

# Five things you need to know today



- **Today at the Edinburgh International Science Festival**
- **Young Scot Awards**
- **Paralegal of the Year**
- **Musselburgh Racecourse a five star attraction**
- **Architects Conversations**

Today we suggest you go along to the first floor of the City Art Centre.

*Roll up, roll up and step inside the Carnival of the Mind to discover the secrets of your brain! Visit our fortune teller to explore the function of your frontal lobe, take a turn on the high striker to uncover how you process pain and learn about vision at our coconut shy. It's all the fun of the fair but with added science!*

[This event is on all day](#)

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Young Scot, the national youth information agency for Scotland, announced that Alistair Stewart, 22, and a group of inspirational youngsters from Pilmeny Youth Centre, all from Edinburgh have been shortlisted as finalists for the renowned Young Scot Awards 2016.

Alistair is a finalist in the Volunteering category, sponsored by Quality Meat Scotland. The inspirational 22-year-old helps improve the lives of young people in care in Scotland. Alistair has spoken at multiple conferences advising professionals about how to improve the care system. Alistair, who suffers from mental health issues, feels at his happiest when he is volunteering and spends all his spare time helping good causes, including spending Christmas day volunteering at a dinner organised by The Who Cares Trust.

The motivational 22-year-old who is a member of the Young People in Care Council, also spends time looking after his terminally ill grandmother.

Pilmeny Youth Centre's '[Remembering the Leith Battalion](#)' Project are finalists in the Community category, sponsored by The Scottish Government. A group of remarkable pupils from Leith Academy played a key role in the Youth Centre's project to commemorate the casualties of the Quintinshill Rail Disaster of 1915.



A legal worker who began his career as a teenage Executries Assistant has been named Scotland's Paralegal of the Year.



L to R Dougie Vipond of BBC Scotland, Donald Walker, assistant editor, The Scotsman, Mark Harris of Pagan Osborne, Catriona Shearer, BBC Scotland

Photo courtesy of ROB MCDUGALL

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Mark Harris, of Edinburgh and Fife-based legal company Pagan Osborne, collected the accolade at the annual Scottish Legal Awards, an event celebrating the country's best performing

legal individuals, teams and firms.

Edinburgh-born, he began working in a law firm at 19 and just a year later embarked on studies for The Society of Law Accountants in Scotland Diploma, alongside his full-time job. He gained his diploma in 1988 and since then has focused on the administration of Trusts and Executory Estates, an often complex and demanding area of the law.

Over the last 30 years he has dealt with hundreds of Estates, Trust administration, Curatorships, Guardianships, personal client work, active Powers of Attorney and personal tax work. He joined Pagan Osborne as an Executory Paralegal in 2012 and is described by the legal company as a pillar of the team.



Musselburgh Racecourse has retained its five-star status for quality and is ranked as one of the best UK racecourses, according to industry body The Racecourse Association (RCA).

The East Lothian course received three out of six RCA Excellence Accolades which are awarded to those tracks which achieve exceptionally high standards in specific areas of assessment.

Now in its seventh year, the RCA'S Quality Assured Racecourse Scheme is endorsed by VisitScotland and VisitEngland, allowing racecourses to benchmark against other British tourist attractions.

Out of the 16 UK courses awarded RCA Excellence Accolades, Musselburgh was the only one to receive an award in more than one category, with top gradings in the Fast Food Outlet, Lovely Loos and Quality Café/Restaurant categories.

In Scotland, all five courses achieved at least a three-star rating, which places them as good or better against other tourist attractions, Musselburgh retained its five-star rating

and was ranked in the top 10% of all five star attractions in the country, while Ayr Racecourse was also awarded a five-star rating for the first time.

Musselburgh Racecourse commercial manager Sarah Montgomery said achieving three accolades was down to the hard work and attention to detail of a first class team.

She said: "Two of the awards were for the standard of our food offering and working with our catering partners Heritage Portfolio, our objective is to continue to improve on the very high standards already in place, while focussing on all areas of the customer experience in the forthcoming summer Flat season."

RCA Chief Executive, Stephen Atkin, said: "Once again our racecourses have demonstrated that they stand up well when compared to other attractions across Britain. A day at the races is a fun experience for all ages and we are very proud of the service and value for money that all of our racecourses offer.

"Our partnership with both tourism boards allows us to offer customers a guarantee of quality whenever they visit a racecourse. The results show that racecourses large and small can all compete on the same level when it comes to quality and that is one of the unique attractions of British racing."

Malcolm Roughead, Chief Executive of VisitScotland, said: "VisitScotland's world-leading Quality Assurance scheme is not just about driving standards, it's about helping businesses to reach their full potential so that they can reap the benefits.

"A top quality grading is an effective marketing tool which helps them attract more business and secure their success. We are delighted to see Musselburgh and Ayr feature so prominently in the Quality Assured Racecourse Scheme, showing that this country has a rich pedigree when it comes to top-quality attractions."


Musselburgh Racecourse is back racing on Sunday 24 April when a Family Day marks the start of the track's Flat racing season. For more information visit [www.musselburgh-racecourse.co.uk](http://www.musselburgh-racecourse.co.uk) or enter our [competition!](#)



At the museum there is a series of talks called Architects Conversations which begins on 26 April and goes on all summer. The talks are now sadly dedicated to the late Gareth Hoskins, an Edinburgh architecture of some stature.

*[This series of talks](#) brings together a number of Scotland's leading architects with other leading international architects to discuss shared themes, interests and influences in how we shape the places around us.*



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