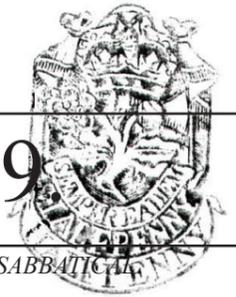


# The *Edinburgh* Courant

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18 2009



FRASER SUITES EDINBURGH TO OPEN TODAY  
GRAND DESIGNS INDEED

**D**ignitaries and travellers from across the corners of the globe will venture forth to Edinburgh this evening to take delight in the opening of a new exquisite hostelrie in the city - named Frasers Suites Edinburgh. The illustrious surroundings of St Giles Street - where the Evening Courant is indeed written and published - will be the location for this marvellous venture, which is expected to be one of the most awe-inspiring hotelier businesses ever to grace Scotland's Capital city. The sumptuous venue is the design of the Frasers Hospitality Group, whose fame is legendary not only in its homeland in the Far Eastern port of Singapore but also across Europe and the shores of the Americas. Yet the company will also be "coming home" thanks to this new business, as its founders were none other than two proud Scotsmen who headed east across the mighty seas to make their fortune.

In a dispatch to The Courant, the company's chief operating officer in Europe Mr Guus Bakker told us that he expected Fraser Suites Edinburgh to become a beacon of luxury for travellers and corporate guests visiting the city.

"For many years we have desired to establish a sumptuous hotel business in Edinburgh," Mr Bakker wrote. "We are very pleased to finally see that vision become a reality in the Athens of the North.

"We also feel that we are coming home to Scotland by opening this luxurious establishment in Edinburgh. Our founding fathers were two gentlemen from Scotland who came to the Orient and created the famous Singapore and Straits Aerated Water Company, which later became the business known today as Frasers Hospitality, so this is a worthy way to commemorate them.

"After travelling around the world and creating many famous Frasers Hospitality properties in some of the biggest and most important cities, the esteemed directors of the company are delighted to now have a hotel in Edinburgh that will eclipse the very best in Scotland."

In construction work, craftsmen discovered a long-forgotten stained glass window bearing the motto *Vivendo Discimus*. Believing it to be of some great value, the workers left this window in place until it was checked for historical accuracy, when it was discovered that the artefact had in fact been dedicated to the work of the famous architect Sir Patrick Geddes. This memorial to the man responsible for designing Edinburgh's zoological attractions and residence halls for students in the city has now been restored in to its former glory and is taking pride of place in the Fraser Suites Edinburgh lower floor.

During the hotel's grand opening, many venerable members of Edinburgh society are also expected to be in attendance including honourable guests such as the famous writer Sir Walter Scott and Deacon William Brodie. Rumours that a ghostly vision of Mary Queen of Scots has also been seen in the vicinity of the hotel, however, are so far unfounded.

## *A Cacophony of Musical Greatness Awaits*

Splendid news. Citizens of Edinburgh will be treated to a musical delight with which to celebrate the coming of the New Year. A grand ensemble of popular music performers have been arranged to entertain the patrons of the Capital during now famous Edinburgh's Hogmanay event.

Three young scally wags from the fair city of Coventry, who go by the name of The Enemy, will perform on an elevated stage, and ladies and gentlemen will be encouraged to tap their feet to the illuminating ditties by way of their sweet singing voices and modern guitar instruments.

The dashing gentlemen will be accompanied by an array of talent hailing from home shores.

Musical purveyors Frightened Rabbit and a Mr Stanley Odd will come together to play odes on the evening of December the 31st alongside The Cuban Brothers and Glitter Banditz. Influential persons from radio and popular culture, Vic Galloway and The Great Calverto, will host the proceedings which take place on the main thoroughfare of Princes Street. Disc Jockey Mylo with special guest musicians Gary & Tom (from popular musical beat combo Snow Patrol), Richard Colburn (Belle & Sebastian) and Codeine Velvet Club will unite with the esteemed musical vendors alongside the aptly named Noisettes, to provide further entertainment.

Revelers will also be able to bask in a bright light display of fire in the sky at the midnight hour.

A Mr Peter Irvine, who was tasked with coordinating the proceedings, informed The Courant: "I have sought an ingenious array of musical purveyors to play the sweetest of music. The night should provide a great entertainment for the citizens of the city."

It shall no longer be by horse and carriage by which Edinburgh gentlefolk shall be transported about Edinburgh town.

Refined and esteemed citizens of Scotland's Capital shall indeed be whisked to their chosen destination in new automated transportation devices to be labelled as trams.

The incredible travelling boxes shall glide across the ground by use of rails embedded into our city's streets.

The heart will race as these amazing devices travel so quickly as to allow a full 43 miles of city land to be travelled in the space of an hour.

And nay, these shall not be the horse-drawn vehicles first operated by the Edinburgh Street Tramways Company between Haymarket and Bernard Street as opened in November 1871.

The coachman may do well to sell on his old nag mare as there will be nary a day when he shall now gain a fare for his cab with the wonders of modern science progressing along our streets.

These fine, fast contraptions shall be self propelling, with secured doors to prevent the entrance of rogues and highwaymen who might otherwise call fine lady passengers affright. The vehicles, which are appointed to embark upon their navigation in 2012 have been long awaited and much lamented by some.

Alas, many of the city's esteemed bankers have raised the question of the high price of these technological marvels. They are to cost £33 million more than was originally intimated on the original brokering of the account.

Merchants selling their wears on Edinburgh's streets have decried the work as unsightly and as causing mighty dins, meaning townsfolk wishing to browse their wears may be deterred from stepping out of their homes at all.

Other more merrily inclined gentry have opined that the dashing devices will indeed draw others to the city to gaze upon the transportation that hath not graced Edinburgh's streets since 1956.

The route will allow trips from Newhaven to Edinburgh Airport, running the length of the city's Princes Street in the New Town. The machines will provide a comfortable modicum of travel for business appointments and jolly days out for the old and the young.

Proud proprietors Edinburgh Trams do declare the project shall deliver transport to Edinburgh that shall be the envy of the modern world.

Her Majesty's police officers of Edinburgh city have proclaimed urgent news regarding the imminent return of notorious villains Burke and Hare. The treacherous duo are thought to be grasping the opportunity to deliver new corpses to the dastardly Professor Robert Knox in return for a handful of guineas. The pair are said to be seeking new victims at the grandiose opening of the Fraser Suites hostelrie this very evening.

For those of you unaware of the perilous crimes of these two hateful characters let us enlighten you. Contrary to popular belief, Burke and Hare did not partake in the scurrilous activity of digging graves to remove the corpses of the already deceased. The wanton criminals instead favoured very much alive bodies and sought to kill them for a pretty penny.

The olde tale began when a lodger of Hare's, who went by the name of Donald, died of natural causes. The unfortunate lodger was still to pay a rental fee and the cunning Mr Hare snatched the opportunity to dispose of his still warm body for financial gain.

On the day of Old Donald's funeral the two men removed his body from the coffin and filled it with tanning bark. Later they took the body to Professor Knox at Surgeon Square and were paid 7 pounds and 10 shillings for it.

The reprehensible pair celebrated their new found wealth, but the money was not to last and when another of Hare's lodger's, Josph, fell ill (although not seriously) Burke and Hare decided to take it upon themselves to end his suffering whilst seeing another opportunity to gain, and so their murderous career began.

The ruffians murdered at least 16 people (although the figure could have been as high as 30) in just under one year before the heavy hand of the law put paid to their devilish activities. It was thought that on the day of January 28th 1929 Burke was hanged in the Lawnmarket area of Edinburgh. It was said that 25,000 people attended and cheered his hanging. Hare was said to have escaped to England on a postal coach were he was then set upon by an angry mob. However, both reports are dangerously false and guests tonight should proceed with caution.

The fashion of the day is now to be seen on the well-heeled personnel within Frasers Suites Edinburgh. The stylish attire has been exquisitely hand crafted by work wear specialists NKD Clothing. Scullery maids and servants of the hostelrie's esteemed Edinburgh guests sport the stunning attire cut from the finest of cloths. Every butler has adopted the assemblage of a dandy in the uniforms better suited for gentry than hotel staff.

CITY AUTHOR ON SABBATICAL

In news likely to dismay readers of popular fiction, The Courant has learned that one of Edinburgh's finest contemporary literary figures has decided to hang up his quill for the foreseeable future.

It has been reported that esteemed scribe Mr Ian Rankin wants to postpone work on his next manuscript in order to travel overseas with his son and heir for the next 12 months.

Mr Rankin, whose exciting stories about criminal activity in the city rival even the legends of Edinburgh's murderous rogues Messrs Burke and Hare, intends to visit the far corners of the world on a self-imposed sabbatical as he enters his fiftieth year. Yet his admirers should breathe a sigh of relief, as he intends to return to the literary scene in the Capital on his return.

Mr Rankin's announcement comes just a few years after his fellow author and neighbour, Ms Joanne Rowling, withdrew from her position as Edinburgh's most successful writer after completing her final novel in the Saga of Harry Potter series. Her popular stories focussed on a young wizard and chronicled his adventures in the world of sorcery and witchcraft but, although the works brought her fame and fortune around the world, little has been seen or heard of the reclusive scribe since her last book *Deathly Hallows*.

Although admirers are desperate for more of her stories, and despite rumours persisting that Ms Rowling has begun writing once again at her home in the Merchiston region of the city, no proof has yet been received at The Courant that this is the case.

## *Two Ruffians Hunted: Police require information*

Her Majesty's police officers are continuing their hunt for three rapsallions who thieved the sum of one hundred pounds and forty shillings during a midnight raid in The Meadows late last Saturday night.

The ruffians escaped after a struggle with two respected gentlemen from Edinburgh's banking profession, who were walking through the parkland after attending a theatre performance in the Tollcross area. One of the gentlemen was beaten viciously by the attackers, who his companion described as being gruff-looking, brandishing flagons of tonic wine with menace and wearing brown tartan caps.

An inspector is now taking enquiries from witnesses to the heinous crime in the hope that their evidence will lead to the capture of the two n'eer-do-wells.

## *For Sale: Ipod Nano*

The opportunity has arisen for the purchase of an Ipod Nano, the revered music box which traps the sweetest of music within its dainty shell. The fabulous invention, allowing you to contain the sweet music of the Scottish bagpipes within your own satchel, is available for the modest sum of 172 guineas. This most desired of melodic knick-knacks doth come in a pleasant purple hue. Being of the furthest advancement of modern science, the Ipod Nano requires fuel from nether burning coals, wood, nor steam but doth operate as by some strange form of alchemie that can be awakened with a simple movement of the hand.

## *Deep Fried Mars Bar*

A rarefied sweet delight to enjoy following the digestion of the whiskies and the haggis. The chocolate centre is lightly coated in the crisp nutritious batter in this, Scotland's alternate national dish. Such fine titbits can be purchased from any reputable chip frying establishment.

The fancy piece is the finest of delights enjoyed by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, providing energies greater than any tonic or other medicines.

Of all the fine beverages available to accompany this hearty treat, we can most heartily recommend the enjoyment of a bottle of the Iron Brew to quench the drouth or thirst that may come upon a person upon ingesting the fine battered chocolate.

The industrial gardez loos that have become a fixture on the streets of Edinburgh are now in danger of overflowing due to a revolt by street cleaners. Labourers working for the city's council have downed tools and refused to empty the imposing metal contraptions, which has left a trail of refuse waste throughout the streets in the New Town. Council officers have decreed that any citizen caught throwing household rubbish into the N'or Loch will be fined heavily.

The steel causeway across the Firth of Forth was closed to travellers yesterday after two mechanical carriages were involved in a high velocity collision. The incident meant visitors to and from the Kingdom of Fife had to find alternative methods of transport to their destinations, which brought a cheer to beleaguered ferry operators and boatmen in South Queensferry.