

At the Scottish National Portrait Gallery – the BP Portrait Award

BP PORTRAIT AWARD

16 December 2017 – 11 March 2018

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

1 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JD

Free admission | 0131 624 6200

#BPPortrait

An Edinburgh College of Art graduate's prize-winning entry in a prestigious, worldwide portrait competition will go on show in Scotland for the first time this winter.

The 2017 [*BP Portrait Award*](#) exhibition, which opens at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery on 18 December, will feature 53 stand-out works selected from 2,580 entries, by artists from 87 countries, including *Breech!* by Benjamin Sullivan which took this year's first prize.



BP Portrait Award is one of the most important platforms for new and established portrait painters alike. Its first prize of £30,000 makes it one of the largest global arts competitions.

The 2017 first prize winner of *BP Portrait Award* is **Benjamin Sullivan** (b. 1977), whose painting *Breech!* is a tender depiction of his wife Virginia breastfeeding their eight-month-old daughter. It took Sullivan less than five weeks to create the intimate painting, which reflects on the worrisome time the parents faced during Edith's birth, and celebrates their love for their new child.

The prize judges, including broadcaster Kirsty Wark and artist Michael Landy, were particularly struck by the warmth and emotion present in Sullivan's composition, which evokes Madonna and Child paintings through the ages and the depth of the maternal bond. The artist was presented with a £30,000 prize and a commission, at the National Portrait Gallery Trustees' discretion, worth £5,000.

Grimsby-born, Suffolk-based Sullivan holds a BA (Hons) in Drawing and Painting from Edinburgh College of Art. Sullivan was previously awarded the third prize for *Hugo* in 2016, a portrait of the poet Hugo Williams. Sullivan's work has been selected for display 12 times for *BP Portrait Award*, in 2002 and every year from 2006 to 2015.

The French artist **Thomas Ehretsmann** (b. 1974) won the second prize of £10,000 for *Double Portrait*, a painting of his wife Caroline. Ehretsmann was inspired by a walk the couple was taking in a park and the way the light shone on Caroline's face, which he said reminded him of the work of French naturalist painters. In order to infuse the ephemeral moment with something more timeless, the artist used multiple layers of semi-transparent acrylic paint, a technique which he often employs in his work. The title suggests the passage from one state of being to another, and hints at Caroline's pregnancy.

Born in Mulhouse, France, Ehretsmann gained a degree in illustration from the Ecole des Arts Décoratifs, Strasbourg. His work as an illustrator has been featured in the *New Yorker*, *Rolling Stone* and *Elle Magazine*. His portrait *Vacuum 2* was selected for the *BP Portrait Award* 2016 exhibition.

The third prize of £8,000 went to **Antony Williams** (b. 1964) for *Emma*. The painting is named after the sitter, Emma Bruce, who modelled for Williams almost continuously for over a decade, during which the relationship between the two developed into friendship. Although Emma is shown naked, her crossed arms prevent the viewer from seeing her directly;

Williams wanted to portray both her vulnerability and determination.

Williams studied at Farnham College and Portsmouth University. An established portrait artist, his work has been seen in solo exhibitions in London and Madrid and included in the Royal Academy of Arts Summer Exhibition, the Royal Society of Portrait Painters Exhibitions and previously in *BP Portrait Award* exhibitions in 1995, 1998, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2014 and 2015.

The £7,000 *BP Young Artist Award*, which goes to a selected entrant aged between 18 and 30, was won by New Zealander **Henry Christian-Slane** (b. 1990) for *Gabi*, a portrait of his wife. Christian-Slane studied graphic design at Auckland University of Technology; this is the first time the artist and illustrator has been selected for the *BP Portrait Award* exhibition.

Also on display in the exhibition is the work of Lithuanian artist **Laura Guoke**, the winner of the *BP Travel Award 2016*, a £6,000 annual prize enabling artists to work in a different environment. Guoke travelled to refugee camps in Ritsona, Greece where she sketched, photographed and filmed some of the most vulnerable refugees from Syria, as well as the volunteers helping them. Guoke's powerful, large-scale portrait shows migrants as individuals with names and faces, and conveys their unique stories.

Casper White won the *BP Travel Award 2017* for his proposal to portray music fans in clubs and concert venues in Berlin and Mallorca. White aims to represent an often youth-related subculture that is not traditionally recorded in portrait paintings. White's work will be displayed in *BP Portrait Award* in 2018.

2017 marks the Portrait Award's 38th year at the National Portrait Gallery, London and the 28th year of sponsorship by

BP. This extremely popular annual exhibition which always proves to be a great success when shown in Scotland aims to encourage artists over the age of 18 to focus upon and develop the skills of portraiture in their work.

Other works on show in *BP Portrait Award* range from informal depictions of friends and family, to revealing images of famous faces, with a broad variety of styles and approaches to contemporary painted portraiture. As well as first prize-winner Sullivan, Scottish-based artists include Fiona Graham-Mackay, Ross McAuley and Angela Repping.

Scots-born **Fiona Graham-Mackay** was commissioned by BBC Radio 4 to paint the British writer, poet and broadcaster Lemn Sissay. Graham-Mackay is known for her portraits of the British royal family; her portrait of Sir Andrew Motion was included in the BP Portrait Award 2016.

Canadian artist **Ross McAuley**, now based in Glasgow, has had works featured in group exhibitions in Toronto, Glasgow and London including the Sky Arts Portrait Artist of the Year, 2017. His brightly coloured painting *Self-Portrait with Pear* shows the artist wearing a vintage sports jacket.

Dutch artist **Angela Repping** gained a BA (Hons) in fine art from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and lives in Scotland. Her work has been seen in exhibitions at the Royal Glasgow Institute, the Royal Scottish Academy and the Paisley Art Institute. Her work *Profile* is a portrait of her friend Kim.

Christopher Baker, Director of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, commented: *"We are delighted to welcome back to Edinburgh and the National Galleries of Scotland the BP Portrait Award. It encompasses a wealth of artistic talent and demonstrates in such an inspiring way the vitality and variety of contemporary painted portraiture. The exhibition and programmes around it will I am sure once again prove to be*

immensely popular."

Tenants have new rights from today

The biggest change to the private rental sector in a generation will mean tenants have more security and stability coupled with better safeguards for landlords, lenders and investors.



The new Private Residential Tenancy (PRT) will have no end date and can only be terminated by a tenant giving written notice to their landlord or by the landlord using one of 18 grounds for eviction. Tenants will have the right to challenge a wrongful termination.

Landlords can only increase rent once a year and are required to give tenants three months' written notice of any rise. Tenants can challenge this rise if they think it is unfair.

Landlords will also benefit from a more accessible repossession process and a simplified way to give notice.



Kevin Stewart –
SNP – Pic –
Andrew
Cowan/Scottish

Parliament

On a visit to see Shelter's new online enquiry system and meet with tenants, Housing Minister Kevin Stewart said : "The private rental sector has grown substantially in recent years and now provides a place to call home for 760,000 people.

"This is the biggest change to the sector for a generation and will bring about significant improvements in private renting, benefiting both tenants and landlords.

"We want to ensure everyone has a safe and warm place to call home. The new tenancy sits alongside our wider ambitions for housing in Scotland- not least our ambitious commitment to deliver at least 50,000 affordable homes during this Parliament, including that for rent.

Graeme Brown, Director of Shelter Scotland, said: "Today represents a new dawn for all private renters in Scotland and these new laws bring unprecedented security of tenure to private renters with landlords now needing a good reason to evict tenants.

"We have campaigned passionately for 10 years now for reform of private renting, ending with our Make Renting Right campaign, which had extensive support from the public and local and national politicians. We are delighted that all those voices were listened to and we support today's changes in the law.

"Shelter Scotland is pleased to be working with the Scottish Government on a major awareness raising campaign to ensure everyone involved in private renting- from tenants and landlords to letting agents and housing professionals- understand their new rights and responsibilities."

John Blackwood, Chief Executive for Scottish Association of Landlords (SAL), said: "We have worked closely with the Scottish Government, tenants groups and charities for a number

of years on this new tenancy agreement and believe the final outcome will make life considerably easier for landlords. The improved and clarified grounds for eviction, alongside a clearly defined process which we campaigned for will further help streamline the sector.

“The new clauses will make it easier for landlords to ensure contracts are fully compliant with the law as well as being easier for both them and tenants to understand, hopefully reducing tension and unnecessary disagreements.

“We also hope this will make it easier to identify rogue landlords and drive them out of the sector whilst encouraging the overwhelming number of landlords who act responsibly to play their part in increasing the supply of housing available in Scotland.”

End of Artist in Residency Programme Marked by Special Event

Unique ‘energy’ of Scottish community foundation captured by art installation



A new art installation was unveiled on Tuesday (29th November) at a special event in Edinburgh marking the culmination of an ‘artist in residency’ programme designed to embed creativity into business and encourage skills sharing between the sectors.

Over the last six months, Dumfriesshire-born artist Natasha Russell has been in residence at the Edinburgh office of independent charity Foundation Scotland learning about its people, the projects it funds, and its ambitions and priorities with the aim of creating a holistic and permanent visual representation of the organisation as part of Scottish charity Arts & Business Scotland's 'Creativity at Work – Artist in Residency Programme'.

The unique installation, entitled 'Murmurations', has transformed a neutral room into an inspirational and stimulating event space by bringing together snippets of imagery which reflect various aspects of Foundation Scotland and the projects it supports. Supported by The Gateway Exchange Trust and William Grant Foundation, the installation has been created through linocut printing onto thin, strong Japanese paper, which is then printed in tiles of various sizes and mounted directly on the wall.

The 'Creativity at Work – Artist in Residency Programme' is managed by Arts & Business Scotland and funded via Creative Scotland. Natasha's installation is the final project to be completed as part of the initial Creativity at Work programme, which has now ended. Due to its success and the positive impacts the residencies have had on those businesses and staff engaged, Arts & Business Scotland plans to launch a renewed Creativity at Work programme in January 2018.



The Creativity at Work programme seeks to encourage creative thinking in business at a time when creativity is rising quickly up the agenda of business board rooms in this country and internationally. Published last year at the World Economic Forum in Davos, the Future of Jobs report predicts that creativity is set to become the third most important skill for businesses by 2020.

Speedway – Doolan back for Berwick



Kevin Doolan back for another campaign at Bandits. Picture by Colin Poole

Kevin Doolan has re-signed for a sixth season with Berwick Bandits and the 37-year-old has a passion for the club.

Scott Courtney, Bandits' co-owner and promoter, said: "Kevin is a massive part of Berwick Bandits Speedway Club and his ability to encourage and inspire others around him is second to none."

Meanwhile, Glasgow Tigers have signed Claus Vissing, a former Bandits star.

He is Glasgow's sixth confirmed rider and Vissing has also previously ridden for Edinburgh Monarchs.

He said the Glasgow track is one of his favourites and the experienced rider was sold on a move to the Peugeot Ashfield Stadium by fellow Dane Rene Bach, a former Tiger.

.

Police support initiative to reduce harm and exploitation of people involved in prostitution



Police Scotland has renewed its support for an initiative to reduce harm and exploitation of people involved in prostitution.

Every day, hundreds of online adverts are in place with men and women being advertised for sexual services.

National Ugly Mugs (NUM) provides greater access to justice and protection for those involved in prostitution, who are often targeted by dangerous individuals but are frequently reluctant to report these incidents to the police.

Police Scotland is now in its third year of supporting the initiative in order to help encourage reporting and improve safety. NUM is part of Police Scotland's commitment to end violence against women in all its forms. Earlier this week Police Scotland's executive team, signed the pledge on White Ribbon Day and marked the start of 16 Days of Action to tackle violence against women.

Detective Superintendent Stuart Houston, Police Scotland, said, "While some people may be involved in prostitution by choice, others are not but may be victims of coercion or exploitation. Every one of those people is exposed to the risk of violence and abuse. And while prostitution affects individuals, it also affects communities across Scotland.

"National Ugly Mugs supports action across our divisions to

tackle violence against those involved in prostitution. It allows us to identify perpetrators and reduce the threat of harm at the earliest opportunity.

“Our approach to tackling prostitution remains focused on the welfare of those involved and identifying either individual perpetrators or organised crime groups who may have trafficked or be exploiting individuals. Working with partners and community representatives, we hope to identify victims who may be involved in both ‘on’ and ‘off’ street prostitution, to raise awareness of the impact of the criminality associated with their exploitation, and to reduce the threat, risk and harm to those involved.”

Dr Rosie Campbell OBE the Chair for National Ugly Mugs said, “Sex workers are disproportionately targeted by offenders through harassment, rape, robbery, stalking and murder. For many reasons the majority of sex workers do not report to the police. This is an issue for public protection, evidence shows that offenders target sex workers and become emboldened because they think they won’t be reported, or if they are sex workers won’t be taken seriously, their offending can escalate further in severity –and is indiscriminate in terms of victims.

“Sex workers have a right to public protection and access to the criminal justice system, NUM is there to support this right. NUM gives sex workers throughout Scotland an option; for reporting crimes against them and to warn other sex workers, it gets information about offenders targeting sex workers to the police, aiding investigations and allowing the prosecution of dangerous individuals.”

NUM offers a third party reporting scheme which connects local projects, individuals, forums and advertising sites to share information about individuals who commit crimes against people involved in prostitution. Warnings are sent out which allow people working in prostitution to avoid dangerous individuals

and, with the consent of the individuals involved, NUM shares information with the police.

NUM works to ensure that all people who have been victims of crime, whether they sell sexual services in the online, indoor or street based sectors have an option for reporting and access to professional support services.

Edinburgh councillor blogs – Cllr Mary Campbell

Cllr Mary Campbell is Green councillor for Portobello/Craigmillar and is the Green Group education spokesperson.

Here she writes about the announcement that the council is planning to consult on the possible closure of some schools and replacement of others in the west and south west of the city.

The controversy around the schools review in west and south west Edinburgh could, and should, have been avoided argues Mary Campbell.

Even in the seven months since being elected as Green councillor for Portobello/Craigmillar, it seems to me that many disputes in which the council finds itself are a consequence of really poor engagement with people affected by changes.

Take the current schools review in west and south west Edinburgh, for example. It has dominated social media and local press in the week since it was unveiled, with most

attention being focused on the proposal to close both high schools in Currie and Wester Hailes (WHEC) to be replaced with one new school, along with some changes to catchment for other high schools. Quite understandably, many people in both communities, having grown up with a local high school, have reacted with dismay to this unheralded news.

In all of the debate so far I have not heard anyone question the need to increase high school capacity – indeed, it has been well-trailed in recent years with lots of additional building at primary schools to cope with rising P1 intakes. And seven years later, well, it is hardly a surprise, is it? Edinburgh is a fast growing city and schools – both primary and secondary – have to evolve to keep up.

The figures are stark. In September 2016 the number of secondary school students was 18,145. By 2026 it is projected to increase to over 24,000, outstripping the absolute capacity of the secondary schools at just over 22,000. Crucially, unlike earlier population cycles this is not expected to ebb and flow – the pattern of growth is projected to continue.

Nor have I heard anyone claim that the buildings at Currie and WHEC have indefinite shelf-life. Like far too many postwar buildings the decades have not been kind to them. Having been a pupil at one such building – Portobello High – and now seeing the new school there I can vouch for the difference a new school building can make.

✘ So in Currie the school condition surveys earlier in 2017 have identified that a new building is needed. In WHEC (and Balerno High) improvements to the buildings are recommended.

So if the twin drivers of rising numbers of secondary school-aged children and the need to modernise the school buildings are accepted why is there now such a controversy?

The answer lies in the process, I believe. As the Green spokesperson on Education and member of Education Committee, I approved, as did all political parties, a paper back in August 2017 which set out a number of challenges for secondary schools, including Castlebrae, Trinity, Boroughmuir and Gaelic medium education.

In the west of the city, the paper highlights that the new Queensferry High, scheduled for 2020, cannot cope with the scale of population growth so a new high school in west Edinburgh is needed. In south west Edinburgh the scale of growth is much less pronounced – by 2026 only another 77 secondary school pupils are projected (just under 4 standard classes worth) – so it is school condition that seems to loom largest.

That paper in August promised an informal consultation on options with a report and possible full statutory consultation being kicked off in December.

This was largely repeated at the October Education Committee. Councillor workshops were scheduled for the October school holidays and workshops with school communities were to be set up.

In neither report was the option of closing two schools to be replaced by a single school even hinted at.

Given the above description imagine my surprise when the next news I received was a phone call from The Evening News on Friday 24 November asking for a comment on the schools review as just published on the council website. That is despite being the Education lead for my group and a member of Education Committee. The other Green councillor on the committee, Gavin Corbett, only found out about it at the same time as he is a parent at Tynecastle High School, which is affected by some knock-on catchment changes.

So much for keeping councillors in the loop. The same seems

to be the case with consultation with school communities which is now promised between 9 January and 9 February rather than in advance of any ideas being published.

So forgive me if claims by the SNP-Labour council that this is “informal consultation only” ring a little hollow. Proper consultation does not involve issuing (with no prior warning) a detailed blueprint, with only some minor variations. It means setting out the challenges faced (outlined above) in front of school communities and walking through with them all of the possible ways they might be addressed. My instinct is that they’ll get the issues of rising rolls, of improvements needed and even that budgets are limited. And those will inform the options that are then put out formally. That is what the best consultations – real consultations – do.

So where does this leave the review issued a week ago? It already looks to be a non-starter, given the reaction and given the failings outlined above. In some ways that is frustrating because doing nothing is an option no one wants and, in a large package of proposals, there are some ideas that many parents will welcome.

And this is just the start. The west and south west of the city is just the first of a number of reviews that need to consider secondary school capacity. The quality of buildings, the need for more capacity, the need for catchment areas to flex with changing populations all need to be in the mix.

But the council needs to learn and learn fast from this botched process.

St Mary's Music School presents A Symphony of Carols

Pupils of Scotland's national music school will be performing their annual Christmas concert in Edinburgh on 11 December 2017.



St Mary's Music School's *A Symphony of Carols* will take place at St Cuthbert's Parish Church, Lothian Road at 7.30 pm.

There will be music from St Mary's Music School Choir, the School Orchestra, The Choristers of St Mary's Cathedral, the Senior String Ensemble and the Senior Jazz Ensemble.

The evening will feature works by Benjamin Britten, George Frideric Handel, Jean Sibelius, Nat Adderley and Richard Ingham.

Dr Kenneth Taylor, Headteacher, St Mary's Music School, said: "Everyone at St Mary's Music School is looking forward to the Christmas Concert which is always a highlight of the school year. It is important for our young musicians to have the opportunity to perform in public and we are delighted to extend a warm welcome to all those who come along to the concert and support them.

"The varied programme for *A Symphony of Carols* gives an opportunity to demonstrate an excellent standard of musical performance across several genres. I am grateful to the staff and pupils, led by our Director of Music, Paul Stubbings, who make this concert happen.

"The second half of the concert will consist of a very special celebration of the spirit of Christmas, with a performance of

“A Symphony of Carols” which has been composed specially for the occasion by our resident composer, Tom David Wilson, who will conduct tonight’s performance. “

Tickets (£8, concessions £5, schoolchildren free) are available from St Mary’s Music School (Telephone: 0131 538 7766) or on the door on the evening.

<http://www.st-marys-music-school.co.uk/>

Edinburgh streets feature in VisitScotland’s new #scotspirit campaign

VisitScotland has begun a new social media campaign today. It includes parkour athletes in Edinburgh and a scallop diver in Mull, bringing Scotland to the notice of those who might then be attracted to come here for a holiday.



The global campaign will run for the next 18 months and will involve up to 25 global vloggers and Instagrammers matched with a diverse range of local people across Scotland who have interesting jobs, hobbies or skills. Each social media influencer spends 1-2 days with their Scottish local and is encouraged to shadow them in their activities. The rest of the time they are here they are free to explore their own interests across the country.

In this way, social media influencers will be able to gain a

true insight into what it is really like to live, work, study and play in Scotland and then communicate this to their audiences. Some of the so-called influencers have many thousands of followers on social media, and the combined total runs into millions.

Recent research has shown the strength of social media influencers and their power to drive conversations and engagement as well as deliver inspiring content, with many millennials trusting influencers nearly as much as they trust their friends and family.

[The campaign, entitled Scotland: Life](#) launched officially last weekend with the [release of a film](#) by the popular US YouTube channel DevinSupertramp. The American videographers, who have over 4.5 million subscribers, were paired with four extreme athletes from Scotland to create a fast-paced film showcasing parkour and street trial bike stunts in Edinburgh.

The athletes are parkour stars Robbie Griffith and Johnstone Macpherson Stewart and street trial bike riders Duncan Shaw and Ali Clarkson, known for their riding with YouTube sensation Danny Macaskill.



The film was shot over three days and shows the athletes racing from Edinburgh Castle to Arthur's Seat performing a variety of stunts, acrobatics and tricks on their route.

The video has been a hit amongst audiences globally with a reach of over 7 million already across Facebook and YouTube, with many admiring the city showcased through the eyes of urban sport athletes.

DevinSupertramp will be releasing a more laid-back film tomorrow Friday 1 December featuring the Highlands of Scotland filmed in ultra-high-definition 8k.

Other matches that have been made so far in the project include:

- [US YouTuber Mike Corey who was paired with Scallop Diver Guy Grieve on the Isle of Mull](#)
- [Canadian YouTubers Samuel and Audrey who were paired with Highland Games official Alan Pettigrew](#)
- [YouTuber and Outlander fan Sasha Alsberg who was paired with Herbalist and adviser to the Outlander series, Claire Mackay](#) (local film coming soon)
- YouTuber and 'Potterhead' Tessa Netting who was paired with an Edinburgh University student and member of the Harry Potter Society (coming soon)

Malcolm Roughead, VisitScotland Chief Executive said: "Our #ScotSpirit campaign has been one of our most successful to date with millions of people embracing the hashtag and content we have created globally and understanding the true meaning of what the spirit of Scotland is – whether it is felt through experiencing our landscapes, meeting our people or visiting any of our amazing and unique events and attractions.

"With Scotland: Life, we wanted to extend that feeling further and give YouTubers and Instagrammers a never-seen-before insight into what it is really like to live, work and study in Scotland.

"We look forward to welcoming many more social media influencers over the coming months to meet our inspirational locals and showcase the rich assets, hidden gems and local stories in every region of Scotland"

To find out more about VisitScotland's Scotland:Life project and discover films and itineraries [click here.](#)

Use the hashtag #ScotLife and #ScotSpirit to encounter more across social media channels.

Man due in court following drugs seizure in Cakemuir Gardens



A 38-year-old man has been arrested after police officers executed a warrant in Cakemuir Gardens yesterday and seized approximately £44,000 worth of heroin, cannabis and crack cocaine along with a large sum of money.

The man has been charged and is due to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court today.

Local Area Commander, Chief Inspector Kevin McLean said: "Yesterday's warrant and drugs recovery continues the good work of Operation Eagle, which has now seen over £300,000 of illicit substances seized by local officers.

"The misuse and supply of drugs has a huge impact on our communities, and we couldn't achieve this without their support and the information they provide. Anyone with information about such activity in their area should contact police on 101 or the charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."

Ibis claim gold in economy hotel poll



A room in an ibis hotel

Thousands of holiday makers have crowned ibis Hotels the Best International Economy Hotel Brand (Gold) and Best UK Economy Hotel Brand (Silver).


The awards were presented at the 2017 British Travel Awards and it is the second year running that ibis has bagged a brace of awards.

This year the group introduced initiatives including the Nest Room concept in ibis budget, and a welcome system which allows ibis hosts to check-in customers via smartphones.

James Wheatcroft from ibis said: "We're proud of our hotel staff who are available and connected to help our guests 24/7."

Edinburgh councillor blogs – Cllr Maureen Child

Maureen Child is the Labour councillor for Portobello/Craigmillar. Here she rounds up what's going on in her area from her postbag.

 It was a privilege to be personally invited by one of my grandchildren to P6B's Towerbank Primary School Class Assembly and French Cafe. The pupils had done all the work

themselves, including writing the scripts for the scenes they acted out, in French. it was a really impressive display of their learning and the joy they clearly get out of working together as a team. We – the proud audience of parents and grandparents – had a lovely entertaining time, and were well fed with croissants, brioche and French bread. Bravo, les impeccables enfants de Towerbank P6B! More about the whole school's achievements, which they will in common with ALL the Council's amazing schools here:

<https://towerbankprimary.files.wordpress.com/2017/11/newsletter-24-november-17.pdf>

You Decide! Local people know best what's needed in their community. For the third time Portobello & Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership are giving local people the power to decide how our £21,737 of Community Grants will be spent. Local groups with a good idea about an event or a project that will benefit their community should please bid now.

Applications will close on 27 December 2017. There are two options available. Groups can bid for up to £1,500, or, make a smaller bid of up to £500, for example, to buy a piece of equipment the group needs. Groups who apply for the higher amount should note that a member of the group must attend the voting event on Saturday 3 February, for their bid to be included.

The aim is to give local people a chance to speak to projects and find out more about what they are planning to do, before they vote. On Saturday 3 February, young and old across the area will vote for the work they want to see delivered.

The groups who win the most votes will be awarded the money. This time, the voting will take place in the East Neighbourhood Centre, 101 Niddrie Mains Road, from 1pm -3 pm. Young people from Portobello who are aged 16 and under, will

be able to vote on the same day in Portobello Library. We want to encourage people to turn up, see what's on offer and to find out what groups are hoping to do in the area. Information is available on the Partnership website:

<https://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/neighbourhood-partnerships/portobello-and-craigmillar/about/you-decide!/>

In addition, if you are considering planning a community event, small grants are available to help. Click here: <http://eventsedinburgh.org.uk/Local-Event-Fund-2017-2018.html>. Deadline for these particular applications is 15 December 2017.

Do come along on 3 December for the [Portobello Market](#) at Christmas and get those last minute gifts or pick up your orders. Gates open in [Brighton Park](#) at 9.30 and the Market runs until 1.30. At 11am Portobello's very own carol singers will get you in the festive mood, so get those Santa hats on and come and join in! BG Cycles are on site again as well to give our bikes a winter check. Check out the website for a [list of all traders](#). If you can, please do Like & Share the Facebook page, [PortyMarket](#). The next market is on Saturday 3 February 2018.

At Saturday's Market, you will also be able to pick up a Friends of Figgate Park Calendar 2018, with some amazing Anthony Robson photographs of the Figgy wildlife, including our swans and 'our' kingfisher, nicknamed Bowie.

Portobello St Marks Church on Portobello High Street (opposite top of Bellfield Street) is a collection point for Caring

Christmas Trees sold by Bethany Christian Charity. More here: <https://www.caringchristmastrees.com/edinburgh/#simple2> St Marks They will also be having a coffee morning this Saturday, remember!

On Friday, the count down to Christmas really starts with the excitement of opening the first window, I picked up this truly fabulous advent calendar with a difference on social media which I think is the very best ever! It's certainly one that I will be try for to follow over the days of Advent. More in the spirit of Christmas than the consumer-fest we sometimes get sucked into! http://www.actionforhappiness.org/media/625562/kindness_calendar.pdf

Working in Craigmillar, the charity Fresh Start are running a 4 week cooking course at The Venchie Children's and Young Peoples Project, 61 Niddrie Mains Terrace, helping some of the mums gain more confidence in their cooking. The group have been brilliant and really supportive. Last week, they made stir fry and blueberry muffins for all to enjoy. Pictures here: <https://www.facebook.com/ChildrensProject/>. More about the Venchie here <http://venchie.org.uk/> And here's a Fresh Start volunteering opportunity: <http://www.freshstartweb.org.uk/volunteer>

I reported on the Edinburgh Evening News's Lothian Buses People's Champion award a few weeks back. Well, we have a worthy winner by popular vote here: <http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/your-lothian-buses-people-s-champion-is-revealed-1-4622755>

Portobello Amateur Swimming Club (PASC) would like me to express their thanks to everyone who spent their well-earned money and the volunteers who helped out at their Jumble Sale last Saturday in Portobello Town Hall. PASC raised enough funds to run a couple of fun activities for their swimmers and water polo players, all thank to the kindness of the 'Portobello Family'.

How about the 'Edinburgh Family'? The Edinburgh Evening News have a fantastic campaign that We should all get behind: <https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/our-region/edinburgh/edinburgh-cheer-take-the-pledge-and-spread-christmas-cheer-across-the-capital-1-4627026/amp>

Have a lovely weekend and I hope to see you around at one of the very many local events in Portobello and Craigmillar!

Maureen

Councillor Maureen Child | Labour Elected Member | Portobello/Craigmillar (Ward 17) | The City of Edinburgh Council | City Chambers | High Street | Edinburgh | EH1 1YJ | Tel 0131 529 3268 | Mobile 07718 666 481 | Twitter @MaureenChild1 | Facebook Maureen Child for Portobello/Craigmillar



Russell tells businesses: 'We need to talk'



Mike Russell talks to a packed room at Dalhousie Castle about Brexit. Picture Nigel Duncan Media

Local businessmen and women have been urged to make their particular concerns about Brexit known to the Scottish Government.

Mike Russell, the Minister for UK Negotiations for Scotland's place in Europe, told delegates to a Brexit Breakfast that he needs information now while detailed talks are on-going.

The MSP for Argyll and Bute said he was aware that different businesses had different issues.

Overall, he said, there were several key issues moving forward and they related to work and the declining population, funding and regulations.

The MSP conceded that uncertainty over the future was unsettling for business, large and small.

Some large companies were, he said, already taking action to safeguard their future. Small firms, he claimed, are in a more difficult position.

Life, however, goes on and he told the breakfast hosted by Midlothian and East Lothian Chamber of Commerce that his job was to try to find the best solution.

Different business sectors, he argued, would have different issues and Mr Russell, speaking at Dalhousie Castle, Midlothian, detailed an example of the lucrative shellfish industry in his own constituency.

Firms, he said, need to get product quickly, sometimes overnight, to overseas destinations including Paris.

Delays at Borders could pose major difficulties and mean the loss of business.

Even a two minute inspection for every lorry would mean massive queues and goods could perish and he urged anybody with an issue to contact his office at the Scottish Parliament.

Hibs and Hearts join forces to deliver Edinburgh Cheer



Hibs and Hearts have joined forces in a campaign designed to make Edinburgh the Capital of Goodwill over Christmas.

Edinburgh Cheer is supported by the Hibernian FC, Hibernian Community Foundation, Heart of Midlothian FC, through its Big Hearts Foundation, the Edinburgh Evening News and and NHS Lothian through their innovative GameChanger public social partnership.

The two Clubs are hosting and supporting a series of events in their respective communities, with many of those being hosted at Easter Road and Tynecastle Park, all designed to harness of the power of football to deliver positive social outcomes.

In addition, initiatives will be launched to help those in the city – young and old – who are homeless, who are suffering poor mental or physical health, or who are isolated or forgotten at this time of year, with NHS Lothian ensuring that

important well-being messages are delivered as part of the campaign.

The city's public, private and third sectors will come together to back the campaign with the aim of making Edinburgh a more caring and compassionate city.

Full details of the programme will be announced in the next few days, but the campaign will be the first time the major football rivals have co-operated to deliver a civic leadership campaign of this nature. The Campaign has the backing of the Scottish Government's Minister for Public Health and Sport, Aileen Campbell, who said: "It is fantastic to see two of Scotland's biggest clubs, city rivals, coming together to promote such a positive message and to help create such a tremendous spirit at Christmas. Football – our national sport – can be a powerful force for good, and this initiative further highlights the great impact it can have in communities."

Leeann Dempster, Chief Executive of Hibernian FC, said: "We are delighted to be working with Heart of Midlothian to launch this campaign to make Edinburgh the Capital of Goodwill this Christmas, harnessing the power of football to deliver positive benefits. We are also thrilled that so many other organisations have expressed a desire to support the Edinburgh Cheer campaign, and we hope that supporters and all other citizens will sign up to help make Christmas a little kinder for all the people of Edinburgh."

Heart of Midlothian FC Chair Ann Budge said: "The city's two major football clubs coming together to lead this campaign will, we hope, encourage lots of people to get behind us to deliver Edinburgh Cheer this Christmas. While the two clubs are fierce rivals on the pitch, off the pitch we share similar values and a similar determination to use football to create better outcomes for people."

Tim Davison, Chief Executive of NHS Lothian, said: "Football is Scotland's national game, and we know the huge interest there is in the game and the influence that football can have. We are delighted to be working with the clubs on a campaign designed to help the well-being of all the people of Edinburgh, and to work with the Evening News to promote positive health messages."

Details of the full programme will be delivered next week but the campaign, which is being supported by the Edinburgh Evening News, will include the two clubs supporting a range of events at their respective stadia, catering for a wide range of groups including the homeless and socially isolated, people with mental health issues, and dementia sufferers as well as children.

In addition, a number of community organisations are receiving help to host their own Christmas events, either at the stadia or within their local communities.

Hibs annual calendar signing takes place tonight in West Stand



Hibs annual calendar signing takes place tonight in the West Stand (Edinburgh Suite), and supporters have been asked to enter via stair 4 which is located to the side of the main door.

Doors open at 5.30pm, with the event starting at 6pm. Last entry is 7.30pm, with the event ending at 8pm.

The event is strictly ticketed – each ticket will admit two people. Tickets have all been snapped up so there will be no availability on the night.

Fans should note that there will only be time to sign the calendar on the night – supporters will be unable to get additional items signed.

The Clubstore will also be open for those looking to do some Christmas shopping.

Witness appeal following assault and robbery in Pennywell Road



Police are appealing for information after an assault and robbery which took place around 3.10pm on Friday 24 November outside the Day 2 Day store on Pennywell Road.

A 45-year-old man was threatened by two men, one of whom was holding a knife, who demanded his wallet.

The suspects made off with the victim's wallet in the direction of Muirhouse Avenue and officers are now appealing for witnesses to trace those responsible.

Both of the suspects are described as white, between 30-35-years-old, 5ft 10ins tall and of heavy build.

Detective Constable Peter Lyons from Corstorphine CID said: "Fortunately the victim was uninjured as a result but has been

left understandably shaken.

“The area was busy with passing traffic and pedestrians at the time and I am keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident or who knows who is responsible.

“Anyone who recognises the description of the suspects or who has information about the incident is asked to contact police immediately.”

Those with information are asked to contact officers at Corstorphine CID via 101, quoting incident number 2345 of 24 November, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Blackwells book suggestions for winter reading

CRIME: [The Long Drop by Denise Mina](#)



Winner of the 2017 McIlvanney Price for Scottish Crime Book of the Year, Based on true events, The Long Drop is an extraordinarily unsettling, evocative and compelling novel about one December night in 1957, when businessman William Watt meets famous criminal Peter Manuel in a Glasgow bar to find out what he knows about the murder of his family ...

EDINBURGH: [A Sketchbook of Edinburgh](#) by Iain Fraser and Anne Fraser Sim



With a foreword by Alexander McCall Smith and illustrations by Irina Cucu, Cat Outram, Keli Clark and Catherine Simpson Discover Scotland's Capital City in 150 beautiful illustrations and accompanying text – a delight to locals and visitors alike.

BIOGRAPHY: [Into The Mountain : A Life of Nan Shepherd](#) by Charlotte Peacock

✖ The first biography of one of Scotland's best-known writers tells the story of the intensely private woman who, though a highly respected writer in the 1930s, is now best-known for her 1977 masterpiece *The Living Mountain*.

Thanks to access to Nan's archive and her remaining friends and acquaintances, biographer Charlotte Peacock brings this enigmatic writer vividly to life.

SCOTTISH HISTORY: [Telling Scotland's Story](#)



To commemorate its 200th Anniversary, former Scotsman editor Ian Stewart explores the archive and reveals the story of modern Scotland through the eyes of the newspaper.

TRAVEL/HISTORY: [The Hidden Ways](#) by Alastair Moffat



Broadcaster and historian Alistair Moffat invites you along as he explores Scotland's lost roads – down Roman roads tramped by armies, warpaths and pilgrim routes, drove roads and rail roads, turnpikes and even sea roads. Walk down forgotten paths in the footsteps of the Scottish people of the past and rediscover the beauty and magic of the Scottish landscape.

Marvin Bartley raffling memorabilia for Grenfell Tower victims

Hibs' midfielder Marvin Bartley will raffle off several items of sporting memorabilia in the weeks leading up to Christmas in aid of the victims of the tragic Grenfell Tower.

Fans will be able to enter the draw by donating a minimum of £5 towards the [campaign](#).



Photo courtesy of Hibernian FC

Items include autographed boxing gloves from Anthony Joshua, a signed Hibs jersey from the testimonial of Hibs legend Lewis Stevenson and a signed Manchester City jersey, courtesy of on-loan winger Brandon Barker.

Bartley said: "Everyone knows about the fire that happened at Grenfell Tower. For me it's a very touching story. I watched it all on the news and a guy came on who had lost his home and one of his children. It just made me think it could have been any one of us in that position.

"You go to bed thinking everything is fine and you wake up in the morning and your house has gone and you have lost a family member. People's lives there will never be the same and they are still struggling now.

"If life had turned out differently I could have been living in one of the high rise flats as an adult. I'm quite lucky

that I have played football.

“I know someone who actually lived in there through a friend of a friend. It has been difficult, families have been uprooted, kids have had to move schools. It has been such a sad state of affairs.

“A lot of my friends in sport have helped me by signing stuff.

“Harry Arter at Bournemouth has helped, Charlie Austin’s helped me, Kevin Long’s helped me. Brandon Barker here has got me a signed Manchester City shirt and Anthony Joshua has donated signed gloves.

“No-one I asked to sign something said no. Everyone has pulled together. For them it’s a small thing, signing something but if we can auction it and get some money we can make someone else happy. That’s what we are aiming to do.

“I’ll try and go down as close to Christmas as possible. It’s a time of year when people should be happy and this will be the first Christmas since it happened, so I’ll try and help. We are trying to make things better for the kids.

“It’s not too far away from where I grew up. I just wanted to help. If we can make just one person smile who has been affected by this then job done.

You can donate to Marvin Bartley’s campaign [here](#).

Five things you need to know

today



- **Portobello & Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership**
- **Murrayfield Community Council**
- **Daughters of Penelope talk**
- **Avengers**
- **Edinburgh's Hogmanay**

Portobello & Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership are giving local people the power to decide how £21,737 of Community Grants will be spent .

Local groups with a good idea about an event or a project that will benefit the ir community should bid now . Applications will close on 27 December 2017.

There are two options available. Groups can bid for up to £1,500 or make a smaller bid of up to £500, for example, to buy a piece of equipment the group needs . Groups who apply for the higher amount should note that a member of t he group must attend the voting event on Saturday 3 February, for their bid to be included.

The aim is to give local people a chance to speak to projects and find out more about what they are planning to do , before they vote.

On Saturday 3 February, young and old across the area will vote for the work they want to see delivered. The groups who win the most votes will be awarded the money.

This time, the voting will take place in the East Neighbourhood Centre , 101 Niddrie Mains Road, from 1 pm – 3 pm. Young people from Portobello who are aged 16 and under , will be able vote on the same day in Portobello Library.

We want to encourage people to turn up, see what's on offer

and to find out what groups are hoping to do in the area.

Information is available on the Partnership website [here](#).

Murrayfield Community Council will next meet on 5 December 2017, and as part of their meeting there will be a public exhibition of the draft designs for proposed changes to the street layout on Murrayfield Avenue, Murrayfield Place and the old Coltbridge.



Loading...



Taking too long?



Reload document

|  [Open in new tab](#)

[Download \[162.00 B\]](#)



[Lunchtime Artist Talk: Julie Brook](#)

Wednesday 20 December 1-2pm

£6/£4 concession

[Book tickets here](#)

Long-time Dovecot collaborator, and [Daughters of Penelope](#) artist, Julie Brook takes us on a journey from Namibia to Japan via Dovecot. Telling the story of her rug collaboration with Dovecot, through the realms and environments she explores in her artistic practice, to her most recent collaborations and research in Japan. In particular, Brook is going to focus on the work of 15th-generation Raku tea-bowl maker, artist and craftsman Raku Kichizaemon.

The nineteenth film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, **Avengers: Infinity War** is a sequel to 2012's **The Avengers** (the fifth highest grossing film of all time) and 2015's **Avengers: Age of Ultron** (the seventh highest grossing film of all time). The ensemble sees the Avengers (which includes Iron Man, Hulk, Captain America, Thor, and Black Widow) team up with the Guardians of the Galaxy to battle supervillain, Thanos. One of the world's biggest and beloved movie franchises, Avengers: Infinity War stars Robert Downey Jr, Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth, Scarlett Johansson, Mark Ruffalo, Anthony Mackie, Jeremy Renner, Elizabeth Olsen and Paul Bettany.

Filmed partly on location in Edinburgh over seven weeks, **Avengers: Infinity War** was the largest and most complex shoot ever to film in Edinburgh's historic Old Town and city centre. The production saw over 400 crew members working on the shoot, following three months of pre-production and several months of preparation in advance of this, working closely with Film Edinburgh and the City of Edinburgh Council. In total the production generated an estimated £10 million plus for the

city region in economic impact.

Here is the trailer!

Christmas is just around the corner and will be closely followed by Edinburgh's Hogmanay which begins on 30 December.

Here are the key events :

- **Torchlight Procession:** 30 December 7pm
- **Bairns Afore:** 31 December 5pm
- **Street Party:** 31 December 7pm
- **Ceilidh under the Castle with Edinburgh Gin:** 31 December 8pm
- **Concert in the Gardens:** 31 December 8pm
- **Loony Dook:** 1 January 10.30am
- **Message From The Skies:** 1-25 January, 5.30pm onwards

The organisers of Edinburgh's Hogmanay have been criticised for seeking out volunteers to help with the safe running of the event this year.

The page on Edinburgh's Hogmanay website where volunteer positions are still being advertised is [here](#).

[Alastair Grant's article](#) in yesterday's print edition of The Herald said that the volunteers would get reasonable expenses and a personalised certificate.

What do you think? Would you apply?

The Edinburgh Reporter meets Charles Graham-Campbell of Bonhams

Charles Graham-Campbell is the newly appointed Managing Director at Bonhams Scotland, succeeding Miranda Leslie in the position who is off to pursue new projects after ten years in charge.

Charles has been Head of Bonhams Valuations team in Scotland for the past 13 years and is a member of the company's UK Board. He has conducted valuations the length and breadth of Scotland and the North of England and is well known as a charity auctioneer in Scotland.

The many outstanding pieces he has uncovered include a yellow jade carving of a tapir from the reign of the Qianlong Emperor which sold in Hong Kong in 2016 for HK\$2,700,000; a pale green jade figure of Buddha which made £482,500 in London in 2014; a painting by William Scott which sold for £197,000 in London in 2016, and a 1923 Bentley that has been in the same family since 1954 and which made £150,000 at the Important Motor Cars sale at Brooklands in 2010.

Born and raised in the Highlands of Scotland Charles first qualified as a Chartered Surveyor.

Bonhams Global CEO Matthew Girling said, "I know Charles will bring to the job of Managing Director, all the qualities of leadership and sound judgement that have made him such a valued member of the Bonhams team in Scotland. I would also like to thank Miranda Leslie for the way in which she has given such a firm foothold to Bonhams in Scotland. She leaves behind a wonderful legacy."



Charles Graham-Campbell took over as Managing Director of Bonhams Scotland in September 2017

The Edinburgh Reporter spoke to Charles in the auction room on Queen Street.

He told us : “I have been at Bonhams now for 13 or 14 years nearly. I have always worked in the auctioneering or valuing business. I suppose I started at college studying auctioneering and valuing, fine arts and became a sort of chartered surveyor on the antiques side of things and then joined a small firm and then worked for another international auction house based in Scotland – who are no longer based here and now work for Bonhams.

“And now I am running Bonhams, that’s right. I don’t necessarily want to give up my day job of doing valuations, but yes, there is a lot more that I have to think about now. I am responsible for 25 people here on Queen Street where we are based and I am the one looking after them.

“I am also working with colleagues who are in London and literally around the world, having meetings with them and talking to them about paintings or whatever it is we are selling and working with.”

Bonhams in Edinburgh is a big auction presence in the city with lots of sales scheduled between now and the end of the year.

Charles explained : “Yes it will be busy for a while now and then it will quieten down for Christmas.”



Martin Green checks on the contents before the Bonhams Whisky Sale on 4 October 2017

We asked if shows like the Antiques Roadshow have made people feel as if they know a lot about antiques.

Charles replied : “Yes but people now like to collect certain things. They are far more educated now than they ever used to be when I first started in this business 25 or 30 years ago. Then, yes you used to watch the Antiques Roadshow on a Sunday just so that you knew what people were going to bring in on the Monday!

“It was rather a fun way of doing business but that’s what used to happen. You would get queues round the block for teddies or toys or other unusual little bits and pieces, but now I think people are generally aware. We have information at our fingertips and it’s so easy now to know what a bottle of wine is worth or a fishing reel – maybe not a diamond as you probably need a bit of expertise to tell you about that and that’s why you come to specialist valuers and auctioneers to get the complete picture.

“With the Antiques Roadshow a lot of my colleagues are the specialists on the show, and we see them on a Sunday evening. We also have colleagues here in Scotland who do valuation days and also some of our specialists from elsewhere come here to put on a special valuation day. Coins arms and armour, books we will have a valuation day for it!

“We are an international auction house and will be happy to sell anything that moves just about in a house. Also things that are not in a house – motor cars are a big part of our business at Bonhams. We sell a lot of cars.

“We are open 9 till 5 and being an auction house we are open to the public. We love them to come in and bring their items of jewellery or whatever, and of course for bigger items we will go out and see them at their houses. My job has been very much in other people’s houses valuing their possessions. We can then put them in touch with the right place to sell their items

“I sent a small little piece of jade over to Hong Kong to be

sold and that was sold for the price of a flat in Edinburgh!



Clementine (4½) shows that you will need a bit of room for Twaig if you want to take him home. Twaig was sold at Bonhams Edinburgh in October 2017.

Charles reflected on the way auction houses have had to adapt by introducing technology on the floor so that bids can come in from all four corners of the globe. He said : “I thought that going into a business like this that it would never change.

“They always say that your job will change unbelievably through your lifetime and I wondered how this could happen with antiques. I have to say that the modern information technology world that we live in has really really changed it.

“Ten years we didn’t have whisky sales. We now have these and last year we sold a bottle for £68,500! That is a huge amount of money.

“Then we sell watches – they are going through the roof at the moment with people loving these sort of things.

“Paintings are not quite so popular at the moment though some will come back in value.

“People will always collect things. It’s in human nature to collect things.

Now with the internet you can now be at the other side of the world and bid live in an auction. You can see the auctioneer up there on the rostrum with his gavel. You can hear him and you can press a button at home in Sydney or Vancouver or wherever you happen to be in the world. We have a lot of buyers in China now. That is a growing market, and we expect bidders to come from Delhi very soon in large numbers. So we

have to be ready for this.

“People know about their subject. If they have collected paintings by a certain artist then they will know a lot about that person, and they will be very very keen to bid on those particular pieces.

“We also have Asian sales in Scotland with Japanese and Chinese items in them. The Far East has often been a rich seam for us as Europeans have travelled to the Far East for centuries, bought things and brought them back and now Asians are buying some of their heritage back again.”

One senses that Charles is much more hands on than his position might allow in future. But his first love is really conducting the auction it seems.

He concludes : “I am often up there on the rostrum conducting sales. It is my business and my life. I started selling some very humble pieces at a country roup and have sold some priceless objects on this rostrum and other places too.”

And we think he rather likes it up there!

List of Bonhams Edinburgh Sales Autumn 2017:

Sale Name	Date	Specialist
Asian Art	5 December	Ian Glennie
Whisky	6 December	Martin Green

Stair cleaners climb Mt Everest every three weeks

A subsidiary company of Port of Leith Housing Association which deals with stair cleaning and estate management has just celebrated its first year.



Quay Community Improvements has chalked up an impressive list of achievements including growing the team of the Scottish Living Wage accredited employer from seven to 18 people.

In its first year Quay has generated over £300,000 income from its work, with customers reporting improved quality of service since switching to the company.

As a Community Interest Company, Quay's profits will be ploughed back into regenerating Leith and nearby neighbourhoods through community initiatives focusing on social, economic and physical improvements.

The busy team cleans 231 stairwells every week, which is the equivalent of climbing Ben Nevis every three days and Mount Everest every three weeks. The team also uses 'new to market' eco-friendly products, and is one of the few companies in the UK to do so.

David Welsh, Chair of the Quay Community Improvements Board, said: "We are thrilled that Quay is going from strength to strength and we're excited about the difference it will make to communities in Leith and north Edinburgh. In its first year alone, the team has grown from seven to 18 staff, creating

good quality Scottish Living Wage jobs.”

Photo by Neil Hanna Photography

www.neilhannaphotography.co.uk

t 07702 246823

Lothian are Top City Operator

Lothian who run our much-loved bus service has been recognised with another award, this time as Top City Operator and Sustained Marketing Excellence where it won two silver gongs.



The UK Bus Awards are regarded as the top industry honours and are designed to recognise innovation, excellence and progress across all areas.

Richard Hall, Managing Director of Lothian, said: “We are delighted to take the Silver award in both the ‘Top City Operator’ and ‘Environmental’ categories at the UK Bus Awards.

“This recognition is testament to the boundless hard work and dedication of all our staff from across the business, along with the vision that the whole team has to evolve our bus and transport provision for our customers to ensure that we constantly improve our offering and are fit for the future.

“We look forward to another year committed to improving and investing in our services, people, technology and fleet for the benefit of the hundreds of thousands of customers we serve every day across Edinburgh and the Lothians.”

Lothian has enjoyed other award wins in recent years,

including Excellence in Travel Information and Marketing award at the 2017 National Transport Awards for its outstanding work on East Coast Buses, Operator of the Year at the 2016 Scottish Transport Awards and the Transport Award at the 2016 VIBES awards.

Photo ©Wullie Marr Photography

Things to do on St Andrew's Day



Go to one of the newest restaurants in town – there are plenty to choose from.

Every oyster is £1 from Monday to Thursday 4-6pm at the White Horse Oyster and Seafood Bar....

Love oysters?!? Every Monday – Thursday, 4-6pm you can enjoy our deliciously fresh selection for only £1 each [#buckashuck pic.twitter.com/Hp0ATtj9oI](https://pic.twitter.com/Hp0ATtj9oI)

– White Horse Oyster (@WhiteHorseEdin) [November 21, 2017](#)

Here Caroline from Edinburgh Foody has her say on what she liked about it.

Caroline went to [@WhiteHorseEdin](#) for the [#whitehorselaunch](#). Was she impressed? Yes. Would she recommend it? Yes! Read the review: <https://t.co/deSP4p1pkC> pic.twitter.com/95fizzlELC

– Edinburgh Foody (@EdinburghFoody) [November 27, 2017](#)

30 November 2017 at 7:30pm Scottish Chamber Orchestra
Christmas Oratorio at The Queen's Hall

JS Bach: Christmas Oratorio Parts 1, 2, 3 *sung in German*

Jonathan Cohen: conductor/harpsichord; Soraya Mafi: soprano;
Paula Murrihy: mezzo soprano; Samuel Boden: tenor
(Evangelist); Neal Davies: bass baritone; SCO Chorus; Gregory
Batsleer: chorus director

Picture nativity scenes by a great master, a Breughel or a Botticelli: landscapes filled with angels, people and animals; colour, movement, human touches and tiny incidental details all animated and elevated to a higher level by the mystery of the Holy Child at the heart of the scene. This is what Bach translates into such personal and colourful music in his Christmas Oratorio – a lavish sequence of choruses and arias featuring wonderful solos for the instrumentalists. Outstanding soloists under the direction of Jonathan Cohen, himself one of Britain's finest young interpreters of Bach, promise an exceptional evening.

PRE-CONCERT INSIGHTS: 6.30pm Dr John Kitchen (City of Edinburgh Organist) discusses Bach's Christmas Oratorio.

[Tickets here.](#)



The day has been celebrated in Scotland for over a thousand years but it was only in 1320 when Scotland's independence was declared that this strong, friendly and giving man. officially became our patron saint.

If you hop on one of the Edinburgh Bus Tours this week the guides on the Edinburgh Tour will be able to tell you more about him.

Find out which of the [tour tickets](#) works best for you.

All the marketing companies in Edinburgh and beyond will no doubt have a table at the 'must attend' event on Thursday night at Mansfield Traquair.

The Marketing Society are holding their 13th St Andrew's Day Dinner with Ruby Wax OBE as guest speaker

[Tickets here](#)

At the Voodoo Rooms they have the Faroese musician EIVOR

Thursday 30th Nov: EIVOR from 7.30pm in The Ballroom. Advance tickets £14 stbf from See Tickets. Over 18 only.

[@EivorP pic.twitter.com/c2ulm0kU9l](https://t.co/Kb9mKhIwWG)

– Voodoo Rooms (@voodoorooms) [November 27, 2017](#)

The fabulously talented Worbey and Farrell take to the stage at the Usher Hall. [Tickets here.](#)

Worbey & Farrell are internationally acclaimed concert pianists with a wicked sense of humour. The Edinburgh-based duo have performed in over 150 countries and achieved millions of hits on YouTube with their utterly sensational piano playing and barnstorming blend of sparky humour.

We met them after a Fringe show and got them to 'pretend play' our pretend piano....they are hugely entertaining.

MP blogs – Christine Jardine MP

by Christine Jardine Liberal Democrat MP for Edinburgh West.

It has been quite a first six months for Christine.



There has been no shortage of issues to tackle either here in the constituency or down at Westminster.

One of the biggest at Westminster has been State Pension Inequality for women born in the 1950s. Indeed the so-called WASPI women issue affects thousands of women across the country, and I am now co-sponsor of a bill, tabled by an All Party Group, calling for an urgent review of the implementation of pension changes and the cost of compensation.

It's an issue I care deeply about and will also be raising at my party's autumn conference with my colleague Alex Cole-Hamilton. None of us disputes that the demographic changes we face demand we look again at retirement ages designed for a very different age.

But the incompetent and thoughtless way that pension changes for women born in the 1950s were implemented was simply unacceptable.

In terms of issues at home there have been many, the Scottish Water roadworks in various areas, problems with anti-social behaviour by youngsters and the continuing issues with GP

shortages and the NHS generally across Edinburgh West.

Many of you have written, come to my regular surgeries or popped into the office at 125a St John's Road to draw these to my attention.

In most cases we have worked with either MSP Alex Cole-Hamilton or your local Lib Dem councillors to find a solution. but there have also been many which demanded direct representations to the Home Office or Department of Work and Pensions.

However one issue stands out: the Edinburgh Airport flightpath proposals.

This issue has caused major concerns for residents in both Cramond and South Queensferry.

Since the process began I have had regular meetings on the issue with Cramond residents and was in South Queensferry to hear how the prospect of flights over that community for the first time is raising fears over noise and pollution.

I have made representations to the airport, the Civil Aviation Authority and to the National Air Traffic Service against the proposals in behalf in the communities and we are all now waiting on a decision from the CAA.

Speedway – Summers signs for

Berwick



Aaron Summers has left Glasgow on loan to join Berwick. Picture by Ian Adam

Aaron Summers has been confirmed as Berwick Bandits first signing for next season.

The 29-year-old Aussie racer joins on loan from parent club Glasgow Tigers where he was club captain.

Scott Courtney, one of Bandits owners, said Shielfield Park is a track Summers rides well.

And Berwick bosses are looking forward to seeing the former Edinburgh Monarchs racer spearhead the new Bandits line-up.

Courtney added: "Everyone at the club is excited to welcome Aaron onboard for 2018.

"He ticks all the boxes for us he's a great team man, ultimate professional and a big point scorer.

"He's haunted us a few too many times in Glasgow colours and to have secured his services for the Bandits is something we are very pleased about.

"Aaron is based locally and that only adds to positive influence he will have at the club."

Ice hockey – Capitals let slip a lead then hit the skids



Action from Murrayfield against Cardiff Devils. Picture by Ian Coyle

Elite League: Dundee Stars 2, Sheffield Steelers 7; Edinburgh Capitals 3, Cardiff Devils 5.

Edinburgh Capitals led 2-0 thanks to a neatly-worked goal Mike Cazzola after 24 seconds and a second from Igor Valeyev nine minutes later at Murrayfield.

But Cardiff then claimed four straight goals in 11 second period minutes to take charge.

Indeed, three of the strikes came in just over two minutes deep in the period.

It was Matt Pope who sparked the comeback with a strike after 24 minutes and he netted again after 33 minutes for the Elite League champions.

Patrick Asselin popped in the go-ahead goal 36 seconds after that and former Dundee Stars player Justin Faryna scored the fourth just over a minute later.

Callum Boyd pulled one back with a breakaway goal after 43 points but Drew Paris completed the scoring two minutes later to seal the win.

Capitals are stranded at the bottom of the 12-strong table on six points from 19 fixtures.

On Tayside, Levi Nelson claimed a double as Sheffield Steelers

continued their dominance of Dundee Stars so far this season.

The play-off champions led 6-0 after 43 minutes following goals from Robert Dowd, Mark Matheson, Tim Wallace and Colton Fretter plus Nelson's double.

Malcolm Gould opened Dundee's account after 46 minutes and Joey de Concilys claimed their second two minutes later but John Armstrong completed the scoring with 1min 22sec left to made it a disappointing night for home fans in a 7-2 defeat.

Sheffield are now third but second-bottom Dundee have 13 points from 19 games and are six behind tenth-placed Coventry Blaze and Braehead Clan who both have 19 points.

Scotland's universities welcome India: Deputy First Minister to lead India mission

From 2 – 5 December 2017, a delegation of 21 senior leaders from Scotland's higher education sector will accompany Scotland's Deputy First Minister John Swinney on an official visit to India.



Deputy First Minister John Swinney MSP

The delegation will join the Scottish Government, Scottish Development International and the British Council as they meet with key Indian government officials, education policymakers and business leaders. They will share the message that 'Scotland's universities welcome

India' and demonstrate Scotland's reputation for excellence in research, innovation and learning.

To deepen existing relationships and build new partnerships with the higher

education sector and key industries in India, a joint-programme of events hosted by 11 of Scotland's universities and the Scottish Government will be presented in Mumbai and Delhi.

The programme will include an alumni event for recent graduates and business

leaders who have studied in Scottish universities or worked in collaboration with them, a research and innovation seminar to showcase incredible international

partnership projects between Scotland and India, and a traditional St Andrew's Day reception to celebrate Scottish culture.

There are currently over 1,300 Indian students studying in Scotland and the

delegation will celebrate the excellent quality of Indian students at under-graduate and post-graduate levels in Scottish universities. During the trip, Scottish universities will promote scholarship opportunities for Indian students studying in Scotland and reinforce their commitment to welcoming excellent scholars.

Higher education institutes in Scotland already have over 70 collaborations with India, including student exchange programmes, research partnerships and joint-courses. To highlight opportunities for partnership and collaboration between Scotland and India, delegates will discuss world-leading research projects on topics including the security of water and food, health and medical technologies, big data and future cities.

A wide range of partnerships and collaborations will be showcased by the delegation.

This will include projects such as:

- Urban transformation studies from the University of Glasgow's Urban Big Data Centre to improve planning and development of cities in India
- Heriot-Watt University's research on technology to deliver arsenic-free water to affected communities in India and Abertay University's work on sustainable urban drainage systems
- A sustainable fashion show hosted in Mumbai by the University of the West of Scotland (UWS) with Glasgow Kelvin College, Renfrewshire Council and Glasgow Caledonian University

Professor Richard A. Williams, Principal at Heriot-Watt University and Convener of Universities Scotland's International Committee at Universities Scotland said : "Scottish universities are celebrating their long-standing connections with India in this visit and are united in their warm welcome to students, universities and business partners.

"Our internationally recognised excellence in pioneering education and research is especially relevant as India and UK adopt new medical and energy technologies and policies underpinned by our modern digital lifestyles. To mark the visit, we are also pleased to present a wide range of scholarships opportunities for students. Scotland's universities are passionate about our partnership with India."

The India higher education mission is part a global campaign called 'Scotland's universities welcome the world' which celebrates the diversity and inclusivity of Scottish universities. It is backed by all 19 higher education institutions across Scotland, which are already home to over 180 different nationalities among their students and staff.

More information [here](#). Check out the hashtag #ScotlandwelcomesIndia

Piershill Branch of Bank of Scotland to close

The Bank of Scotland branch at Wolseley Place in Piershill will close on 6 March 2018.



The bank explains that it has been a difficult decision but customers are not using the branch as often as they once did. There is also another branch in Portobello and customers use what they describe as 'alternative ways to bank' by which they refer to internet banking and the Bank's mobile banking app.

The bank has analysed the age range of its customers using the branch and has discovered that the largest proportions are between 25-64 and the over 75 range. Only 9% are business customers, and around 80% already use another branch in addition to Piershill.

Other branches at Goldenacre and North Morningside have already closed this year.

More information [here](#).

Dr Elsie Inglis commemorated

It is one hundred years ago today since the funeral of Dr Elsie Inglis was held in Edinburgh.



Acting Pilot Officer Lily Chubb, Sergeant Catherine Pounder and Petty Officer Naval Nurse Sean Carruthers, wreath bearers at today's service, with HRH The Princess Royal and Reverend Calum MacLeod

Earlier The Princess Royal and The First Minister the Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon attended a thanksgiving service at St Giles Cathedral to mark the centenary at exactly the same time as the funeral. HRH laid a commemorative wreath and gave a reading. They were joined by Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs Fiona Hyslop and Lord Lieutenant

of the City of Edinburgh the Rt Hon Frank Ross.

Dr Inglis set up the Scottish Women's Hospitals during WW1

Officials from some of the nations where Elsie set up hospitals were at the service including France, Serbia and Romania, along with a number of Elsie's descendants and Members of the Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland



The Military Band of The Royal Regiment of Scotland marched down from the Castle Esplanade to perform in West Parliament Square, outside St Giles Cathedral, before the arrival of HRH The Princess Royal.

Army nurse Sergeant Catherine Pounder handed the wreath to HRH to lay at the Dr Elsie Inglis plaque within the Cathedral before the service conducted by Reverend Calum MacLeod.

Readings were given by BBC News Health Editor Hugh Pym, Chief Medical Officer for Scotland Dr Catherine Calderwood, Dr Lesley Orr from Edinburgh University's School of Divinity and descendants of Dr Elsie Inglis, Hugh Maddox (great nephew) and Patricia Purdom (great, great, great niece).



HRH The Princess Royal speaks with Geraldine Inglis, great great niece of Dr Elsie Inglis and the last family member to bear the Inglis surname

During her life, Elsie made a remarkable contribution to both the allied WW1 effort and the women's suffrage movement.

She regarded Britain's entry into the war as an opportunity for women to play their part but was unable to serve Britain on the front line herself due to restrictions on where women doctors could serve.

Instead she offered her services to Britain's allies leading to the formation of the Scottish Women's Hospitals. In total, seventeen Scottish Women's Hospitals and a number of satellite hospitals and dressing stations were set up across Europe, to treat soldiers and sometimes civilians. Of the near 1,500 personnel, only around 20 were men.

The Scottish Women's Hospitals served the war effort from 1914 to 1919 and were not formally disbanded until 1925. A vigorous campaigner for votes for women, by this cause she also knew she would demonstrate the capabilities of women while doing her bit for the war effort.



Acting Pilot Officer Lily Chubb, Sergeant Catherine Pounder and Petty Officer Naval Nurse Sean Carruthers, wreath bearers at today's service

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, commented: "Elsie Inglis was a remarkable woman and it is right 100 years on that we reflect on her remarkable achievements. A powerful role model for women today she was undeterred by the restraints of society and social norms and she ploughed ahead with her vision to provide medical services during World War One.

"She used her skills to demonstrate what women are capable of, helping women win the vote while looking after men on the frontline. And she helped look after both the prosperous and the poor in Edinburgh.

"As we work to fix social injustices and ensure equality today, we should reflect on what has been achieved in the 100 years since Elsie's death. And we should celebrate the role that she, and the women who served with her in the Scottish Women's Hospitals, achieved for us today."

Descendant Patricia Purdom, said: "I am tremendously proud of Elsie Inglis and her achievements, and I am delighted that her

memory is being recognised through these services. I would have loved to have met her and heard her stories first-hand. I remembered my father recalling her remarkable achievements when we would look through the family album and I'm very privileged to still have these photos today."

For further information please visit ww100scotland.com.

Photos courtesy of Lenny Warren / Warren Media

07860 830050 01355 229700

lenny@warrenmedia.co.uk

www.warrenmedia.co.uk

University rename Medical School courtyard in honour of Elsie Inglis

A medical pioneer who saved countless soldiers' lives has been honoured by her former university 100 years after her death.



The University of Edinburgh's Old Medical School courtyard is to be renamed in memory of the trailblazing doctor Elsie Inglis, who was one of Edinburgh's first women graduates.

The announcement was made by the University's Chancellor, Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, during a visit to Edinburgh today.

A plaque highlighting the square's revised name – the Dr Elsie

Inglis Quadrangle – has been unveiled.

Dr Inglis is credited with saving thousands of lives after founding 17 Scottish Women's Hospitals across Europe during the First World War. She also established a medical college for women and a maternity hospital for poor mothers in Edinburgh.

The Edinburgh-raised doctor and suffragette died in November 1917 after returning to Britain from Russia where she had been treating wounded Serbian and Russian soldiers.

After her death, Winston Churchill was quoted as saying that Dr Inglis and her medical staff "will shine in history".

University of Edinburgh Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, has welcomed the news: "I am very pleased to be marking the centenary of the death of one of our most inspirational alumni. Naming our historic quadrangle after Dr Inglis is a fitting reminder of her remarkable achievements and lasting legacy."

Edinburgh cancer specialist working to improve child cancer services in Ghana

Tim Eden who is a cancer specialist based in the capital will go back to Ghana soon, working to improve cancer services for children there. Previously the President of the International Society of Paediatric Oncologists, Tim worked at the Sick Kids before retiring.



He will be in Ghana at the same time as the World Child Cancer's Stop the Childhood Cancer Clock campaign which aims to highlight childhood cancer in developing countries. Find out more about how to donate to the cause [here](#).

To support the campaign, WCC patron and Outlander star Caitriona Balfe is also offering a fan the chance to visit the set in Glasgow. Fans of the show simply need to make a donation to World Child Cancer [here](#) where they will then be entered into a draw.

Although children in the developed world have an 80% chance of survival, it is as low as 10% in developing countries. The charity claims that the cost of treating a child with cancer in the UK is £100,000 but in Malawi it can be as little as £500.

All donations made throughout the appeal will be doubled by the UK Government's UK [Aid Match](#) until 18 December 2017.



Tim said "There is clearly a lot more to do but all our volunteers, no matter what their profession, have become incredible champions of the cause. All of us are so impressed by the amazing progress achieved in all the countries where we work despite limited resources. Our Hippocratic Oath as doctors states "first do no harm" and we should do the best for all children no matter where they live."

Tim also encouraged other medical experts in his community to get involved. "We in the UK benefit from the NHS and medical care is there for all who need it and this must be the ultimate goal in each country. Volunteering our help as professionals is very rewarding and giving money no matter how small to help the cause is so also. Ignoring the plight of children, the "future of our planet" is very short-sighted"

World Child Cancer programmes run in some of the poorest places in the world. Last year the charity helped over 5,500 children but, they say that with an estimated 200,000 unnecessary deaths each year, there is so much more that needs to be done.

John Rosser, CEO of World Child Cancer says: "World Child Cancer aims to address this issue through sustainable solutions, which increase awareness of childhood cancer, reduce misdiagnosis and support families that are being pushed further into poverty due to all the costs they have to bear."

World Child Cancer builds partnerships between doctors and nurses at hospitals in the developed world who provide training and mentoring for doctors in developing countries. It also helps with transport, food and accommodation costs to meet the wider needs of families who have a child with cancer.