

Five things you need to know today



Carnegie brings data to the fore

Countdown to the Edinburgh Marathon Festival

Loretto Lecture

Save Stockbridge meeting

Map and information on Edinburgh's food banks

A consortium, made up of the Carnegie UK Trust, Scotland's Towns Partnership, the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES), and the University of Stirling, has unveiled the UK's first online tool to help understand the facts, figures and interrelationships that underpin all of Scotland's towns and cities.

The launch took place earlier this week in Musselburgh when Margaret Burgess MSP, Minister for Housing and Welfare, 'switched on' the new online tool.

Anyone can now access a full suite of information about any of 479 Scottish communities digitally – and compare that information with any other place across the country.

The platform has been designed and built by the Carnegie UK Trust, Scotland's Towns Partnership, the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES), and the University of Stirling. It is available now at www.usp.scot. Co-funded by Carnegie UK and the Scottish Government, it is a practical output of the Scottish Government's Town Centre Action Plan.

Are you running in the Edinburgh Marathon in a few weeks' time? If you are then you will know that you have four weeks of training time left. There are loads of tips on running and training for the big event on the EMF website [here](#).

What is your best tip for others? Do share below!

Alasdair Hutton, OBE TD, the voice of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, delivered the Summer Term Loretto Lecture to a large and appreciative audience last week.

In the historic surroundings of Pinkie House's Painted Gallery, Alasdair Hutton spoke about the history of military tattoos, then of his 24 years as writer and producer of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo and finished by giving a tantalising insight into what might be included in this year's show.

Jonathan Hewat, Director of External Affairs at Loretto School, said, "We are most grateful to Alasdair Hutton for delivering the Loretto Lecture. He provided a fascinating insight into the 24 years that he has spent writing and narrating the great institution that is the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo."

"Not only is Alasdair a mine of information when it comes to all things military, but it is that voice – it is so evocative. As he spoke, one could close one's eyes and you were there on the Castle esplanade."

Residents and businesses in Comely Bank and Stockbridge are invited to a meeting about the licence applications relating to the development on the Accies ground in Raeburn Place, the Licensing Board meeting and what further steps might be taken.

Save Stockbridge say: "The Licensing Board has deferred a decision on the Accies licence application for a restaurant, function suites, clubhouse, licenced café, museum, cinema, theatre, gym, stand, etc. They have decided to visit the site before resuming their consideration. They have yet to start considering the three other applications: a licenced restaurant/ice cream parlour, a second licenced restaurant and a licenced supermarket.

"There were over 300 objections to each application. That's a huge number given that the applications were made over the Easter holidays and most people didn't hear about them until just a few days before the closing date. There were 75 letters of support for the applications."

The meeting is to be held on 11 May at LifeCare Centre, Stockbridge House, 2 Cheyne Street at 6.00pm.

We all know that food bank use has increased dramatically in Scotland. Now the council has produced a map and a list of all known food banks across the city.



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