

# Marvin Bartley looking forward to week-long training camp in the Algarve



Marvin Bartley says that the Hibs' squad are all looking forward to their week-long training camp in the Algarve.

The players flew from Edinburgh Airport this afternoon for a warm weather retreat as they prepare for the second half of the season.

The training will include a friendly against Dutch side Willem II.

Hibs then face Hearts in the Scottish Cup at Tynecastle before the league campaign restarts.

After having a week off to relax, the midfielder says that the players are all set to make the most of their time in Portugal to get back up to speed for the resumption of the campaign.

Bartley told Hibernian Media: "We are all looking forward to the training camp in Portugal, especially after having a week off.

"December was a gruelling month with a lot of big matches and it maybe began to take its toll on us.

"Getting to spend time with family and friends was great, but we're all ready now to get back on the horse.

"The week in the Algarve and the friendly against Willem will be worthwhile for the next half of the season.

"The work we put in this week is pivotal for the first stretch of matches when the football season starts back up again

following the winter break and we are all eager to hit the ground running.”

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# Eligible adults urged to get free flu vaccination

Scottish Government advises that ‘Free vaccine is best form of protection.’

The Health Secretary and Chief Medical Officer are joining together to urge all eligible adults to take up the offer of the free flu vaccination. Those who already have a health condition are at more risk if they develop flu.

✖ Latest figures from Health Protection Scotland (HPS) show just over 41% of those aged under 65, who are considered ‘at risk’, have had their flu jab this winter – but cases of flu have more than doubled compared to the same time last year.

HPS in its latest [report](#) says ‘There is continuing evidence of increasing secondary care pressure based on virological detections of influenza.’

Health Secretary Shona Robison said: “The flu virus can make even healthy people very unwell – and puts extra pressure on our health service at what is already a very busy time of year.

“The flu vaccine offers the best defence against the most common strains of the virus circulating this year and has an excellent safety record.

“Each year the World Health Organisation determines which influenza strains should be covered within the influenza

vaccination programme and the health services across the UK use these recommended vaccines as these are likely to be the most effective .”

CMO Dr Catherine Calderwood said: “Every year in Scotland, around two thirds of people who get severe flu and need intensive care treatment have a health condition such as chronic lung or heart disease.

“Given that we’ve already seen a large increase in cases of flu this winter, I’d encourage those who are eligible – including those with underlying health conditions, pregnant women and healthcare workers – to make getting the vaccination a priority and book an appointment with their GP practice or health board as soon as possible.”

To find out more about the free flu vaccine visit [Immunisation Scotland](#) or call NHS Inform on 0800 22 44 88.

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## Rugby – Edinburgh v Southern Kings, Guinness PR012

*Another big win for Edinburgh under Cockerill*



South Africa’s Southern Kings made their long trip North to Myreside for Friday night’s PR014 match to be greeted by a typical cold, wet Edinburgh winter’s day.

And the first 20, or so minutes of the match were matched by the weather as both sides struggled to get going on the soggy pitch, with a slew of penalties and handling ‘problems’ keeping the crowd somewhat underwhelmed.

Edinburgh had an early break, but it was the visiting side who looked more dangerous, however those handling errors, coupled by a strong home defence, stopped them getting over the line to open the scoring.

However, the first real chance at scoring came the way of the Kings around 10 minutes in, but stand off, Kurt Coleman pulled his penalty attempt wide.

The first real chance of scoring for the home side came just before the 20 minute mark, and involved a break from defence by full back. Blair Kinghorn, but, just as they were about to sail through to the try line, his pass out to 'new start', Mark Bennett, was dropped by the centre just outside the 22.

With handling being an issue for both teams, Edinburgh gradually worked their way back into the game and put together a string of moves which ended with a penalty award in the left corner. However, the subsequent rolling maul fell foul of the referee and the visitors cleared their lines.

With the greasy ball seemingly a continuing issue, the next penalty Edinburgh were awarded was pointed at goal and stand off, Jaco van der Walt duly obliged with a three-pointer for the lead.

The home side were managing the conditions better by this time and were now in the driving seat, keeping the Kings pinned into their own half for most of the time. The first try of the match came from this continued pressure as Grant Gilchrist used all of his height to charge down a clearance from the visitors' Rudi van Rooyen and then used all of his footballing skills to dribble the ball over the line and dive on it for a try in the corner. With the kick missed, it was now 8-0 to Edinburgh with just over 10 minutes of the half remaining.



Less than two minutes later, another, converted this time, try

opened up the gap to 15-0 as the South Africans seemed still aghast at Gilchrist's footballing skills. Again, Kinghorn got the play rolling with another break over half way, but this time there were no dropped balls and he raced through to collect centre, Chris Dean's, chip kick and dive over for the second try. Van der Walt successfully converted this time and the home side were now beginning to dominate proceedings, both on the score board and on the field of play.

It took Edinburgh 10 minutes to open the second half scoring, following an early bout of pressure from the visitors, which came to naught, before the home side set about the task of winning the game. A penalty from van der Walt on the 50 minute mark saw the score out to 18-0 before another try off some fancy footwork from the backs was chalked up. Running the opposition defence ragged, the home side drove deep into the 22, before van der Walt slid a neat grubber through into the goal area for his countryman, Duhan van der Merwe to run onto and dot down for the third try on the night. Van der Walt then converted the touchline kick for 25-0.

By now the game was being played, mostly, deep in the Southern King's half, with the back division of Edinburgh running rampant all over the place, but it wasn't until the 71<sup>st</sup> minute – and after a heavy shower of hailstones – that Edinburgh added to their points tally. A penalty kicked for touch was kept close by the pack, but they were forced sideways by the opposition. It' wasn't until the whole affair had crabbed halfway across the pitch that the home side got some purchase and drove forward, allowing sub, Cameron Fenton, to fall over the line for the bonus-point try. Van der Walt then chipped the simple conversion over for the extras and 30-0.



On the 74<sup>th</sup> minute, King's full back, Ntabeni Dukisa nipped into the corner for a try, which he converted, but it was

immediately back to the script for Edinburgh and their fifth try was scored by wing, Dougie Fife, who followed up on a fumble by the opposition on their try line to score. Van der Walt then kicked another touchline conversion for 37-0 and a hard fought win for the home side in trying conditions.

*Images from the match will [appear here](#) over the next few days*

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## **New three-year deal for Hibs' teenage striker Oli Shaw**



Teenage striker Oli Shaw has signed a new three-year contract with Hibs.

The 19-year-old has made 14 appearances in the first-team this season, scoring goals against Celtic (twice), Ross County and Kilmarnock.

Shaw told Hibernian Media: "I'm delighted to have signed and committed my future here at Hibs. It's a massive club with great staff and a great manager and I am looking forward to continuing working and developing here.

"My goal is to play first-team football regularly here and to hopefully continue scoring goals.

"I've had a wee sniff of it recently, so I'm looking forward to getting back at it after the break and hopefully continuing with that."

Neil said that it was pleasing to have signed Oli on an extended deal, especially as he feels that he has a bright

future in football.

The Head Coach has been impressed with his attitude in training and in matches this season, and also praised the staff within the Hibernian Academy for developing Oli and ensuring his readiness for first-team football at the Club.

He commented: "I am delighted that we have signed Oli on a new deal for the next three years.

"There is a maturity about his play for someone so young, but a rawness as well which makes him difficult to play against. He is a real talent, that's for sure.

"His performances this season, especially last month, have really impressed me and his goals have been fantastic and shown a lot of the different aspects of the talent he possesses.

"He's a good kid with a bright future ahead of him if he continues to work as hard in training and in games as he has done so far this season.

"To have Oli, as well as Ryan and Fraser, come into the first-team squad so seamlessly speaks volumes of the work that Eddie May and the rest of the Academy staff have been doing over the past few years. Long may that continue."

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## Woman dies after falling from Scott Monument



A woman died after falling from the Scott Monument in Princes

Street around 3.45pm yesterday afternoon.

The death is not thought to be suspicious but inquiries are at an early stage.

A spokeswoman said: "Police in Edinburgh were called to Princes Street around 3.45 pm today, Friday, January 5, after a report of a woman having fallen from the Scott Monument.

"The woman was sadly pronounced dead at the scene."

Princes Street was closed to traffic for a short time.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact police on 101 quoting incident number 2139 of the 5th January.

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# Theatre – Pressure @ The King's Theatre



DAVID HAIG TO STAR IN TRUE WARTIME THRILLER

PRESSURE @ King's Theatre | 13-17 February 2018

D Day, June 1944.

350,000 lives depend on the most important weather forecast of all time.

Based on the remarkable real-life tale of two warring Allied meteorologists tasked with predicting the weather conditions for the D Day landings, David Haig's acclaimed play Pressure will play at The King's Theatre this February..



72 hours before the D Day landings, Scottish meteorologist, Group Captain James Stagg, advises General Eisenhower on the weather conditions likely to prevail when 350,000 troops are to be sent across the Channel in Operation Overlord. With Stagg predicting severe storms and Irving P. Krick – Hollywood's meteorological movie consultant – predicting beautiful weather, the future of Britain, Europe and the United States rests on one single forecast.

See TV interview from 2014 Premiere shown below.

Pressure was originally commissioned by The Royal Lyceum Theatre as a co-production with Chichester Festival Theatre. The production premiered at the Lyceum in 2014, followed by a run at Chichester Festival Theatre. David Haig reprises his role as Group Captain James Stagg, alongside returning players Malcolm Sinclair and Laura Rogers, directed by John Dove.

<http://www.edtheatres.com/pressure>



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## **Opinion – Education Convener has his say on the schools review**



Cllr Ian Perry Education Convener

by Councillor Ian Perry who is the Education Convener at The City of Edinburgh Council.

The council announced plans in November of ways that they would look at dealing with an increased number of school pupils in the west and south west of the city. This has resulted in petitions to keep schools open, and although the council is clear that some of the schools need major works to improve them nothing has yet been decided.

“There has been a lot of debate over the proposals for changes to schools in the west and south west of the city over the past six weeks.

“Much of the focus has been on the potential impact any changes might have on local communities but it’s important to highlight the benefits that state of the art schools of an optimum size can bring for pupils and communities.

“Everyone agrees that we must prioritise the learning needs of all our young people and focus on our aspirations for them and future generations – we are not talking about the educational impact over the next six years but the next sixty years.

“Larger and newer schools can provide enhanced opportunities on site for all pupils both within and out with the curriculum. More pupils mean more staff so the curriculum choice can be expanded with extra subjects and advanced levels on offer to increase their learning experience. A wider curriculum, increased sporting facilities and opportunities for more varied cultural/social clubs can only be of benefit for our pupils. Over three quarters of our high school pupils, around 15,000 young people, are currently or soon will be educated in new or refurbished buildings.

“Active links with special schools, such as those between Currie Community High and Woodlands, would still be maintained and where possible enhanced. Myself and my Vice Convener, Councillor Alison Dickie, have already met with the Woodlands head teacher and members of the parent council to reassure them. Some questions have been raised that suggest vulnerable

pupils may not be supported in a larger school. This is not borne out by the experiences of our other larger schools in the city. We saw this on a recent visit to a 1,200 pupil high school with inclusion and nurture spaces that allow those pupils who need additional support a place where they can feel safe and be supported.

“Everyone should remember that we are only at the informal consultation stage with the review and I want to repeat our appeal to hear people’s ideas and solutions. As part of that process we will hold events at schools later this month and in early February which will allow discussion of the ideas proposed with Council officers. An update on the discussions and recommendations about what should happen next will come to the Education, Children and Families Committee in March.

“Yes, change brings with it hurdles to overcome but if everyone works together it can only be positive. Where community links presently exist with schools these will be maintained and if possible expanded and new schools, like the one proposed in the west of the city, will have new and strong community links established.

“We’re determined to improve attainment and achievement for all and to make sure no child is left behind. The educational outcomes for our young people should be at the heart of our future plans and providing schools that fully meet the needs of our learners is key to our success moving forward.”

Full details of the schools review can be found on the [Council website](#).

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# Walker Heads to Wigan



It looks like Jamie Walker has played his last game for Hearts. The 24-year-old attacking midfielder is tonight at English League One side Wigan Athletic finalising a move to the Latics and the Edinburgh Reporter understands Walker has already undergone a medical. Walker currently has a knee injury, but this isn't expected to have any major impact on the deal.

Speculation linked Walker with a move to Rangers last summer, with the player out of contract at the end of this season. However, like Andy Webster in 2006, Walker has gone to Wigan. Time will tell whether he will follow in Webster's footsteps and sign for Rangers months later...

Hearts may receive around £300,00 for the player who made his Tynecastle debut in 2011.

Meanwhile, Hearts will fly to Spain next week for a couple of closed-door games against Dutch team Vitesse Arnhem and German team FC Nurnberg.

Head Coach Craig Levein told the official Hearts website.

"The boys have had a short break and will be eager to get back into the swing of things.

"I'm sure they'll see it as a mini pre-season, and some warm weather training will help us reach peak fitness levels as we head into a crucial part of the season.

"We have two games against strong opposition lined up and I'm hopeful that we will be able to involve some of the players who have missed out last month through injury."

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# Letter from Scotland



The New Year came in with a bang and a large moon. The bang came from Edinburgh's famous Hogmanay fireworks and the moon was a Super Moon, 14 per cent bigger than normal and 30 per cent brighter. I was on Blackford Hill at the midnight hour, along with several hundred other celebrants of the New Year, watching the fireworks by the light of this Super Moon.



Once in a Blue Moon. Photo by Emmett Tullos.

It was the biggest moon we will see in 2018, a "Wolf Moon", only 221,559 miles away. You could almost touch it. Twelve of us have actually walked on it. And this isn't the only Super Moon of this month, there's another on the 31<sup>st</sup>, a "Blue Moon", so-called because it's the second of the month and they don't appear that often – though there happens to be another one in March.

We won't however see much of this Blue Moon because, for the first time in 150 years, there's to be a total eclipse of a Blue Moon that night. Strangely, it may even appear red as it dips behind the Earth's shadow because of the way the light is refracted. Don't we live in an interesting universe ?

It struck me this week that we haven't really moved very far away from the Sun and Moon worship of our Druid ancestors. Here we are setting fire to the evils of the old year with our firework displays and wondering what the Blue Moon in the new year will bring.



The [Loony Dook](#) at South Queensferry on New Year's Day is increasingly taking on the atmosphere of a Pagan festival of purging and refreshing and daring. Dressed in bizarre costumes, like tribal dancers, these crazed people dip into the sacred waters of the Firth of Forth. It's a cold-blooded version of Hindu worshipers on the banks of the River Ganges.

As if to wake us up after New Year, Storm Eleanor blew in from Ireland, bringing winds of over 70mph to central and southern Scotland. And this, combined with the big moon tides, led to a series of flood warnings which fortunately came to nothing.

The severe weather has plunged the NHS into its usual winter crisis with half of Scotland's health boards having to postpone routine operations just to deal with the broken bones and illnesses that occur at this time of the year. Scotland's newest hospital, the Queen Elizabeth in Glasgow, reported a 26 per cent rise in the number of attendances. Across Scotland, only 83 per cent of patients turning up at accident and emergency departments were seen within four hours, compared to 93 per cent in the same period last year.

Someone who doesn't need any medical help during the cold weather is Victoria, the polar bear at the Highland Wildlife Park on Speyside. She has given birth to a cub, the first to be born in the UK for 25 years. It's thought she may even have twins. But we won't see them till the spring, since Mum Victoria keeps them deep underground in her cosy warm cave.

News came this week of another underground miracle. The subway in Glasgow is to have driver-less trains. Indeed once the new fleet is running smoothly in 2021, there will be no staff on board at all, a first for the UK. All they need now is passenger-less trains and the £288m revamp will be complete.

Finally, I am pleased to see that my Scot of the Year, round the world cyclist Mark Beaumont, has been awarded a British

Empire Medal in the New Year's honours list. Among the other Scots honoured are John Curtice the political analyst, and Iain Torrance the theologian, who both become "Sirs" and the business woman Susan Rice who becomes a "Dame". The rugby star Ian "Mighty Mouse" McLauchlan wins an MBE, as does David Duke, the founder of Street Soccer Scotland, the charity helping boys out of poverty through football. Oh, and I mustn't forget another duke, the Duke of Buccleuch who becomes a Knight of the Thistle.

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## Theatre – King's and Festival Theatres and the Studio Spring programme on sale now



The Doctor can't see you  
right now – but someone  
else can...

In an absolutely packed programme the **King's and Festival Theatres and the Studio** are showcasing the very best in live drama, dance, comedy and music and in its role as Scotland's largest cinema, the Festival Theatre will be screening the most talked-about shows from the London stages as well as films in the **2018 Banff Mountain Film Festival**.

Highlights at the Festival Theatre include smash hit musical **Miss Saigon**, riotous comedy **The Play That Goes Wrong**, epic drama **War Horse**, the breath-taking **Shen Yun** and the Sting musical **The Last Ship**.

In case you missed it here is Sting playing at the Leith Dockers' Club last year.

[Sting announces stage show The Last Ship is coming to Edinburgh](#) from [Phyllis Stephen](#) on [Vimeo](#).

At the King's there will be a terrific season of drama including Conor McPherson's modern classic **The Weir**, Phil Daniels taking on **Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde**, David Haig starring in **Pressure** and the return of Robert Powell in **Sherlock Holmes: The Final Curtain**.

The new brochure is on general sale now.

Click below for best-In-Ed blockbuster bonanza brochure.



2018 Banff  
Mountain  
Film  
Festival.

[https://issuu.com/festivalandkingstheatres/docs/wobro\\_jan18\\_hrc](https://issuu.com/festivalandkingstheatres/docs/wobro_jan18_hrc)

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# Theatre – Starcatchers present The Attic



## THE ATTIC

The Studio, 22 Potterrow

9 -13 January, 20 & 21 January 2018.



**Starcatchers and Hazel Darwin-Clements present The Attic** – an intimate and participative theatre experience for 2 – 5-year-olds and their grown-ups telling a story about the bond between grandmother and granddaughter, set to a live piano score.

**The Attic**, created and performed by some of Scotland's finest talent, explores the tender and loving relationship between a young girl, Lucy, and her Grandmother, as they rummage through suitcases and boxes where memories are stored.

The hidden treasures they discover are precious reminders of the past but inspire playful interactions between the two that help them create new memories together and bring the sleepy attic to life.

**The Attic** was first created by Hazel Darwin-Clements as part of her Starcatchers Artist in Residency at The Byre Theatre in 2010 and followed on from the success of Round in Circles (2010) and The Forgotten Forest (2011). Hazel's most recent production Hup (2016), co-created with Abigail Sinar, was made in association with the RSN0 and performed to sell-out audiences at the Fringe in 2016.

**Hazel Darwin-Clements**, said: "We've discovered The Attic afresh for 2018 audiences. We always knew this show was precious – something we wanted to hang on to and share with future audiences (who were yet to be born when we first made it!). We've all changed over time, and grown. It was interesting to find some aspects of the show as exciting and others that needed to be reviewed. *I'm particularly excited that we are doing some dementia-friendly performances. It has led to some great conversations about this theme in the show and how we can make adjustments with that audience in mind.*"

Preview: Sat 6 Jan 1.30pm

Dementia friendly performance: Friday 19 January 2018 at 1.30pm

# Scottish SPCA encourages animal lovers to take part in 2018 Edinburgh Marathon



Scottish SPCA Edinburgh  
Marathon  
Pic: Peter Devlin



The Scottish SPCA is encouraging animal lovers to take part in the 2018 Edinburgh Marathon Festival taking place on 26 and 27 May.

Scotland's animal welfare charity is calling on active locals who are keen to get fit, get active and get outdoors this year as they have spaces for the marathon, half marathon, 10k and 5k runs, and also the junior races.

Chief executive Kirsteen Campbell said, "The Edinburgh Marathon Festival is a fantastic way to raise funds for animals in the area, whilst getting fit in the process!

"There's a race for everyone, from the super fit to a complete beginner."

Kirsteen added, "The newly introduced route showcases more of Edinburgh's beauty and will even pass the country's most iconic dog, Grey friars Bobby!

"We don't receive any government or lottery funding which means we rely on the public to be able to continue our work

rescuing and rehoming animals in desperate need of our help.

“Anyone who sets themselves the challenge of taking part in one of the events really will be helping save lives.”

For more information or to register your place visit [www.scottishspca.org/run](http://www.scottishspca.org/run)

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## At the Dovecot Gallery from February – Garry Fabian Miller Voyage

The Garry Fabian Miller *Voyage* exhibition from 2 February to 7 May 2018, showcases a new tapestry created in collaboration with Dovecot Tapestry Studio, placing it within Fabian Miller's as well as tracing back long term influences through key early pieces from the artist's career.



Photo by Kenneth Gray

Dovecot have worked with the artist Garry Fabian Miller since 2015 when he co-curated an exhibition, *Dwelling* which highlighted the unexpected association between his working practice and the craft of tapestry and rug-making. This new exhibition extends this exciting collaboration as the Dovecot Tapestry Studio weavers unveil a tapestry, *Voyage into the deepest, darkest blue*; a response to a new picture made by the artist. Not a direct copy, instead the wool blends have been developed to make a new image based on an amalgamation of two

photographs.

Garry Fabian Miller is an artist who has consistently pushed the boundaries of photographic picture making. He stopped using a camera in 1984, preferring to use light as both source and subject, from which point his images have grown increasingly abstract.

His chosen photographic paper, Cibachrome, along with the associated darkroom chemistry ceased production in 2011 but this demise has acted as a spur for the artist to explore his interests in light and colour more collaboratively, working with others to continue seeking new ways of working.

The new tapestry's subject, a sea voyage towards the horizon, has been a recurring theme in Fabian Miller's career since 1975, when he used a camera to record changing light on the sea over the Severn Estuary. Four vintage prints, from the series titled *Sections of England – The Sea Horizons*, 1976, made by the artist when he was 19 years old are included within the exhibition.

The exhibition also features a rarely seen image from the collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum, by pioneering photographer Gustave Le Gray (1820 – 1884). Le Gray's mastery of the ability to capture light and his pioneering techniques developed during the earliest days of photography have long had an influence on Fabian Miller's own work in the medium.

Garry Fabian Miller's photographic practice, acquired through years of manipulating his own chosen material, light, in a darkroom, has by its nature, resulted in his keen interest in light, colour and the craft of making.

The exhibition will include examples of Fabian Miller's recent digital prints as well as seeking to convey how, through the skilled and careful choice of different coloured wool blends, many specially formulated for this tapestry, the weavers have been able to retain the intensity of the artist's vision.

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# Charity can use your unwanted gifts



Charity says We have a home for unwanted gifts

With the Festive season over, many will have received unsuitable or unwanted gifts.

Instead of throwing them away or leaving them unused, the British Heart Foundation (BHF) is urging the public to donate their unwanted gifts to any of the 730 BHF shops nationwide and help raise vital funds for its life-saving heart research.

The BHF is happy to take good quality unwanted Christmas gifts as donations to help continue the fight for every heartbeat.

BHF shops sell a vast array of items from clothes, shoes, handbags, jewellery and accessories to DVDs, CDs, vinyl, books, homewares and children's toys – nothing goes to waste!

If you want to make some space in your home, BHF's furniture and electrical (F&E) shops offer free collections.

From sofas to bedroom furniture and TVs, the team will collect larger items completely free of charge.

Booking a collection couldn't be easier. Customers can either locate and call their local F&E shop or book online here: [www.bhf.org.uk/shop](http://www.bhf.org.uk/shop)

Or, drop your donations at one of the shops. With over 730 BHF shops nationwide, there is practically one on every high street.

To arrange a free collection and for more information visit: [www.bhf.org.uk/shop](http://www.bhf.org.uk/shop) or call 0808 250 0220.

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# Two police officers honoured for distinguished service



Two Police Scotland officers have been awarded the Queen's Police Medal (QPM) in recognition of their distinguished service namely Barry McEwan, Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland (now retired) and Lesley Clark, Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland

Acknowledging the awards Deputy Chief Constable Iain Livingstone said: "The Queen's Police Medal is one of the highest honours awarded to officers, and we are very proud as an organisation that two of our officers, one serving and one recently retired, have received this accolade.

"This year's recipients exemplify the dedication and enthusiasm required to achieve success that has a valuable impact on the communities we serve. On behalf of my senior management team, the police officers and staff of Police Scotland, pass on my sincere gratitude and congratulations to Chief Superintendent Lesley Clark and former Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan."

Chief Superintendent Lesley Clark's distinguished career spans 29 years. She joined Special Constabulary in 1987 before moving to Lothian and Borders.

As Divisional Commander for Lothian & Borders Division she has selflessly dedicated herself to mentoring and coaching others over many years. She is also a qualified event commander mentor, one of only six within the country and the only female.

Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan's police career spanned over 30 years. Retiring in 2017 he earned an outstanding reputation for motivating and leading innovative teams, and championing the highest quality of standards to tackle violence at local and national levels.

During his time as Divisional Commander covering the Argyll and Bute and West Dunbartonshire areas, he adopted many pioneering violence reduction strategies. Following a significant violent event, he was instrumental in leading partners to reduce threat, risk and harm levels and restore public trust and confidence.

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## Ice hockey – Pacha looks to newcomer Lukas



Action from Capitals at Murrayfield from  
Ian Coyle

Danish newcomer Lukas Lundvald Nielsen arrived in Scotland earlier this week and has already made a big impression on and off the ice with Dundee Stars.

The 22-year-old was a catalyst for Dundee Stars in their 3-2 penalty shots success over Scottish rivals Braehead Clan on Wednesday.

That's the view of player/coach Omar Pacha who praised the contribution of the young player who is anxious to succeed in the top tier of British ice hockey.

Pacha's men host Edinburgh Capitals at The Dundee Ice Arena on

Saturday (face-off 7pm) and he said the impact of the 5ft 9in newcomer was immediate.

He naturally hopes the dashing Dane can cause real problems for Edinburgh and said: "Having him (Lukas) skating hard and with a smile on his face and showing real energy gets morale up in the locker-room.

"He has a lot of speed and he was flying. He skated well in the game and we hope he jumps on the opportunity to produce here (in Dundee)."

Pacha added: "Lukas has fitted in well and is a youngster with high energy. He is happy to be here. He has a lot to learn, but he has made a great first impression."

Cody Carlson, the former Braehead Clan defenceman, is due to arrive this week and the coach continued: "It was a gruelling seven days to find these two players.

"A lot of late nights, a lot of emails and phone calls. The timing was horrendous but I think we have the key pieces to the puzzle."

He was pleased to continue the club's recent home run of four wins and the victory sets Dundee up for this weekend's double-header against bottom club Edinburgh.

Stars have the bit between their teeth and the coach wants to see the same commitment from his men who were 2-0 down to Clan on Wednesday but stuck to the game plan and prevailed 3-2 after penalty shots.

Goaltender Travis Fullerton, a former Edinburgh star, was again influential in penalty shots and Riley Stadel was key in the pressure situation, claiming two goals and Pacha said: "The game could have gone either way.

"We played well defensively, kept working and stuck to our game plan. It worked and tried to play three and four lines.



“That showed in the third period and this is a huge boost to confidence. We hope to build on this.”

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# Message from the Skies – take a daunder in the city!



Crime author Val McDermid has written a short story told across the city.

This new outdoor interactive project for winter is designed to encourage residents and visitors to explore Edinburgh’s iconic locations and perhaps see them in a new light. You can either binge watch all of the locations in one evening or you can see the various projections at different times each evening in January.

Streets and buildings which have inspired some of the world’s finest authors over the centuries – from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Robert Louis Stevenson to J K Rowling and Muriel Spark, and the streets and buildings which McDermid and her other collaborators have been inspired by all feature.

JK Rowling has only temporarily given her name to a pub where a story involving her is projected on the exterior wall. The idea is that you find each location for yourself so we are trying hard not to tell you all of them, but if you are easily spooked then it might be an idea to take a friend with you....



Message from the Skies is inspired by the nineteenth century tradition of publishing novels chapter by chapter: readers

must go from location to location to read the whole story, simultaneously exploring both this piece of new work and the city.



The projections will run until 25 January in a new celebration of Edinburgh's and Scotland's rich literary heritage on the final day of Edinburgh's Hogmanay and will continue to animate Edinburgh's dark nights by encouraging residents and visitors to explore projections onto many of the city's landmarks, following chapter by chapter a brand new story written by Val McDermid called New Year's Resurrection, commissioned by Edinburgh's Hogmanay and Edinburgh International Book Festival.



Message from the Skies is a collaborative project with involvement and support from Edinburgh's Hogmanay, Creative Scotland, Edinburgh Airport, Edinburgh Tourism Action Group, Underbelly, Pearlfisher, The Scottish Government, UNESCO City of Literature Trust and Edinburgh International Book Festival.



Double Take Projections have set up the installations across the city, some of which have sound to accompany them.



## INFORMATION

- The starting point is [The Signet Library, Parliament Square, Edinburgh EH1 1RF](#)
- This is a free event, no ticket is required.
- The projections will run daily until 25 January, from dusk around 5pm until 10pm.
- As this is an outdoor walking event in winter, please dress comfortably and for the weather.

- Download the Message from the Skies App at the [App \(iOS\) Store](#) and [Google Play \(Android\)](#). Requires the following operating systems: iOS 10+, Android: 4.1+.
- Full Terms & Conditions for the Message from the Skies App can be found [here](#).



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## IT recruitment firm has 'bumper year'

Annual turnover at independent IT recruitment specialists Cathcart Associates has reached £6.5 million in the last 12 months for the whole group. £5.25m has come from its core recruitment business, £1m from its renewable energy division and a further £250,000 from its operation in Thailand. The firm has been steadily growing year on year since the business was established in 2009.



It is not just turnover that has been increasing; the group has hired 10 new consultants over the last year as the business expands further in Manchester and the north of England. Manchester has been a key focus area for the business over the last year as the city has witnessed an increase in demand for tech specialists.

Overseas, Cathcart Energy, which focuses on finding talent for the renewable energy industry, opened an office in Sweden and is set to expand to further locations in 2018.

The recruitment firm has added to its client portfolio, growing from 90 companies last year to 119 this year.

Sam Wason, co-founder and director of Cathcart Associates, said: "The IT sector in Scotland, particularly in Edinburgh has experienced real growth in the last 12 months and we have noticed the increase in demand from companies to find the best IT talent for a range of tech roles. This boost has had a positive impact on our business as seen in our results and growth this year.

"We weren't surprised by the recent news that Edinburgh has become the UK's fastest growing tech hub in 2017. As IT specialists, we recognise and understand the IT employment landscape in the UK and welcome this growth in tech outside of London. For Edinburgh, this can only be good news as the number of job opportunities in tech and the demand for skilled employees will grow further in 2018."

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## **Cullen Property engages new Operations Manager**

Tom Corps joins Edinburgh property management company, Cullen Property.

Edinburgh-based property investment and lettings specialist Cullen Property has welcomed Tom Corps to the team as the Operations Manager.



Tom joins Cullen Property following his previous role as Area Director for Scotland with another property company in Edinburgh. His new role as Operations Manager will see Tom lead the company's Property Managers in delivering high standards of service to their customers and ensuring that all regulatory obligations are met.

After graduating from Edinburgh Napier University with a degree in Business Management, Tom started his career in commercial banking before moving into the property management industry. He also has experience as a landlord himself.

Since 1998, Cullen Property has continued to help investors build their portfolio by sourcing and acquiring suitable residential property, as well as refurbishing, furnishing and letting properties on behalf of clients. The Cullen Property team currently manages circa 400 properties in Edinburgh.

Tom Corps, Operations Manager says: "It's been fantastic joining the Cullen Property team and working with like-minded individuals who are passionate about the industry and delivering a high standard of service. The Edinburgh property industry is going from strength to strength and I'm really excited to be a part of it."

Steve Coyle, Operations Director, says: "We are delighted to welcome Tom to the team. He has been incredibly successful in his career so far and we hope to see him continue on this promising path with Cullen Property".

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# Simple seafood suppers at Edinburgh School of Food and Wine

The Edinburgh School of Food & Wine served up a special seafood cookery class where parents and their children learned how to make a series of recipes created by MasterChef winner Jane Devonshire as part of a Back to School campaign by Fish is the Dish. From mackerel to mussels, families in Edinburgh were shown the fun and creative ways to enjoy cooking with seafood together, as well as learning about the many health benefits of eating two portions of seafood each week.



The Edinburgh School of Food & Wine's expert chef, Chris Stewart, taught families how to fillet, prepare and serve a whole variety of different species from smoked haddock to roast cod. The Edinburgh parents and children who attended the class were given a demonstration by expert Chris, and then got the chance to work together to prepare, cook and plate up their own range of delicious suppers inspired by Jane Devonshire including Spicy Prawn and Chorizo Frittata and Monkfish Medallions with Mediterranean Vegetable Stew.

The Edinburgh School of Food & Wine cookery class was the third of the Back to School programme – part of the 'Fish 2 a Week' health campaign – encouraging the UK to add seafood to their menu twice a week, as part of a healthy, balanced diet. Variety is key and the Fish 2 a Week campaign aims to encourage people to try alternative, tasty species, create new recipes and enjoy some favourites.

Chris Stewart, cookery class host and chef, said: "People can

often be put off by the idea of cooking fish, but our students soon realised how simple, healthy, delicious and fun it can be to cook with these fantastic ingredients. It was great to see parents and kids cooking together to create something for the whole family to enjoy and I hope these dishes will become firm favourite family suppers.”

Julie Wilson from Edinburgh said: “We had a great time at the class. It was great to see the kids, parents and grandparents getting involved, trying new dishes and experimenting with different recipes – I can’t wait to cook them again at home!”

Seafish’s Chief Executive Officer Marcus Coleman said: “Our Back to School classes are the perfect way to show families in Edinburgh how to enjoy a whole host of simple seafood suppers. Through our Fish 2 a Week campaign, we aim to demonstrate to the nation that by eating more seafood, we can lead healthier lives. Eating two portions of fish each week has many health benefits for adults and children and it’s great to be able to educate people from a young age and get them involved in the whole process from preparation to cooking and then enjoying the results!”

Fish is the Dish has designed the roadshow to highlight the many health benefits associated with eating more fish, such as improved sleep, stronger bones and healthy skin, nails and hair. Eating two portions of fish per week has been shown to increase brain function and boost mood, while omega-3-rich seafood has also been linked to improvements in children’s concentration, reading skills, and behaviour.

The Fish 2 a Week website is packed with recipe inspiration to help people find ways to eat more seafood, more often.

Visit: [www.2aweek.co.uk](http://www.2aweek.co.uk)

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# Comment – Jonathan Cowie of Edinburgh Napier University – Nationalisation of the railways

Britain's railways were  
nationalised 70 years ago –  
let's not do it again



No backtracking.

[Matt Buck](#), [CC BY-SA](#)

[Jonathan Cowie](#), [Edinburgh Napier University](#)

It is 70 years since the era of public rail ownership began in



Great Britain. The British Railways Board formally took control of the operation and planning of the whole network, having been brought into existence by [Clement Attlee's](#) Labour government under the [Transport Act 1947](#) (the name British Rail didn't appear until 1965).

At the time, the network was in dire need of investment. The [Railways Act 1921](#) had consolidated over 100 operators into "the big four" – Great Western; London, Midland & Scottish; London & North Eastern; and Southern Railways. They had been financially squeezed by rules that forced them to carry freight at rates that were often unprofitable, and competition from an emerging road sector that had been prioritised for public investment.

The rail network had then been worn to the bone in supporting the war effort and considerably damaged by German Luftwaffe bombing. Rail safety had become a serious concern: two major accidents in [the south](#) and [north](#) of England within two days in October 1947, resulted in 60 fatalities, and contributed to that year being the [second deadliest](#) in British railway history.

The level of outlay to restore the network and rolling stock to its heyday was well beyond the financial resources of the big four. In keeping with a public mood that also saw the nationalisation of coal, iron, steel, electricity and telecoms, not to mention the creation of the National Health Service, there seemed only one way forward.

Many are similarly keen on rail nationalisation today, following privatisation in the 1990s. The [majority of the public](#) are in favour, and Jeremy Corbyn's Labour party [plan to](#) act accordingly if they win the next election. What can we learn from what happened first time around?

# The next station is ...

The 1948 nationalisation was followed by the “modernisation plan” of 1955, which committed £1.2bn – around £30bn in today’s money. It included electrifying the main lines, replacing steam locomotives with diesel models, renewing the track and closing certain smaller lines.

With hindsight, it failed badly. It essentially replaced what already existed rather than looking at current and future needs, missing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to revitalise the system. Long-term decline continued, resulting in [losses](#) by the late 1950s and the [Beeching cuts](#) of the mid-to-late 1960s in the name of a profitable railway by 1980.

That never materialised, and the consequences of decline and under-investment rumbled on into the current era of private franchise operators and state-owned track and stations company Network Rail. [Surging](#) passenger numbers have made today’s problems even more acute, creating a network that in parts is under severe strain.

Infrastructure investment since privatisation has been considerable. Network Rail is over halfway through a five-year £38bn [investment plan](#), and is partly funded by the franchise operators. Yet Network Rail’s balance sheet demonstrates the limits of these contributions. The company had a [debt level](#) of £34bn in 2014, and it’s set to [rise to](#) £52bn by 2019. This level of debt would crush any private sector company.

As regards the dilapidated trains inherited by the franchise operators at privatisation, much have been replaced. The new Hitachi Azuma being introduced on the East Coast line later in 2018 has ergonomically designed seats, super-fast wifi and “mood” lighting – a far cry from when customers revelled in the [1950s sophistication](#) of corridors and toilets on new short-haul trains.



Chuff, chuff!

[Wikimedia](#), [CC BY-SA](#)

Today's companies that lease the rolling stock to the operators have made the large capital investments to make these upgrades possible because ultimately this is state-backed. The government will always ensure that train operating companies have trains.

There is a strong sense that whatever the level of investment in trains and track, it will never be enough. But this endless quest for a modern efficient railway can only ever be pursued with the heavy support of public finances. Nationalisation is likely to have little impact because the state is so heavily committed already.

As for the rail franchises, if you ignore the state's contribution to infrastructure costs, a number are profitable and some considerably so – these include [South West Trains](#), [Greater Anglia](#) and [Thameslink](#). Operators have benefited from

both the passenger increases and [reduced charges](#) for track access.

The government imposes premiums on different franchises based on how profitable they are expected to be over their seven-year lifetime. This is designed to prevent excessive monopoly profits and reduce the overall subsidy requirement. Yet it represents a very serious business risk for operators, since they have to accurately forecast revenue streams seven years into the future. This was no better highlighted than by Virgin Trains' [early planned withdrawal](#) from the East Coast franchise on the back of missed projections.

Some might accuse Virgin of having tended too ambitiously, or even recklessly, but I'd argue the system takes the idea of business risk to breaking point, underpinned by a competitive tendering system that almost encourages excessive optimism. And because premiums can easily end up too low or too high, there's a constant prospect of early withdrawals or public anger.

## **First class/second class**

Nationalisation was no panacea in 1940s. It was driven more by circumstances and political ideology rather than any great strategic vision for a modern railway. The investment errors of the 1950s look like a classic example of the ills of public sector management: poorly defined objectives, loss of focus, little sense of realities at senior management level and wasteful extravagance.



Tickets please!

[Yoonki Jeong](#), [CC BY-SA](#)

The current model, on the other hand, exposes the private sector to excessive business risk and builds instability into the system. It also still depends heavily on state infrastructure investment or guarantees.

The best way forward is probably to optimise what we have: re-evaluate the rail franchising process and look at different ways to share business risk between the public and private sectors. That might include directly awarding some franchises without a tendering process, whether to a private or public operator, for example. It would be a step towards full nationalisation without throwing out the baby and the bathwater.

[Jonathan Cowie](#), Lecturer in Transport Economics, [Edinburgh Napier University](#)

This article was originally published on [The Conversation](#).  
Read the [original article](#).

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# First 2018 baby boxes out for delivery today

*First baby boxes of the new year delivered.*

Some families in Scotland are awaiting important deliveries of new babies this New Year and from today the first baby boxes of 2018 will begin to be delivered in preparation for their new arrivals.

At a distribution centre in Leith, Minister for Childcare and Early Years Maree Todd helped to pack and prepare the contents of these new baby boxes.



She also confirmed that, early next year, Scottish small-and-medium-sized-enterprises will be able to bid for the contract to provide the contents of the box.



Minister for  
Childcare and  
Early Years  
Maree Todd –  
Photo Andrew  
Cowan/Scottish  
Parliament

Ms Todd said: “It feels very special to be packing up baby clothes, thermometers, scratch mittens and other extremely useful items for some of our very first new-borns of 2018.

“The baby box demonstrates that as a society we value each and every child born in Scotland and want to give them all an equal start in life.



“Following a very successful first year in 2017, with 77% take-up, more than 22,000 boxes delivered and high parent satisfaction with the contents, we want to continue to build on this in 2018.

“That is why, now the baby box scheme is more fully established, we can start to make improvements to develop the economic as well as the social benefits.

“I very much hope Scottish businesses will embrace the opportunity to bid for the contract to provide some of the contents of Scotland’s baby box next year.”

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## **Direct air route to China within Edinburgh’s grasp**

Edinburgh is still vying to win the first direct Scotland to China flight and today it is announced that Edinburgh Hotels Association (EHA) will be the second major sponsor of the Edinburgh-China Air Link project (E-CAL).



The various bodies behind the bid, Marketing Edinburgh, Edinburgh Airport and The City of Edinburgh Council form a unique collaboration of private business and public organisations all with one objective.

They are determined to make this high-value direct carrier route a reality.

Representing 50 of Edinburgh’s leading hotels, EHA along with

luxury family jewellers, Laing Edinburgh, who signed up to the project's inaugural official sponsor in January 2017.

China is one of the top dozen countries when looking at Scotland's inbound markets, Chinese visitor numbers have increased 230% in the last ten years with Edinburgh the number one UK destination outside of London.

**The capital attracts 82% of Scotland's total Chinese inbound visitor market, which reached a value of £25.78 million in 2016, accounting for 71% of Chinese visitor spend in Scotland overall.**

More food is exported to China to meet the demands of the country's growing middle class, there are successful research partnerships between University of Edinburgh and Chinese corporations such as Huawei. These and other factors make a direct airlink the pivotal next step in strengthening business connections between Scotland and China.

This year, China became a top source of investment to Scotland, including investment in the energy sector and travel giant Ctrip's acquisition of Skyscanner for £1.4 billion, with a project to create 200 new jobs in Edinburgh.

**Commenting on the sponsorship, Chairman of Edinburgh Hotels Association, Tristan Nesbitt said:** "As the unified voice of Edinburgh's hotel industry, Edinburgh Hotels Association is thrilled to become a sponsor of this landmark tourism development for Scotland's capital.

"It's evident the popularity of Scotland and Edinburgh as a destination for Chinese visitors has snowballed over the past five years and with no signs of it slowing down, a direct flight from China is the natural next step. We're eager to support this project as it gains momentum, and hope Edinburgh



soon becomes the gateway to Scotland for Chinese visitors.”

**Fiona Hunter, Marketing and Communications Manager of Marketing Edinburgh and the Edinburgh-China Air-link Project Manager, said:** “Our bid to secure a direct airlink from Scotland to China has been building traction over the past year as we increase awareness of just how pivotal a direct flight could be for Edinburgh and the country as a whole. Having the city’s largest hotel association join E-CAL is hugely exciting and strengthens our proposition to help make it a reality.

“The economic benefits of a direct route have significant and positive implications for Edinburgh’s tourism, hospitality and retail sectors. We’re keen to build collaborative working other further forward-thinking businesses who recognise the value and opportunity the E-CAL project represents.”

**Gavin Barrie, Economy Convener, City of Edinburgh Council, said:** “Later this month we will launch our economic strategy for the next five years and a key part of its success will depend upon our continued ability to promote Edinburgh as a quality investment location to the world’s leading economies, including China’s.

“Securing a direct airlink would undoubtedly be a major step in the right direction and would only serve to strengthen the close relationship we already enjoy with the Chinese Government and their business community.

“With the added support of the city’s hoteliers, I am confident that this innovative partnership approach will soon pay dividends.”



# Ice hockey – Capitals burned by Flames



Action from Capitals earlier this season  
from Ian Coyle

Elite League: Guildford Flames 10, Edinburgh Capitals 1;  
Dundee Stars 3, Braehead Clan 2 (after penalty shots).

Geoff Walker and Kruise Reddick both netted trebles as Edinburgh Capitals skidded to their 12th straight Elite League defeat.

Brett Ferguson also set up four of Guildford Flames' goals in the 10-1 victory which moves the Surrey combine back into fourth position in the 12-strong league table and leaves Edinburgh with only three wins in 30 league matches so far this term.

Dylan Anderson claimed Capitals consolation after 27 minutes to make the scoreline 5-1.

Meanwhile, Dundee Stars received a boost ahead of their weekend double-header with Capitals.

Riley Stadel netted two nerve-jangling penalty shots as Stars snapped a three-game losing streak with a 3-2 victory over Scottish rivals Braehead Clan.

The victory takes second-bottom Stars to 21 points from 29 games, four points adrift of Milton Keynes Lightning and the Scots have two games in hand.

Eighth-placed Braehead now have 29 points from 31 games and they Clan held a 2-0 lead in the game.

Craig Peacock netted unassisted after seven minutes and former

Fife Flyers star Brendan Brooks added another short-handed and unassisted after 25 minutes.

It took Dundee until the 43rd minute to find the net, Gabriel Levesque scoring after being set-up by Marc-Olivier Mimar.

And Levesque and Mimar set up the equaliser ten minutes later for Jimmy Jensen.

The tense clash went into overtime despite Dundee, who gave a debut to new Danish forward, Lukas Lundvald Nielsen, outshooting the visitors 26-16.

And they still could not be separated. In the penalty shootout, Tyler Scofield failed to score for Clan but Riley Stadel fired the puck past Braehead netminder Ryan Nie to go 1-0 up.

Ice cool Brooks also scored to level but Cameron Burt and Mike Embach missed for the visitors.

Mimar and debutant Nielsen also failed to count but 21-year-old Canadian-born defenceman Stadel stayed calm to slot home.

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## **Young writers now feature in Message from the Skies across Edinburgh**

Message from the Skies is an interactive literary project which will get you out and about in the city. You download the app from iTunes or Google Play and then set off to find the locations where projections reveal at least some of the words written by crime author Val McDermid.

When you have completed the journey you can then enter competitions sponsored by Edinburgh Airport and their airline partners, and you will reveal all of the words making up the story.

Now the work of three young writers will feature alongside that of Ms McDermid. Lucy Hutcheon(11), Maisie Dalton(12) and Jemma Glover(16) all won a competition to have their writing displayed to the public.

Earlier today in Parliament Square the author met her three young colleagues and posed for the camera.



Jemma Glover(16) who won a short story writing competition to have her work projected alongside Val's as part of Message from the Skies which runs until 25 January in a new celebration of Edinburgh's and Scotland's rich literary heritage .



Val McDermid with the three local young writers, Lucy Hutcheon(11), Maisie Dalton(12) and Jemma Glover(16)





*The Apps are available here*

**iOS**

**App**

**Store:** <https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/message-from-the-skies/id1296847478?mt=8>

**Android**

**Play**

**Store:** <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.underbelly>

*Photos by Ian Georgeson*

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## Loony Dook 2018

The two directors of Underbelly, organisers of Edinburgh's Hogmanay, took part in the Loony Dook on New Year's morning, and in the madness of the moment Charlie Wood managed to lose his glasses in the Forth.

When we met him later on yesterday he had recovered a little from the freezing shock by having a hot bath, but was still waiting for a spare pair of specs to be brought to him!



Ed Bartlam and Charlie Wood of Underbelly  
after their 'dook' Photo Chris Watt



Photo Chris Watt

There were over 1000 Dookers including former Lord Provost Councillor Donald Wilson who used the opportunity to raise funds for the RNLi who have a base in South Queensferry.



Photo by Ariel Liam Anderstrem



Photo Chris Watt



Photo Chris Watt



Thousands of spectators lined the streets to cheer on the brave and the bold, decked out in every manner of fancy dress imaginable ranging from a group forming a replica of the Forth Rail Bridge to a Hot Air Balloon, The Wizard of Oz and a whole raft of patriotic getups, capturing the 21 countries represented by those who took the plunge, raising money for a huge variety of charities in the process.

Live Edinburgh News have a great selection of photos – [just click here to see them.](#)

**Charlie Wood and Ed Bartlam, directors of Underbelly and of Edinburgh's Hogmanay said:** "Last night we welcomed 75,000 people to Edinburgh for the BEST NEW YEAR PARTY EVER at the epic 25th anniversary Edinburgh's Hogmanay. What better way to clear those foggy heads from the night before than a swift dip in freezing cold water? Today, new year's day, we joined over 1,000 participants from 21 countries on the shores of South Queensferry to brave the waters of the Firth of Forth for the much loved Loony Dook.

"We loved being 'Dookers' welcoming the New Year. It's

terrific how much energy and excitement the Loony Dook generates and the fantastic fancy dress costumes people make and the money generated for charity. We'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year!"



Over 75,000 people gathered on Hogmanay in Princes Street, on Waverley Bridge and Castle Street, and also at the various locations in Princes Street Gardens to listen to music from Rag'n'Bone Man who wowed the crowd with his own music before leading them in Auld Lang Syne after the fireworks.



The fireworks were set to a soundscape created by Skye band Niteworks in collaboration with Dan Jones, and they were spectacular. Brand new fireworks called planets stunned the audience with their fizzy sherbet middles and a drum solo in the middle saw showers of pink and gold arrows ricocheting into the night sky. Head over to our [Facebook page](#) for our full suite of fireworks photos.

*Loony Dook Photos by Chris Watt t 07887 554 193 [info@chriswatt.com](mailto:info@chriswatt.com)  
[www.chriswatt.com](http://www.chriswatt.com)*



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## Ice hockey – Stars boost line-up ahead of Capitals

# clash



Capitals at Nottingham earlier this season.

Picture by Ian Coyle

Dundee Stars hope to have new signing Cody Carlson in their squad for the double-header with Edinburgh Capitals this weekend.

The gritty defenceman was signed earlier this week and the former Braehead Clan star has played in the highly-competitive East Coast Hockey League and in France for Strasbourg and in the third tier in Germany with EC Peiting.

Carlson has played 28 games for East Coast Hockey League combine Atlanta Gladiators this season, scoring once and assisting in three other strikes.

Stars' general manager, Omar Pacha, is trying to clear red-tape ahead of Saturday's home clash with Edinburgh and Sunday's trip to Murrayfield (6pm).

The 26-year-old from Victoria, British Columbia, is the man Pacha believes can help shore up his rearguard and he is delighted to land a player with experience of playing in Britain.

He was also looking for a right-handed defenceman with a fierce shot and Carlson possesses a big shot from the point.

Carlson made 52 appearances for Clan last season, scoring five goals and assisting with ten others.

Pacha, who is also player/coach, said: "He's an experienced guy and we need players like that to help us. He is excited to come and we are excited to have him."

Carlson last played a few weeks ago and Pacha said: "It's



really difficult at this time of year to get clearance for new players.

“We’re trying to get Cody in by the weekend and we’ll do all we can to have him here.”

The coach was disappointed with the 6-0 defeat at Braehead on Hogmanay and added: “You can’t make individual mistakes against a team like that – they will punish you.

“We also didn’t created enough chances and we’ll be looking to address that.

“It’s our road form we have to address but we’ve been successful at home.”

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## **Investigation underway after 80-year-old woman robbed on Lady Road**



A police investigation is underway after an 80 year-old woman was assaulted and robbed of her shopping as she crossed a road on Hogmanay.

Detectives said the pensioner was pushed from behind by a hooded man at a pedestrian crossing on Lady Road, Edinburgh.

The victim was checked by the Scottish Ambulance Service after the attack, which happened around 8.30am on Sunday, but was uninjured.

Detective Constable Alastair Paisley of Gayfield CID said:

“This was a distressing incident for the woman and we’re appealing for the public’s help as part of the ongoing investigation.

“We believe that the suspect was loitering at the entrance to the shopping centre, then within the main walkway, and that he may have approached people before following the victim as she left.

“We’d urge anyone who witnessed the robbery, who may have seen the suspect in the area shortly before or after the incident, or who recognises his description to get in touch as soon as possible.”

The hooded suspect is white, in his early 20s, 5ft 8in to 5ft 10in, of slim to medium build and walked with a distinctive gait.

He was wearing a black shiny tracksuit top, which was possibly Nike, a hoodie, grey cotton tracksuit bottoms and black trainers.

Police said he ran back towards Cameron Toll after the robbery and was last seen heading in the direction of the Inch.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101, quoting incident number 0966 of 31st December, or report this anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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# Ice hockey – skipper accentuates the positives



Action from Murrayfield from Ian Coyle

Mike D'Orazio feels Edinburgh Capitals can take a lot of positives from their Hogmanay defeat to in-form Fife Flyers.

The club skipper and co-coach was pleased that his squad limited the shots on stand-in netminder Jordan McLaughlin.

And D'Orazio was also delighted that Capitals fought back from a 2-0 deficit after the first period to take a 3-2 lead in the second.

Three unanswered strikes from Flyers took the points to Kirkcaldy, however, and Capitals move on.

They visit Guildford Flames on Tuesday (face-off 7.30pm) and McLaughlin is again between the posts as Pavel Shegalo is still injured.

D'Orazio said: "There are a lot of positives we can take from Sunday and I believe we're getting better as a team in every game.

"The guys played really well (against Fife) and we limited the shots on Jordan which was good.

"It's a long bus ride to Guildford and we must stick to our game plan. It will be to play simple hockey, keep the opposition to the outside and to play solid defence.

"We also have to ensure that we get into the dirty areas and take any chances that come our way."

After Guildford, Capitals face a weekend double-header against basement rivals Dundee Stars.

The first game is at Dundee on Saturday followed by the return at Murrayfield on Sunday (6pm).

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# Beginning the centenary year of Dame Muriel Spark with a Message from the Skies

DAME MURIEL SPARK with 19th CENTURY EDINBURGH NOVELIST SUSAN FERRIER are part of VAL McDERMID'S *NEW YEAR'S RESURRECTION* which begins SPARK'S CENTENARY YEAR CELEBRATIONS AT EDINBURGH'S HOGMANAY

*"Did you know that in Edinburgh, there are more statues of dogs than there are of women?"*

New Year's Resurrection by Val McDermid.

McDermid's story is the first in a new celebration of Edinburgh's and Scotland's rich literary heritage, the collaborative project *Message from the Skies*, co-commissioned between Edinburgh's Hogmanay and the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

We have seen some projection units on Picardy Place and under the bridge on Calton Road where you might see some of the story.

Edinburgh's Hogmanay is produced by Underbelly on behalf of The City of Edinburgh Council. *Message from the Skies* launches on the final day, today 1 January 2018 at 5pm and will continue to brighten up Edinburgh's dark nights through to Burns' Night on 25 January.



Author Val McDermid at the Muriel Spark exhibition, National Library Scotland. *Photo Ian Georgeson*

Val McDermid already revealed that in *New Year's Resurrection* she will resurrect Susan Ferrier, an Edinburgh born and bred novelist in the nineteenth century. Now we know that she will also resurrect Muriel Spark, helping to kick off her centenary celebrations in 2018.

"The most remarkable thing about the nineteenth century Scottish novelist Susan Edmonstone Ferrier is that she has all but disappeared from our consciousness. In her lifetime, her novels were wildly popular, earning her significantly more substantial publisher's advances than Jane Austen. And yet now almost nobody knows her name. Susan Ferrier deserves better than this." said McDermid.

"Susan Ferrier seeks to recruit Muriel Spark to help confound the critics who have ignored women writers, but the outcome is not what she expects."



Author Val McDermid at the Muriel Spark exhibition, National Library Scotland. *Photo Ian Georgeson*

McDermid added, "Muriel Spark is a writer who's not so much under-appreciated as under-read. Readers who discover her are captivated by her unique style and the way she constantly wrong-foots us. Her distinctive take on the art of fiction has influenced writers as diverse as Ali Smith and Ian Rankin. I hope the celebrations of her centenary bring her thousands of new fans."

Val McDermid collaborates with director and dramaturg Philip Howard of emergent theatre company Pearlfisher, Edinburgh based architectural projection mapping specialists Double Take Projections, and three of Scotland's finest composers and sound designers; Michael John McCarthy, Pippa Murphy and RJ McConnell, graffiti artist Elph and actors Sandy

McDade (playing Susan Ferrier) and Phyllis Logan (playing Muriel Spark) to bring the story to life.

With *Message from the Skies* the organisers hope to encourage residents and visitors to explore Edinburgh's iconic locations in a new light. You will walk the streets and buildings which have inspired some of the world's finest authors over the centuries – from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Robert Louis Stevenson to J K Rowling and Muriel Spark. These same streets and buildings which McDermid and her other collaborators have been inspired by and to which all the artists respond in this unique piece of work, made especially for Edinburgh.

The project is inspired by the nineteenth century tradition of publishing novels chapter by chapter: readers must go from location to location to read the whole story, simultaneously exploring both this piece of new work and the city.

The starting point and the site of the first chapter is in Parliament Square, off the Royal Mile in Edinburgh's Old Town. From there, readers can navigate by using the app or following the signage leading to the next instalment.

The app is filled with additional content about the story and locations, and will translate Val's story into seven languages – French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin, Polish and Spanish, making the project equally accessible to visitors to Edinburgh. The app will also read the text in English to visually impaired audiences.

*Message from the Skies* is commissioned and presented by Edinburgh's Hogmanay and the Edinburgh International Book Festival, produced by Underbelly and Pearlfisher, in partnership with Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust and is developed with support from Creative Scotland through the Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund.

