an event to discuss McIlvanney's life and work.

Following McIlvanney's appearance at the Book Festival in 2011, where he expressed his disappointment that his work was now out of print, Canongate have re-published new editions of *Laidlaw*, *Strange Loyalties* and *The Papers of Tony Veitch*. The First Minister will be in conversation with McIlvanney and will also read a passage from one of his novels.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival will run until Monday 26 August. Tickets and further details of the event and the Book Festival Programme can be found at www.edbookfest.co.uk.

Five things you need to know today



**Happy Birthday Yang Guang! – Schools begin the autumn term today – Edinburgh International Book Festival pick of the day-
Edinburgh Festival Fringe pick of the Day – City libraries help set up a library in Malawi**

Yang Guang, Edinburgh Zoo's male panda is 10 today. We have been to see him this morning and he is looking very well! Video later but here are some photos from this morning's photo call.





Edinburgh pupils go back to school today for the autumn term. [All term dates](#) are shown on the Edinburgh Council website for your convenience, and the first holiday will be on Monday 16 September with half term following closely on Friday 11 October.



Photo of Cerys Matthews at EIBF 2013 by John Preece



Edinburgh's Charlotte Square Garden is transformed into a literary hub this August with the 30th Edinburgh International Book Festival. Today at the Book Festival. As is normal the most popular events with Alan Bissett and Ian Rankin are already sold out (but do remember you have a possibility of getting returns on the day).

Our photo today of Cerys Matthews who graced the square with her presence yesterday is by our photographer John Preece who is building up a gallery of photos from the Book Festival over here.

Our pick of the day for which there are still tickets available [on the website](#) is the session about photography with photography historians Helen Rappaport and Roger Watson in Capturing the Light:-

In the 1830s two men were striving to solve the problem of how to capture and retain an image. Photography historians Helen Rappaport and Roger Watson have traced the compelling story of Englishman Henry Fox Talbot and Frenchman Louis Daguerre who both invented methods that would enable ordinary people to illustrate their own lives: but which one got there first? Capturing the Light gives the full picture.



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Le Mot Juste in association with Finger in the Pie present No Place Like

A performance piece which collects memories as it ages

No Place Like is a project to connect with an older generation of people living in care homes. Lecoq-trained ensemble Le Mot Juste (Best Ensemble, Mimetic Festival 2013) has interviewed care home residents, their families and support staff, and brings these recordings to life on stage. Their poetic,

fragmented and playful show evokes the everyday lives and extraordinary memories of these people.

With the support of Outward Homes and St Anne's Home, in London, and Bield Homes in Edinburgh the company has run theatre workshops and conducted interviews with elderly residents as part of their research and development process. This has created the opportunity for elderly residents to engage with the company's work, and for the wider community to discover voices they would not normally hear.

The piece which has emerged echoes the voices the company has recorded: the narrative flits between past and present, linked by memory, music and free association of ideas.

No Place Like premiered at the Mimetic Festival where it won the One Stop Arts Award for Best Ensemble and was nominated for Best Premiere and Best Emerging Company.

Throughout the end of 2013 and 2014, the company will continue to speak to elderly people in care homes around the country, and integrate their stories into the show. In this way, No Place Like will always be developing and acquiring new memories and experiences as it ages.

Playing at The Monkey House at ZOO 7.15 pm, 2-26 August (with days off on 11th and 18th)

A lovely story today from the Tales of One City blog from the City of Edinburgh library service, about the way they have helped set up a library in Malawi.

This is what they say:-“An innovative partnership between Edinburgh Libraries and APSTAR has seen over fifty boxes of withdrawn library stock donated to establish the first community library in the Mzimba District of Malawi.”

[Read more on the Tales of One City blog.](#)

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New classrooms for the new school term



NEW TERM MEANS NEW FACILITIES FOR EDINBURGH PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- 23 new classrooms open their doors today
- £8m investment by the Council
- Up to 750 pupils to benefit from the new rooms

Twenty three new classrooms have opened their doors to pupils today as The City of Edinburgh Council tackles the pressing issue of rising school rolls.

The Council has spent £8m on creating high quality new classrooms at Towerbank, Corstorphine, Granton, Trinity and Wardie Primary Schools.

Additional class spaces have also been created at a further six schools where there has been increased pressure for places

– this means up to 750 new pupil places have been created across the city.

£4m has been invested at Towerbank Primary School. The works consist of eight new and refurbished classrooms and a separate 40/40 nursery building.

Corstorphine Primary School has had £2m of investment. The works consist of a new dining hall, activity space, kitchen, two new classroom spaces, breakfast club room and general purpose room.



Due to rising rolls £2m has been spent on the extensions to the other three primary schools. Trinity Primary School has four new classrooms, Wardie Primary School has three new classrooms and Granton Primary School has two new classrooms.

In addition to the new classrooms, the temporary units at James Gillespie's and Blackhall have been refurbished, while extra space has been created at James Gillespie's, Holy Cross, St Mary's Leith, Craigour Park and Oxbgangs to allow for more pupils.

The new accommodation at Granton, Trinity and Wardie Primary Schools has been carried out with partners Hub South East Scotland and Morrison Construction.

Councillor Paul Godzik, Education Convener for the City of Edinburgh Council, said:- "Many local authorities across the United Kingdom are struggling to find sustainable solutions to the increase in pupil numbers.

"In Edinburgh, primary school rolls are predicted to rise by 19% by 2020 – bringing our primary school population to over 31,000. That's why the Capital Coalition has pledged an extra £15m to tackle the issue.

"The foundations we are laying here in Edinburgh demonstrate

that the capital is prepared for the complex challenges that lie ahead. We believe our approach allows us the flexibility to plan much better for the future, and we are working with school communities and parent councils as we move forward. Whether or not it is traditional extensions, new built units or the refurbishment of existing space, we are committed to providing the very best educational environment for our pupils."



Mari Smith, P6 class teacher at Trinity Primary School, said: "The classrooms are a fantastic addition to our school and provide a bright and stimulating learning environment. The children are so excited about starting the new school year in their brand new classrooms."

Paul McGirk, Chief Executive of Hub South East Scotland, said:- "We are delighted to continue our successful partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council and hope that the pupils of Granton, Trinity and Wardie Primary Schools enjoy their new classrooms."

"This is a great example of how Hub South East Scotland can work with our partners to deliver modern, innovative solutions, providing facilities more quickly, more effectively, and with more time and cost certainty than ever before."

David Wilson, Project Director for Morrison Construction, said: "This has been an exciting and challenging project to be involved with and we would like to acknowledge the patience and understanding shown by the head teachers, the teaching and support staff, the pupils and our neighbours throughout the construction phase."

"We look forward to continuing this spirit of partnership in the future phases of the Rising Rolls project."

The Towerbank and Corstorphine extensions have been planned for a number of years but the others are as a result of a unique approach taken by the Council to deal with rising school rolls.

When schools are identified as potentially needing extra accommodation for the next school year, the relevant design and planning permissions are taken forward however it is only when the final registration numbers are confirmed in the following January that a decision is taken to go ahead with building the new classrooms.

This means that extensions are only built when the Council is confident the extra classes will be required. Previously this decision would have been taken much earlier before final numbers were known. It also means that additional classes can be added as, and when, they are needed depending on the annual review.

Wardie Primary School now has planning permission for a further two classes and Granton Primary School has planning permission for two further phases which would deliver five more classes if and when required.

The Council has already identified five more primary schools where new extensions may be required for the 2014/15 session to meet the increased demand from catchment pupils and are already starting to plan for the delivery of these for August 2014 should they be needed.

Edinburgh plant nurseries get

in on the Festival act

✘ Two Scottish nurseries offer a new experience for gardeners around the Edinburgh festival season

Two nurseries, who are based just a short distance from central Edinburgh, have joined forces to host events in August for local people and visitors to offer a new experience as an alternative Fringe event.

East Lothian based Macplants and Midlothian based Damhead Nurseries are the hosts, in conjunction with the British Plant Nursery Guide, to offer something new giving visitors a chance to take a break from the chaos of central Edinburgh and discover some of the outlying areas of the city.

Plant expert Gavin McNaughton, owner of Macplants, will be ✘ giving behind the scene tours of his family run nursery, followed by an interesting talk to share his knowledge and inspire people to discover new plants. The specialist nursery is known for Meconopsis (Himalayan Poppies) and Gentians but they also grow a huge range of perennials, grasses, ferns and alpiners making them one of the leading growers in the Scotland. Gavin, who has a PhD in Biochemistry, will be giving a talk on "Perennials for late summer colour and interest in the garden'. There is a small charge for this event and advance booking recommended. Teas and cakes included. Meet at the nursery at 2pm.

Sue Gray of Damhead Nursery, who has an interest in art and design, has invited several leading artists to contribute to her sculpture exhibition. Sue trained as a Landscape Architect and is developing the nursery to offer a range of good garden plants and culinary herbs plus she is creating a mini farm shop selling local vegetables and other produce. On Friday 31st August Sue hosts a special preview evening that includes wine tasting in conjunction with the prestigious Aberfeldy based

wine specialist 'The House of Menzies'.

Macplants events are between 16th-19th August.

Damhead Nursery is open during the festival however the exhibition is a post festival event from Friday 31st August to Sunday 1st September. Both nurseries are just a short drive from Edinburgh and can also be reached by public transport so making them very accessible – so anyone can come along.

Contact the nurseries for full details or visit www.britishplantnurseryguide.co.uk for more information.

Damhead Nursery – Sue Gray – Tel 0131 4454698 email – sueg@damheadnursery.co.uk

Damhead Farm, Lothianburn, Mid Lothian, EH10 7DZ

Macplants – Gavin McNaughton – Tel 01875 341179 email – sales@macplants.co.uk

Berrybank Nursery
5 Boggs Holdings
Pencaitland
East Lothian
EH34 5BA



Have you tried the Edinburgh

Bookshops App yet?



Edinburgh has a great collection of bookshops and they can now be found all in one place with a free iPhone Bookshop App. Locals and visitors alike can feast their eyes on literary delights across the city – even possibly ones they’ve missed! Supported by an online trail on the City of Literature website, an overview of each bookshop with specialisms listed, opening times and contact details are all readily available. A What’s On feature provides up-to-date information for all literary events taking place across Edinburgh offering something for even the choosiest reader, from chain stores to independents, second-hand and charity shops to art and antiquarian bookshops.

The character of Edinburgh bookshops varies so incredibly with each shop offering something different. In addition to shelves upon shelves of books, each shop tells its own story of its role in the city. Transreal Fiction stocks a wide range of cuddly toys representative of sci-fi and fantasy and Edinburgh Books is ever under the watchful eye of Clarence, the stuffed water buffalo mascot.

The Edinburgh Reporter met up with Cat Clarke, a successful Edinburgh author and writer in residence at Looking Glass Books who helped us have a look at the app and showed us how easy it is to download and use!

The app and trail build on the incredible stories Edinburgh bookshops have to tell and celebrates the many and varied bookshops in the city today.

The Bookshop Trail app is available to download now for free from iTunes, under the name [Edinburgh Bookshops Trail](#). The website trail is available now at www.cityofliterature.com

Edinburgh Zoo helping to save the top ten mammals



Edinburgh Zoo Says it is helping save the species on Top Ten List of Mammals Surviving Because of Zoos

Edinburgh Zoo has worked towards the conservation of five out of the 10 mammals surviving because of zoos, according to [a new report](#).

The British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA), which promotes the values of good zoos and aquariums, has compiled a list of the top ten mammals most reliant on zoos in the UK and Ireland.

Home to four of the species on the list including the Sumatran tiger, Blue-eyed black lemur, Grevy's zebra and Amur leopard, Edinburgh Zoo plays a significant role in helping safeguard the future of these animals through conservation breeding programmes and raising awareness about their plight.

The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS), which is the charitable organisation that owns and operates Edinburgh Zoo, has also been involved in the conservation of the scimitar-horned oryx. The RZSS WildGenes laboratory is providing

genetic information to help manage this species, which is extinct in the wild. This genetic data is being used to support the planned reintroduction of oryx as well as evaluate how well genetic diversity is being conserved in international breeding programmes.

Chris West, the Chief Executive Officer for the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, said:

“While it is devastating that a list as bleak as this one must exist, it highlights the crucial work we are doing to prevent as many species as possible from complete extinction – something that many animals on this list would certainly face if it weren’t for the conservation efforts, both in captive breeding programmes and in-situ projects, of many zoo collections. It is also a testament to our focus on conservation that the Society is currently working in some way with half of the mammals on BIAZA’s list.”

Dr Andrew Marshall, of BIAZA’s Field Programmes Committee, who co-ordinated the compilation of the list with input from conservation experts based at BIAZA zoos, said: “Last year, BIAZA published a report on the top ten species most reliant on zoos which highlighted the work being done by zoos across all taxonomic groups to help safeguard their future. This year, we have focused on ten prevailing examples of mammals that zoos are working to save from extinction.

“It was a really tough choice this year as there were so many likely contenders, but we have some incredible species with amazing conservation stories.”

Strict criteria was used to select the top ten. All the mammals proposed had to be associated with current field initiatives by zoos and listed as Endangered, Critically Endangered or Extinct in the Wild on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. Particular importance was given to initiatives which included a management role in the species' conservation, rather than just providing funds and priority was also given to species conservation projects that include habitat protection, education and/or livelihood development.



The top ten list of mammals most reliant on zoos demonstrates the importance of zoos not only for conservation breeding of safety-net populations , but also for their contribution to funding and management of conservation projects in the field, including research, education and support for local communities, as well as protection of crucial wildlife habitats.

BIAZA's top ten mammals most reliant on zoos are:

Blue-eyed black lemur – this Critically Endangered mammal is restricted to a very small area of around 2,700km² in northwest Madagascar and only a small total population remains.

Scimitar-horned oryx – the Scimitar-horned oryx is Extinct in the Wild, so completely dependent on conservation breeding for survival.

Sumatran tiger – there are only 300-400 Sumatran tigers remaining in the wild.

San Martin titi monkey – this Critically Endangered primate

is not kept in zoos, but BIAZA zoos are important partners in the only conservation initiative working to protect this species.

Grevy's zebra – *this endangered equid has experienced one of the largest reductions of range and numbers of any African mammal.*

Livingstone's fruit bat – *one of the largest bat species in the world with less than 1,100 individuals remaining in the wild.*

Pied tamarin – *the most Endangered Amazonian primate found in a very small region of the Brazilian rainforest.*

White-naped mangabey – *listed as one of the 25 Most Endangered Primates in the World. Only 15% of their original habitat remains.*

Western lowland gorilla – *the Western lowland gorilla is under threat of extinction from specialist hunting and habitat loss.*

Amur leopard – *one of the most endangered large cats in the world with less than 50 individuals remaining in the wild.*

Next year's report will focus on the top ten reptiles and amphibians most reliant on zoos.

Edinburgh Festival Fringe – Outside on the Street

✖ Edinburgh Lyceum Youth Theatre students return to the

Fringe.

"Outside on the Street" – on at the Pleasance Dome for the rest of the Fringe, is a powerful drama about a German soldier returning home after the horrors of war in Stalingrad and as a POW in Siberia, to find everything has changed – it is not quite as depressing as it sounds.

This is a return to Edinburgh for the director, Owen Horsley, soon to start as assistant director at the Royal Shakespeare Company and the composer, Blair Mowat, who has several films under his belt, including the cult Edinburgh based "Electric Man".

They met when they both attended the Lyceum Youth Theatre several years ago. The play has a small cast, all recent graduates from The Guildhall. The actors have multiple parts to play but carry off the changes brilliantly and use the sparse props and songs to great effect.

Though not an all out musical, the addition of music enhances the mood of this play perfectly.

Submitted by [Walter Mowat](#)

**Edinburgh Festival Fringe
2013 – REVIEW – Ardal
O'Hanlon *******



Ardal O'Hanlon, Assembly Rooms Music Hall 7pm, until 18 Aug,
£15 (£13 concessions)

Even [Ardal O'Hanlon](#) admits that some of the audience may only know him as 'that guy who pretended to be a priest' and his antics in family sitcom My Hero as George Sunday (Thermoman) are also often associated with the Irishman. This aside, O'Hanlon became a stand-up well before his first acting stints began, and for one week only he is at this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe to deliver his new material.

Politics, relationships, country comparisons and everyday observations are all discussed in a relaxed yet controlled manner. His anecdotes meander in an unforced way and his comfortable demeanour make you think he knows all those in the audience personally.

Although [his website](#) could perhaps do with an update (they don't make them like that anymore!), Ardal's routine has an up-to-date feel to it, and is one that is multi-dimensional as much as it is personable and honest.

Edinburgh Festival Fringe – Q & A with Clout Theatre



Returning to the Fringe for a third year, Clout Theatre have built up a following for their unique style of absurd and often violent physical theatre.

The Edinburgh Reporter asks them to share...

Q: Welcome back to Edinburgh!

Thank you, we had a great welcome back from Summerhall as one of only two returning companies from last year they decided to give us a medal! It even had a horse on it. Summerhall is a great home for us, with it's macabre Demonstration Room (the excellently crumbly old lecture theatre where we perform), beer brewed on site and unique programming of the weird and the wonderful.

Q: This is your third year at the Fringe, have you noticed a change over the years?

With each year we have gained more of a following, with people coming because they know our name and are keen to see what coughs up next. Last year's show 'How a Man Crumbled' really launched us, with national and international touring and support from the likes of the Battersea Arts Centre and the ShowRoom in Chichester, which was a real help when developing the next piece.

Q: Would you say you have refined your style then for each festival?

Each show is kind of a reaction to the previous one, we like to keep people guessing. That being said, one constant is absurd humour, that and covering Sacha (our petite ex-figure skating Franco-Russian Member) in something uncomfortable or impractical (jam, blood, enormous piles of paper...).

Q: How do you make your work?

We make our work by doing a lot of messing around and creating images and then stripping back, and finding a glue to put it

all together. For this show we played with an awful lot of food and objects: fake blood, jelly, hot dogs, mayonnaise, talc, jam, milk, golf balls... the list goes on. We found ourselves inundated by all this stuff and then said: 'This is ridiculous, we have to cut back on all this crap'. The same goes for the material we create, a lot ends up on the cutting room floor as it doesn't fit with what we are ultimately trying to say.

Q: What advice would you give a new company starting out at the Fringe?

Keep going. Your first year might be a real struggle, but it is well worth it as each year you return, things will grow.

Q: What's next for Clout?

A holiday. Then a run of The Various Lives of Infinite Nullity at Battersea Arts Centre, 7th-12th October.

'The Various Lives of Infinite Nullity' runs at Summerhall until 25th August at 3pm daily.

Tickets: £10 (£8 conc.) Tickets [here on the Edinburgh Festival Fringe website.](#)

'The Various Lives of Infinite Nullity' is supported by Battersea Arts Centre, ShowRoom Chichester and Arts Council England.



Edinburgh Fringe Festival

REVIEW – Bonanza ****

Bonanza ****

Berlin, Big In Belgium Season

Main Hall @ Summerhall until 25th August

Bonanza is the smallest town in Colorado, with a population of seven. A former silver mining town which once had thirteen brothels and one church, it is now home to a dysfunctional community and the subject of this documentary theatre piece.

A topographical model of the town spans five video screens which relay the musings of the neighbours. It quickly becomes clear that the tranquillity of the surroundings is at odds with the bickering of the inhabitants, whose mutual distrust is outdone only by their dislike of outsiders. They have lost control of the town council which is now run by occasional residents, but the rot is clearly from within their own community, their moral compass in a tailspin.

The overlapping interviews and the differing recollections of events recall Kurosawa's Rashomon – truth is in the eye of the beholder, We observe them going about their daily lives in solitude but witness little interaction: cameras switched off at the town council meetings may have revealed much about their toxic inter-relationships.

There is considerable craft in this depiction of isolation in a dying town and it is dispiriting that the candour displayed on camera could not be more positively employed in dealing with their neighbours. Perhaps the great outdoors ain't all

it's cracked up to be.

Submitted by [Michael Moloney](#)



Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2013 – REVIEW – The Tim Vine Chat Show *****



**The Tim Vine Chat Show, Pleasance Courtyard 3:50pm & 5:10pm,
until 26 Aug (except 14), See venue for ticket availability
and pricing**

No one can write and deliver one-liners like [Tim Vine](#), who pulls out all the stops in this enormously engrossing show, built around the idea that we all have entertaining stories to tell.

Amidst the barrage of pun-based fun, play-on-words humour, musical moments and prop gags (at one point he picked up a skipping rope, saying he would 'skip that one'), Vine becomes a chat show interviewer, inviting members of the audience to submit their job titles and an interesting story before the show to then be picked for further questioning.

The audience participation element is executed with vigour and wit. Vine selects five people with a range of jobs and reels off jokes relating to their occupations, proving

his incredible ability of storing jokes on almost every imaginable topic. He presents them to the uproarious crowd as if he was playing a strong hand at a game of poker; in this show, he always wins.

The show is like a volcano. Tim Vine bubbles over with non-stop comedy while the audience erupt with laughter. If you are not fortunate enough to secure tickets at this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe, set a reminder now to book tickets for next year. This is must-see manic hilarity.

Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2013 – REVIEW – Jenny Eclair: Eclairious ***



Jenny Eclair: Eclairious, Gilded Balloon 7:30pm, until 17 Aug, £14.50/13.50 (£13/12.50 concessions)

The 53-year-old [Jenny Eclair](#) pounced onto the stage before delving into her relatively platitudinous set that was often filthy, slightly awkward and packed with a few more expletives than you might expect. The adept Eclair is still a bright performer, with the content not quite as polished as it could have been.

Jokes about ageing, her partner and 50 Shades of Grey attracted some laughs, but the male 'other-halves' and teenagers in the audience did not seem to gel so much with Eclair. The show is strictly for those over 16, largely due to the sexual nature of the material and the swear-word filled

rants that did seem to humour the majority of women in the room.

It's probably worth noting that the promotional video for the show contains one use of strong language.

Eclair expresses confidence in all her pieces throughout the hour, visually frisking the audience to seek reassurance after each anecdote. She might not be to everyone's taste, but if you have enjoyed her previous televised and stage work, you will enjoy her current offering.

Edinburgh Fringe Festival REVIEW – Biding Time (Remix) ****

Biding Time (Remix) ****

Tromolo Productions

Dissection Room @ Summerhall

Run Finished

Pippa Bailey's Biding Time is a beguiling multi-media exploration of the battle between art and commerce. First performed in 1987, it has been revived and remixed in a collaboration with Louise Quinn (and A Band Called Quinn), film-maker Uisdean Murray and Grid Iron's Ben Harrison and benefits enormously from advances in technology over the last quarter of a century.

There is a dream-like quality to the tale of Joni Mitchell

Thyme and her band's rise to fame. Their winning combination of Goldfrapp style electro-pop and Thyme's innocent allure is lapped up by a lecherous manager intent on the sexual commercialisation of art. Clothes are shed as quickly as band members, all neatly punctuated with the opinions of Thyme's mother and a trolling fan.

Visuals draw on the work of David Lynch and the self-harming sensitive rabbit recalls Donnie Darko. The film characters drive the narrative forward with some deft humour including a memorable Robbie Williams gag. Music and sound production are delivered to the audience via silent disco headphones, making the experience unworldly yet hyper-real. Louise Quinn's songs and performance are strong in their own right and the production benefits from the story's parallels with her surreal experiences in the music industry.

Submitted by [Michael Moloney](#)



Twelfth Night at Inveresk for one night only



Let the team at Quantum Theatres take you to the magical world of Illyria for the tale of Twelfth Night at the National Trust for Scotland's Inveresk Lodge Garden.

Go and enjoy this wonderfully merry play in the beautiful surroundings of Inveresk Lodge Gardens. Shipwrecked on the shores of Illyria and believing her brother to be dead, Viola disguises herself as a page boy to work for Orsino, the local Duke, who is awash with unrequited love for Lady Olivia. All manner of comic mix-ups over mistaken identities ensue.

Gideon Escott, Musical Director for Quantum Theatres said:-

“Our actors always have a wonderful time performing here at Inveresk and the audiences are always so enthusiastic. We’re delighted to be returning this summer with Twelfth Night and I’m sure everyone will have as good a time as in previous years.”

Quantum’s production of Twelfth Night takes place on Saturday 24 August from 19.00 to 21.30.

Tickets cost £9.50 for adults and £6.50 for children and concessions. Booking is essential. To buy tickets please visit the [National Trust website](#).

You are asked to take low backed chairs or rugs if you wish, and dress for the weather.

For any further information please call 0131 665 2240.

Tucked away behind stone walls in the charming village of Inveresk, this delightful hillside garden offers an oasis of calm and a year-round feast for the senses.

The garden is open all year and is split into two main areas to enjoy: the sloping lawns and borders at the top of the hill, and the wilder woodland and ponds below, both alive with birdsong and wildlife.

In the top half, you'll find unusual plants brushing leaves with some more familiar friends growing among mixed beds and borders. You'll also be drawn to the beautiful restored Edwardian conservatory which is home to an aviary.

Edinburgh Festival Fringe REVIEW – Johnnie Walker's Guest Night **.5**



Actually this was only one of the Radio 2 DJ's series of guest nights, and a good one to choose as his guest on Sunday evening was the Fife-born crime author, Val McDermid. In a really good use of Twitter you only know who the guest is when it is announced on the [New Town Theatre Twitter feed](#). (Tonight it is Tony Benn!)

McDermid is a great interviewee as anyone who listened to her on Desert Island Discs recently would already know, and as a

guitarist herself she is a knowledgeable music fan too. She has described her focus on writing crime as killing for fun and profit, but admitted that she does not write the gory bits with relish, although she likes to do it well and with some compassion for the victims. Walker invited her onto the stage to a musical accompaniment of Springsteen's Dancing in the Dark, and then commenced a very polished hour of what appeared to be completely effortless chat with photos, but was actually well-researched and delivered with complete professional poise.

It was a very pleasant way to spend an hour in the company of someone who had researched his subject but was able to connect with them on a very human level. This had all the appearance of being a chat by the fire. The surprise was that Walker mentioned Jimmy Savile and confessed to knowing what had been going on all those years ago, albeit apparently in common with many others at the BBC. What made this all the more interesting however was that McDermid admitted that Savile was the person she had firmly in mind when she created the character, Jacko Vance, in *The Wire in the Blood*. McDermid had met Savile during her early career as a journalist:—"He was a deeply unpleasant man and not a person I would like to be alone with."

Walker is the veteran DJ of Radio England and Radio Caroline, who was a huge loss to commuters when he gave up his drive time slot on Radio 2 some years back. He has had a brush with cancer which meant he had to take time off for fairly robust treatment, but returned to the delight of his huge fanbase. Since then he has conducted interviews on his Sunday afternoon show, and so has a wealth of experience to call on. Not always the best behaved of BBC employees he is nonetheless much beloved by a certain age group.



The show was accompanied by a very simple photo slideshow of

his guest and they both sat on the stage set to look like a fairly comfortable old-fashioned living room.

This is a great format for Johnnie Walker, and one he is well used to, so do get along to see him with his other guests.

Johnnie Walker's Guest Night at New Town Theatre until 25 August 2013. [Tickets and more information here.](#)

Yang Guang's 10th birthday celebrations planned for tomorrow



As the UK's only male panda hits double digits tomorrow 14 August 2013, Edinburgh Zoo says it has many special treats planned in celebration, for the prospective father and visitors to the zoo.

In the morning, keepers will be presenting Yang Guang with a large bamboo sculpture "10", which will hang in his outdoor enclosure for him to nibble on throughout the day. The sculpture is being created by the Zoo's own gardening and grounds teams, using his favourite species of bamboo. It will be constructed by entwining young bamboo stems together into a wreath for the one and zero within a stabilising frame that is removed once the sculpture is created. Creating such an edible sculpture is both delicate and difficult, as no other plants, ingredients or adhesives can be used apart from bamboo.

Stormcloud Games will be hosting an origami table outside of the panda enclosure (or in the Budongo Trial if weather is

poor) where children and their parents can learn to make origami animals and play the *Mr Shingu's Paper Zoo* game for iPads or iPhones.

An independent short film, called *Sunshine and Sweetie* by Scottish Documentary Institute at the Edinburgh College of Art will also be shown in the Budongo Trail lecture theatre, which takes a humorous look at the lives of Sweetie (Tian Tian) and Sunshine (Yang Guang), as well as the relationships of three Chinese couples from different walks of life. The five minute film was premiered at this year's Edinburgh International Film Festival.

Jo Paulson, Events Executive for Edinburgh Zoo commented:- "Turning 10 is pretty special, so we wanted to organise lots of fun activities for visitors to help Yang Guang celebrate his birthday. Families can come and learn how to make their own origami pandas and watch Yang Guang receive his bamboo sculpture."

The festivities will be running throughout the day and are free with zoo admission.

Edinburgh MPs campaign against privatisation of East Coast



Edinburgh Labour MPs Sheila Gilmore and Mark Lazarowicz continued their campaign against the privatisation of East Coast yesterday by speaking to passengers outside Waverley

station.

Speaking afterwards Sheila Gilmore said:- 'Passengers recognise the improvements to services that East Coast have made under public ownership over the last four years. They also appreciate that at present, all profits are retained for public benefit, rather than lost to shareholders.'

'The decision to privatise East Coast puts this at risk and shows that David Cameron and his Ministers put ideology before the needs of passengers and taxpayers.'

Mark Lazarowicz said:- 'East Coast has achieved success under public operation, receiving less subsidy than any of the other 18 private franchises and paying back more to the taxpayer than all but one.'

'It has done that with no certainty about how long it would continue to remain in public hands. Ministers should now drop their plans for privatisation to give East Coast stability so it can plan for the future.'

Five things you need to know

today



Seagulls – Edinburgh Art Festival Pick of the Day – Edinburgh Festival Fringe Pick of the Day – Scottish Dance : Dance Odysseys – MEP says the EU is not funny!

The council has issued some advice about dealing with seagulls which any Edinburgh resident can tell you are a real pest. On the council blog the Transport and Environment Convenor, Councillor Lesley Hinds gave some advice about how to keep them away from your property:-

Councillor Hinds said:- “There have been a lot of comments lately about problems that people are having thanks to gulls, which can be extremely noisy and messy at this time of the year.

“It sounds obvious but feeding gulls should not be encouraged, it will simply attract them to what will be seen as a regular food source.

“Whenever possible, please remember to use bins and recycling units to dispose of rubbish, to close bin containers fully and to only put bagged waste out on the day it is due for collection.

“The Modernising Waste scheme is in its final phase at the moment, with communal bins and gull proof bags replacing the traditional black sacks in Edinburgh’s World Heritage Site.

“Some households place deterrents onto roofs such as fake birds – specialist companies offer choices such as this.

“Finally, information about how to control gulls and other pests is available on the Council [website](#).”



EAF Art Late Event: 15 August 2013 6pm **Alberto Morrocco OBE (1917-1998): *Drawing on Life*** **Duncan Macmillan and Leon Morrocco in discussion.**

Professor Duncan Macmillan and Leon Morrocco RSA
RGI will discuss the life and works of Alberto
Morrocco as part of the Edinburgh Art Festival Art
Late programme on Thursday 15 August from 6pm at the
Open Eye Gallery in Abercromby Place.

Entry £3 includes glass of wine

Limited places so please

book events@openeyegallery.co.uk

Drawing on Life exhibition runs from 12 August to 4
September 2013.

Introducing our NEW Sunday Family DAYticket.

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Edinburgh Festival Fringe Pick of the Day? Only one thing we
can tell you about today. The Wau Wau Sisters are back in town
at the Assembly Rooms Fringe. This is an adult show with

burlesque and cheeky chat. We went last year and were lucky enough to be in the audience on Monday night as well.

So what can we tell you without spoiling the surprise? [It is all in our review here.](#)

Scotland's leading contemporary dance ensemble, Scottish Dance Theatre, makes its Edinburgh International Festival debut this August as part of Dance Odysseys programme commissioned by Scottish Ballet. The company brings two works to the Edinburgh International Festival – Artistic Director, Fleur Darkin's, SisGo and a new work by Henri Oguike, In This Storm.

The company will also perform two works from its existing repertoire at the Fringe – Victor Quijada's highly acclaimed, Second Coming (part of Made in Scotland and British Council Edinburgh Showcases) and Fleur Darkin's Innocence – its playful children's show for 0-7 years olds (also celebrating being part of Made in Scotland).

Fleur Darkin, Artistic Director said: "I'm delighted that Scottish Dance Theatre brings not one, two, three but FOUR new productions to this year's Edinburgh International and Fringe Festivals! Scottish Dance Theatre flexes its muscle as a powerhouse producer with four shows across a range of scales at radically different venues and for wildly different audiences."

As choreographer, Darkin is rolling up her sleeves to turn the main-stage of the Edinburgh Festival Theatre into set, venue and dance-floor. SisGo, which includes some of Europe's finest dancers, will invite members of the audience to join them onstage for an evening where "deep down and personal gets real!" SisGo brings together a stellar range of talent. Multi-award winning lighting genius, Lucy Carter's eye-wateringly and beautiful design will have every audience member bathed in light. Scottish Fashion Awards Young Designer of the Year

2012, Hayley Scanlan, is designing the costumes and music – a Berlin/Detroit soundscore crafted by Glyn Perrin featuring seminal music by Fourtet, Moritz Von Oswald. Expect punk energy and come with an open heart and an open mind.

Dance genius, Henri Oguike's *In this Storm* has been commissioned by Scottish Dance Theatre in partnership with Edinburgh International Festival and Scottish Ballet. In this piece, which is part of the New Voices season. Oguike frames the dancers with glorious music by Serbian composer, Aleksandra Vrebalov. Oguike really knows how to make the body move and creates choreography that starts a fire in dancers' performances. Expect to see the music and all its detail come to life in the dancing bodies.

Scottish Dance Theatre will also bring two works from its repertoire to the Fringe – *Second Coming* by Victor Quijada (Made in Scotland /British Council Edinburgh Showcases) and *Innocence* (Made in Scotland).

Having already garnered rave reviews, Quijada takes urban dance to a new theatrical level in *Second Coming*, setting his world-acclaimed hip-hop/classical hybrid style to a soundtrack of beats, breaks and Beethoven! Expect some delicious cameos by unexpected performing artistes ...

One of Darkin's favourite sights is watching her children dance. She created *Innocence* to give an audience of children, including her own, the opportunity to have as much fun as the performers onstage. A performance playroom with songs, giggles and animal noises by the great one-man band – Paul Bradley from the much-acclaimed Three Cane Whale, firm favourite of BBC Radio 6 Music's Cerys Matthews. The piece is inspired by William Blake's idea of innocence as a state of mind, whatever your age. Children as young as infants respond to the dancers and their peers as they become tigers and lambs with parents also being inspired to play around. Proof, as William Blake asserted, that innocence is a precious state of mind not

limited only to children.

Darkin commented:- "We are thrilled to be a part of the Made in Scotland and British Council showcases, as well as partnering with Scottish Ballet and the Edinburgh International Festival on the 4 day festival-within-a-festival – Dance Odysseys. Our stint at the festival allows us to reach out to international producers and deepen partnerships that have seen us touring India, the US and mainland Europe in the last year alone."

Edinburgh International Festival

SisGo choreographed by Fleur Darkin (part of Dance Odysseys)
SOLD OUT

Edinburgh Festival Theatre

Sat 17 & Sun 18 Aug, 21:45hrs (60 mins), £12

0131 473 2000 / www.eif.co.uk/sisgo

In this Storm choreographed by Henri Oguike (part of New Voices)

Edinburgh Festival Theatre

Fri 16 Aug at 12:00hrs (75 mins), Sun 18 & Mon 19 Aug at 17:00hrs (75 mins), £12

0131 473 2000 / www.eif.co.uk/newvoices

Edinburgh Fringe Festival dates:

Second Coming choreographed by Victor Quijada

Zoo Southside (venue 82)

Tue 20 – Sun 25 Aug / Thu 22 Aug: BSL Interpreted performance

19:30 hrs (45 mins), £10/£8

0131 662 6892 / www.zoofestival.co.uk 0131 226 0000 /
www.edfringe.com

(Part of Made in Scotland and the British Council Edinburgh
Showcases)

Innocence choreographed by Fleur Darkin

Summerhall (venue 26)

Tue 13 – Sun 25 Aug (not Mon 19)

11:00hrs (50 mins), £7/£5/£20 family (2 adults, 2 children or
1 adult, 3 children)

0845 874 3000 / www.summerhall.co.uk 0131 226 0000 /
www.edfringe.com

MEP Nikki says the EU isn't funny at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival

West Midlands MEP Nikki Sinclair will perform a one off show
at this year's Edinburgh festival. The We Demand a Referendum
Now MEP will perform her show, "The EU –it's not funny" at the
Edinburgh Festival Fringe on Wednesday 21 August 2013.

The free show is billed as being a, "light hearted, satirical
and poignant look at the European Union; its characters, its
laws and its everyday effect on the lives of ordinary people".

Nikki said:- "I'm never quite sure whether to laugh or cry at
the European Union, so I thought I'd share my thoughts with a
new audience who may be more objective than my usual
gathering. Never mind about 'bent bananas', there are far more
unfunny things about the EU – Nigel Farage for example".

By performing on Wednesday 21st August, Nikki will be
fulfilling a lifelong ambition to perform at the iconic

festival. She added:- “I am trying to highlight some of the more light hearted moments I’ve experienced in the Parliament, as well as trying to explain what it feels like to be a Member of an institution you are desperately trying to escape from!”

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