

LOCAL BULLETIN

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Man who helped rebuild rural communities is new fire chief

The north of Scotland's new fire chief has vowed to work to protect vulnerable communities in Tayside from flooding.

It's a responsibility David Farries intends to take seriously as large swathes of the region have been hit in recent years.

He will oversee a huge and diverse area that stretches from Perth and Kinross to the Western and Shetland Isles.

The veteran firefighter has vast experience of assisting Scotland's rural communities at times of emergency.

He commanded the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service frontline response during Storm Frank, which battered Tayside and other parts of Scotland.

He hopes to oversee changes that will enable Scottish Fire and Rescue to better serve

cities, towns and villages across the country.

Commenting on his new role and the challenge ahead, Deputy Assistant Chief Officer Farries said: "The north of Scotland is one of the most beautiful and diverse areas of not only in the UK, but the world.

"We can boast everything from rural mountain villages to major urban and economic concentrations such as Aberdeen and Inverness.

"I am keenly aware of the risks that face our communities and how they continue to change.

"I intend to ensure that we meet these risks through service transformation combined with the full weight and resources of our national service."

DCA

New exhibitions on offer at DCA

Two new exhibitions will be launched at Dundee Contemporary Arts next month.

From Saturday December 9, DCA will host solo shows featuring new site-specific commissions by artists Kate V Robertson and Andrew Lacon.

The pair have been working in close collaboration with DCA's exhibitions team to create sculptural responses to the architectural interiors of DCA itself.

Robertson's work will include 5,000 individually cast concrete tiles and 200kg of eggshells.

DCA director Beth Bate commented: "We are thrilled to be presenting the first major solo exhibitions by these two artists at DCA."

Old master and prodigies

Review:
Garry Fraser

It is to be expected that a composer at the age of 77, in this case Richard Strauss, should write a work that is perfectly weighted, balanced and full of substance.

What is inconceivable is that 16 and 17-year-olds could write an equivalent work. But then, not everyone was Erich Korngold or Felix Mendelssohn.

This was the essence of Wednesday's Dundee Chamber Music concert, an old master with two prodigies.

But the concert was special in another way.

The amalgamation of the Aurea and Gildas Quartets meant three works were given a rare airing – sextets by Strauss and Korngold and

Mendelssohn's marvellous Octet.

The Strauss Sextet from Capriccio was a one-movement wonder, with reminiscences of the classical era before Strauss injects glorious harmonies and melodies.

You'd expect melody to be the key to the Korngold Sextet, but there was also a deepness and complexity, with lyricism winning the way in the Intermezzo.

The Octet was the only work I'd heard before, and I was relishing the opportunity to get to know it again.

I wasn't disappointed.

The eight players revelled in the intertwining melodies, the glorious expansive textures Mendelssohn weaves and the moods he generates, from the ethereal Scherzo through to a finale brim-full of vitality and variation.

It really was a knock-out.

Reading Rooms in line for revamp



The Reading Rooms' operators, in collaboration with the building's owners, have begun moves to increase day and special events use as part of a "significant investment". Picture: Kim Cessford.

LEISURE: Plan to create the "best ambient-leisure garden in Dundee" for daytime use

BLAIR DINGWALL

An internationally renowned Dundee club is in line for a revamp.

The Reading Rooms' operators Grant and Jim Grieve, in collaboration with the building's owners Blackscroft Property, have begun moves to increase day and special events use as part of a "significant investment" in the venue.

Proposals include refurbishing the garden area to create the "best ambient-leisure garden in Dundee" for daytime use, complete with a barbecue space in a "redundant" library book storage area.

The bar area has already been moved to increase capacity and freedom of movement, with a commercial kitchen installed to serve breakfast and brunch to the public in the near future, licence application permitting.

It comes after the venue was referenced as one of Dundee's top attractions by the Wall Street Journal, which named the city the fifth-best destination to visit in the world in 2018.

The nightclub regularly attracts the world's top DJs and musicians.

As part of the work there are also plans for a new sound system to be installed next spring.

The Reading Rooms is a B-listed



A significant investment is being made in the Reading Rooms with the support of owners Blackscroft Property...
DEREK SOUTER

building designed by Dundee architect James Thomson.

Director of Blackscroft Property Derek Souter said the garden area has "fantastic potential", adding that the Grieve brothers want to get the most of the "labyrinth of a building".

He added: "A significant investment is being made in the Reading Rooms with the support of owners Blackscroft Property, and the first visible signs of this has seen an internal reconfiguration with the bar relocated, which improves access and increases capacity but has also seen an internal commercial kitchen installed.

"The next investment will see the extensive garden area refurbished to include an integral barbecue set-up, supported by a prep area, which will make use of previously redundant library book storage area," he said.

"Plans to replace the windows and refurbish the external stonework are being worked upon."

Mr Souter said the success of the "legendary" Reading Rooms showed "how Dundee vision and determination can succeed outwith the defined 'mainstream' or as part of Dundee's waterfront, west end or its universities".

He added: "The Reading Rooms, with its cool industrial interiors, is a leading light in Scotland's underground club scene.

"There are very few places like it in Dundee.

"The guys are both Dundee born and bred, but importantly have never, ever been accepted in the mainstream.

"These guys have got an absolutely stellar reputation.

"They get proper DJs from all over the world."

bdingwall@thecourier.co.uk