

Five things you need to know today



Custom House Leith

Renewable World

Learn to draw with the Edinburgh Sketcher

Figgate Friends

Green MSP wins amendment to new bill

An open day was held yesterday at the latest acquisition by the council with the Common Good Fund. Custom House on Commercial Street has been bought as a community asset and so the council wanted to consult with the public on their thoughts for the future.

[Read more here.](#)

The Lord Provost opened the building.

[The Edinburgh Reporter -Custom House Leith](#) from [Phyllis Stephen](#) on [Vimeo](#).

[Renewable World](#) is a charity which works with local partners in Africa, Asia and Central America to tackle poverty by enabling small-scale, sustainable renewable energy systems (solar, wind, hydro and biogas) for remote communities not connected to the grid.

Yesterday evening a team completed a 200 mile cycle from Durham to Edinburgh during which they had visited seven

spectacular wind farms – the perfect way to celebrate Global Wind Day which is marked today. The fundraising ride was called Earth Wind and Tyre.....



Ready for the off



You need a good wind behind you....



Arriving at Canongate Kirk



The team at the end of their cycle

Families will be invited to get sketching this summer with lessons from the Capital's finest when the Edinburgh Sketcher takes residence at Lauriston Castle.



Lauriston Castle in summer

Mark Kirkham, who regularly entertains readers of his [blog](#) with his formidable drawings of the city, will offer two sketching masterclasses in the beautiful grounds of the City of Edinburgh Council-managed 16th century castle situated on the banks of Cramond.

Family sketching classes

10am – 12 noon Friday 24 July, £5 per person

1pm – 3pm Friday 24 July, £5 per person

Please note this is a family class, children must be accompanied by carers, and adults cannot attend without also bringing a child to the class.

Adult only sketching classes

10am – 12 noon Saturday 15 August, £20 per person

1pm – 3pm Saturday 15 August, £20 per person

Please note this class is adults only (aged 16 plus).

All classes can be booked via the [Usher Hall website bookings page\(external link\)](#), by phone 0131 228 1155 (Opening hours:

Monday – Saturday 10am-5.30pm) or in person at the Usher Hall Box Office, Lothian Road, EH1 2EA (Opening hours: Monday – Saturday 10am-5.30pm).

Have a look at these photos to see what can be done by a real artist to make somewhere look a lot better.

Before & After □

Posted by [Figgate Friends](#) on [Sunday, 14 June 2015](#)

After a two-year campaign, Green MSP Alison Johnstone has secured Scottish Government agreement that their Community Empowerment Bill will contain powers to introduce a fans' right to buy their football clubs. Scottish Government amendments to the Bill, which is expected to pass on Wednesday 17 June, will set out the basis for those powers, and a consultation on fan ownership and other issues will be carried out over the summer.

The Green MSPs will support the Scottish Government's amendments, and will also seek to bring other changes designed to meet three objectives: to protect fans and club owners, to allow loans or grants to be made available to support fan buy-outs, and to guarantee that the Scottish Government acts promptly once the consultation is concluded. The principle of a fans' right to buy has been supported by Labour and Liberal Democrat MSPs throughout the process, and the Greens are now calling on all parties to support both the Government's changes and the Green amendments to them. In polling conducted last year, the principle of a fans' right to buy was backed by almost three quarters of respondents expressing a view, and 89% supported the option of loans or grants to help fans complete buy-outs.

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