

More houses released in Muirhouse

Springfield Properties have handed over six more homes at their affordable housing development in Muirhouse, bringing the total number of occupied homes to 132, one step closer to their 202 house target.



Springfield Properties have teamed up with leading social housing providers in Edinburgh, Dunedin Canmore, part of the Wheatly Group, to deliver the planned 202 homes in Muirhouse, addressing the affordable housing shortage in the area.

The newest additions to this total are the six two bedroom terrace homes which can be easily converted into three bedroomed homes should a family require it.



Each home has been built to silver sustainability meaning it is highly energy efficient and in turn, keeps running costs of the home low. They are fitted with Air Source Heat Pumps which are classed as a renewable energy source because of their efficiency. This state of the art technology paired with smart meters allows customers to keep on top of their energy usage.

Managing Director of affordable housing at Springfield, Tom Leggeat has said: “Muirhouse is an area that has been crying out for regeneration for many years. The Muirhouses shopping centre, only a few minutes walk from our development, has recently had planning approved for a face lift as part of the £150 million investment of the Muirhouse and Pennywell areas –

one of the largest improvement projects in Scotland. This alone is set to sustain approximately 500 jobs in the area. Our development is feeding into this revamp having created over 100 local jobs to date.

“Springfield started construction back in 2013 on the former BT Training Centre site in Muirhouse and are on target to hand over the last of the 202 homes, completing the project worth nearly £23 million, early next year.”

Dunedin Canmore Managing Director Hazel Young said: “We’re really excited to play our part in the regeneration of Muirhouse. It’s great to see these new energy efficient homes completed. The new houses and flats will make a significant difference to the community.”

“I look forward to seeing more homes completed as we work with our partners to tackle the acute shortage of affordable housing in Edinburgh.”

Charity event to be held at the Eric Liddell Centre

The Eric Liddell Centre, one of Edinburgh’s care charities and community hubs, is hosting a Tots Togs summer event to raise funds for the centre.



Taking place on Tuesday 25 July from 10am-3pm, good quality donated children's clothes will be on sale at reduced prices.

There will be sunhats from 50p, swimwear from £1, shorts and t-shirts from £1 and sundresses from £2.

John MacMillan, CEO of the Eric Liddell Centre, said: "We are delighted to be hosting this summer event for children. We can't say thanks enough to everyone who has already donated, as it helps us to continue to provide services at the centre, and it also gives the community the chance to buy good quality clothes at a great price.

"I look forward to welcoming lots of parents and carers along at the event as there are some fantastic bargains on offer and also welcome new visitors to see what we have to offer here at the centre."

All profits from the event will go straight back to the centre which supports an average of 2,000 weekly visitors to a wide range of community based activities.

The Eric Liddell centre also specialises in care for the elderly and dementia services as well as a person-centred day care service to 70 clients per week with dementia.

Apprentices at work on the

City Observatory

Apprentices from St Mary's Cathedral Workshop have been working to restore the masonry on the roof of Edinburgh's City Observatory on Calton Hill. Designed by William Henry Playfair in 1818, the City Observatory is the birthplace of astronomy and timekeeping in Edinburgh.

Playfair was born on this day, 15 July, 1790, and would go on to design many of Edinburgh's iconic New Town buildings, including the National Gallery of Scotland and the Royal Scottish Academy.



Apprentice Stonemasons Restore City Observatory on Playfair's Birthday
Acting Foreman Jordan Kirk (right) with apprentice Ben Fairgrieve, Lewis Docker and Henry Edwards restore the masonry on the roof of the Observatory.

The Observatory has been redundant and on the Buildings at Risk Register for a number of years. Early in 2018, art organisation Collective will re-open the site as their new home. The building will be freely open to the public for the first time in its history.



Acting Foreman Jordan Kirk (right) with apprentice Ben Fairgrieve inspect the Observatory roof.

Photos by Neil Hanna Photography

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Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival 2017 begins today

Jazz was born in New Orleans in 1917 and now 100 years later in 2017, Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival will celebrate the jazz legacy of the city with two weeks of jazz which begins today.

On Sunday you can look forward to the Carnival which starts at 2.30pm from The Mound and travels west to Princes Street at the West End. There will be over 800 carnival performers with music dance and very ornate costumes.



Over 30 musicians from New Orleans will be crossing the pond to Edinburgh from funksters like Dumpstaphunk and Hot 8 Brass Band to singers like Ingrid Lucia to modern jazz masters like David L Harris to traditional jazz exponents like New Orleans Swamp Donkeys who were in Princes Street Gardens earlier.



Most come together in the New Orleans Classic Big Band – a joyous celebration of 100 Years of Jazz, and New Orleans jazz on Wednesday 19th July at Festival Theatre in the Festival's Jazz Centenary Gala Concert.



Jazz 100: celebrates the centenary of the first ever jazz

recording in 1917,. The programme is supported by the Scottish Government's Expo Fund with concerts covering the entire history of the music spread throughout the Festival.

The Festival is also supported by The City of Edinburgh Council and Creative Scotland

[Full programme details here.](#)

Photos by Jon Savage Photography

www.jonsavagephotography.com

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Ice hockey – fans favourite Cingel lands national job



Martin Cingel, now an assistant coach to Great Britain under-18

Edinburgh Capitals' Scottish National League player/coach Martin Cingel now has a national role.

The 41-year-old, Slovaian-born forward, who also played for Dundee Stars, Manchester Phoenix and Solway Sharks, has been appointed as an assistant coach to Great Britain's under-18 squad.

Cingel joined the Great Britain under-18 coaching staff for last year's World Championship in Korea and he now links up with the national side's new head coach, Jeff Hutchins, whom he played with at Edinburgh and Dundee.

He said: "I know Jeff (Hutchins) from my playing days and I am sure that with Sean Easton as another assistant coach we can create a good team."

Edinburgh-born Tony Hand, Ice Hockey UK's national development head coach, said: "We are excited about these two appointments."

"Martin was very impressive in Korea with the under-18s earlier this year and Sean worked very well with the under-16s."

"This completes our under-18 coaching staff and we are confident that, alongside Jeff Hutchins, we have a strong trio for the future."

Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2017 – Tamar Broadbent : Get Ugly

Did you know that when you go through a break-up you become 25% uglier? Newly single and living in a trendy part of town, Tamar is nervous about leaving the house. How do you become a strong, independent woman when your confidence deserts you and you're too busy dodging hipsters, envying gym girls and just trying to keep your body hair under control?

Fresh from a five-star sell-out run in 2016 and a Best Comedy Award-nominated tour in Australia earlier this year, Tamar returns with Get Ugly, a musical comedy about re-discovering your awesome-ness and embracing life without a filter.



Best known for her hilarious, catchy songs about single life in your twenties, Tamar's take on female self-confidence has to be seen. With stories about weird Tinder dates and STD checks, as well as sticking up for the people you care about, Get Ugly guarantees to be an electric musical experience. With an upbeat, celebratory message about strength and independence, Tamar's audiences always leave the room on a high!

Tamar says; "This show is about learning how to value yourself again after someone has made you feel like nothing. I've been to Australia and back with it and the audience response has been overwhelming. We've all been through heartbreaks, and Get Ugly celebrates how sometimes you have to get 25% uglier to realise you are 100% awesome."

Get Ugly was hidden away on the Free Fringe in 2016 but now Jimmy Jewell brings it into the bright lights at Underbelly for the Edinburgh Fringe.

***Underbelly Med Quad (Clover), Teviot Place, Edinburgh,
EH8 9AG***

Wednesday 2nd – Monday 28th August 2017 (not 14th), 17:30

Tickets [here](#).

Where is our City Region Deal now?

Will we have a City Region Deal by this time next week? The Council Leader Adam McVey is certainly hopeful of a heads of

terms within days.

We spoke to him at the City Chambers and he is still hopeful of agreement soon. Watch a video of this interview below.



“It is imminent. The negotiations between the Scottish Government and the UK Government are still ongoing as we speak.

“They are coming up with an overall envelope of an offer to the region and then we as a council along with our other local authorities will have to respond to it as quickly as we can to make sure that we have it agreed nailed down and everyone knows where they stand as soon as possible.

“A City Region deal is around infrastructure, housing, innovation and the sectors of the economy that are growing. It is about skills and jobs to make sure that the city can cope with the amount of growth and the region can cope with the amount of growth that we are going to expect over the next ten years. There are a lot of new functions that normally come with a city deal so it is as much about money being devolved to the region as it is new money just coming from both respective governments in a kind of grant allocation.

“Hopefully with a little bit of additional revenue funding and a lot more capital investment we can transform a lot of the problems that are affecting the city right now. We can make sure that we are ready for the kind of growth that is going to affect us in the next decade.”

But the council leader warned against expectations of what the city deal will bring to Edinburgh running too high.

He continued : “I think some people may be disappointed because even hundreds of millions of pounds scale of investment can’t please absolutely everyone.”

On the timetable for agreement he was hopeful that there would be a deal on the table soon. He concluded : "The next step is for The Scottish Government and the UK Government to come to a Draft Heads of Terms and send that to the respective local authorities for their approval. I am expecting that to happen as soon as possible."

When asked if that meant days or weeks Councillor McVey answered : "I would hope for days. So I am hopeful of being able to respond in a much more open way to the kind of numbers involved in the next couple of days."



Keith Brown the Economy Secretary
courtesy of The Scottish Government

But McVey's counterpart, Keith Brown the Economy Secretary, warned that any further delay to the deal for Edinburgh and the South East City Region could cost the Scottish economy millions of pounds of investment. He said he has not received any response to recent letters to the UK Government and a recent meeting with his UK counterpart Greg Clark was cancelled at short notice.

Brown is fearful that the negotiations will run on into the latter part of this year, while other deals in Glasgow, Aberdeen and Inverness are already agreed.

Mr Brown said earlier this week : "The UK Government must stop dragging its feet over this very important issue. The Scottish Government is fully committed to agreeing an ambitious and transformative Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, in the same way we have done for Glasgow, Aberdeen and Inverness.

"I have written to the Secretary of State for Scotland David Mundell twice in the past month with no reply. And last week Mr Clark cancelled a meeting where I intended to press him on the Edinburgh and South East deal.

“That is unacceptable. The UK Government cannot sideline the people of Edinburgh and the South East while it attempts to get its own house in order.

“Given the complete lack of engagement to date, we need urgent reassurances from the UK Government that they remain as committed to agreeing a jointly funded deal that secures the future prosperity and growth of Scotland’s capital city and region as we are, and are ready to enter into negotiations immediately.

“The repercussions of further delays will not only deprive businesses and communities in and around the capital of extra investment in innovation, culture and housing in the short term, but also raise concerns about the UK Government’s commitment to investing a transformative sum in the final deal.”

We checked with both the council and The Scottish Government this morning and there is no update on the deal as at today.

The UK Government sits for another week before the House of Commons then has a recess from 20 July to 5 September 2017.

Before the recess it is to be hoped that there will be at least the bare bones of a City Deal agreed for the City of Edinburgh Council and its partners in the region to then consider.

*Will Edinburgh’s City Region Deal be on the table before the Westminster parliament takes a break from 20 July?
[@adamrmcvey](#) hopes so! pic.twitter.com/3EN9mWbZNf*

– Edinburgh Reporter (@EdinReporter) [July 14, 2017](#)

Boxing – Taylor was always confident of victory



Josh Taylor ringside speaking to Channel 5 about his thoughts on his victory over Ohara Davies. Picture by Nigel Duncan Media

Josh Taylor revealed he was super confident of beating Ohara Davies at Braehead.

The highly-rated boxer from East Lothian stopped his London-based opponent to take the WBC silver super lightweight title.

And he revealed that he was super relaxed going into the 12-round contest.

He said: “In the changing room I am usually tight with nerves but I was so calm.”

Taylor admitted that Davies tagged him with his jab in the first round and added: “His jab was quite sharp then I started using my feet.

“My first line of defence was always going to be my feet and he could not hit me.

“He didn’t seem to have a plan B and know what to do. Then he started with the verbals to try and get me into a fight.

“I was very comfortable and I wish him all the best for the rest of his career.

“I didn’t think he would quit after giving it so much mouth and talking on social media.”

He added: “I think he was shocked by the power I have and the speed. I am not a one punch knockout person but I can punch hard enough.”

Ice hockey – Banashkov joins Capitals



Sergei Banashkov, Capitals new signing.
Picture from Edinburgh Capitals

Edinburgh Capitals have confirmed the signing of Sergei Banashkov who has spent most of his career in Kazakhstan.

The 31-year-old comes well-recommended and Edinburgh's new coach, Dmitri Khristich, said: “Sergei has an excellent pedigree. I have high hopes for Sergei.”

Banashkov spent last year at Saryarka Karaganda who play in Russia's second division and ended the campaign as their second top scorer.

Before that, he spent nine seasons in the Kazakh League and Banashkov admits he's looking forward to a new challenge.

He added: “It's exciting for me to be moving to a new country to play hockey. Coach Dmitri Khristich has a legacy and I cannot wait to show him what I can do.”

At the National Museum of Scotland – Age of Oil

At the National Museum of Scotland from 21 July 2017 a new art display will feature the work of visual artist Sue Jane Taylor and her paintings relating to the North Sea oil industry.



The Age of Oil includes 17 pieces of original artwork and this display will examine the economic, social and political impact of Scotland's oil, gas and renewable industries, with a focus on the current North Sea decommissioning programmes and their challenges.



Taylor, who has worked in some of the most remote and challenging industrial environments across Scotland, presents engineering in an intricate yet accessible way depicting the human stories behind the economic facts and figures which often surround these industries.

Complementing Taylor's documentary style works of art will be diary extracts and film footage from the artist. These contrast the industrial artefacts collected by National Museums Scotland to represent the decommissioning of the North Sea's Murchison platform, with personal survival equipment and objects from those whose stories are featured in the exhibition.



Image credit: View from Market Street,
Aberdeen Harbour, 2015, mixed media on paper,
1000mm x 700mm © Sue Jane Taylor.
Photographer: Ewen Weatherspoon

By using a multi-media approach to interpret this moment when energy industries are in a state of flux, *Age of Oil* will explore the daily realities for the people who build, operate and ultimately decommission Scotland's energy infrastructure whilst offering reflections on the importance of the oil industry and its relation to the future of energy.



Alison Taubman, Principal Curator of Communications at National Museums Scotland said: "*Age of Oil builds on topics examined in our Science and Technology galleries, which opened last summer, raising very topical questions about the relationships between art, environment and industry. The scope of the exhibits on display will bring a human aspect to what is an alien working environment to most people.*"

Sue Jane Taylor said: "*I have spent most of my artistic life focusing on the North Sea. I was born and brought up in the Black Isle and whilst growing up there in the 1970s, the oil boom hit the Highlands of Scotland; it became part of contemporary Highland Culture. As a young graduate I sailed on a cargo supply vessel out in high seas. This journey became a life changing artistic experience for me.*"

"*Since North Sea oil was discovered fifty years ago, this industry's public identity has been predominantly portrayed in cold, hard economic terms and its corporate image has been very tightly censored through photography and film. My own focus as a fine artist is to emphasise the importance of the workers and their working environment.*"

Age of Oil will be accompanied by a book published by NMS Enterprises Ltd price £14.99.

Age of Oil is part of the Edinburgh Art Festival which runs from 27 July to 27 August 2017.



Charities and community groups – Apply now for the Dream Fund!

The People's Postcode Lottery has loads of money to give away to charities and community groups in Scotland.

http://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/PPL-WITHOUT-SUBS-2017-07-13_720P-STREAMING.mp4

If you are such a body then you are encouraged to apply for your share of their £3million funding pot.

Launching today 14 July 2017, People's Postcode Lottery's Dream Fund is searching for charities that they can give money to and bring their dream project to life.

The Edinburgh Reporter has been at the People's Postcode Lottery Gala Dinner in January on a number of occasions when the Dream Fund recipients are announced and it is absolutely astounding how much of a difference this funding makes.



The Dream Fund money ensures collaboration between charities and good causes, bringing them together to apply for funding

to finance their dream project – an idea they have always wanted to deliver but never had the opportunity to develop.

This part of the PPL funding is now in its eighth year, and it will be offered over two years from 2018.

This year's prize fund is the largest ever with a top award of £1 million and a total award fund of £3million. To date, the Dream Fund has invested more than £7.3 Million in 24 projects across Great Britain, with previous winners including Heritage Heroes, a joint project between Canal & River Trust and Help for Heroes, Missing People's 'Child Rescue Alert' and the Glasgow based 'Play on Pedals'.

The Play on Pedals project aimed to give every four year old child in Glasgow the chance to learn to ride a bike before they start school, using cycling to improve the lives of young people in Glasgow. At the Gala we were shown a fabulous video of how the money would be used.

Postcode Dream Trust now seeks applications from across Scotland to Dream Fund 2018. These can be applications from projects that fit within one or more of the charitable purposes which include: supporting families; improving people's lives through animals; green communities and increasing life chances for young people.

Clara Govier, Head of Charities at People's Postcode Lottery, said: "I am proud that players of People's Postcode Lottery will be awarding an impressive £3million to the winners of the 2018 Dream Fund. The Dream Fund is one the highlights of the People's Postcode Lottery charity calendar and we are always so excited to see the bold and courageous ideas submitted. If you've got an idea that you think is a little bit different then this is the funding opportunity for you, good luck to all applicants."

Applications for the Dream Fund are open from Friday, 14 July until Tuesday, 22 August. Winners will be announced in

January, 2018.

CLICK HERE www.postcodedreamtrust.org.uk to apply today.

Can you help police find Arnold Mouat? Now missing for one week

Arnold Mouat, a 64 year-old man from Bo'ness in West Lothian, has now been missing for a week and Police Scotland are still keen to have any information which will help them trace him.



He was last seen around 11.30pm on Thursday, July 6, at an address in Panbrae Road, Bo'ness.

He then left the property at some point during the night and has not been seen since, and was reported missing to police on the morning of Friday, 7 July 2017.

Police officers will be in the Bo'ness area this morning as part of a co-ordinated effort to speak to anyone who may have been in the town last Friday.

Mr Mouat's family has issued a statement through Police Scotland. It states : "We're overwhelmed by the support shown by the local and wider community and are extremely grateful to everyone who has offered to help find Arnold.

"This includes the volunteers who assisted the police with searches yesterday morning and afternoon.

"This has been a very difficult time for all of us and we want

to find him as quickly as possible.

“We ask anyone who has information that might assist police with their ongoing search effort to please make contact immediately.

“Likewise, Arnold, if you’re reading this then please let us know that you’re okay.”

The missing man is described as white man with a slim build, blue coloured eyes and dark receding hair. He is around 6ft 3” tall and has a North Scotland (Shetland) accent.

He is believed to be wearing blue trainers but the rest of his clothing is unknown. He previously lived in the Aberdeen and Shetland areas.

Since Arnold’s disappearance was reported to police, officers have taken a number of steps to trace him.

Local and specialist resources have been deployed across the Forth Valley, West Lothian and South Queensferry areas. Police dogs have conducted searches along with the Police Scotland helicopter and Police Scotland Marine Unit.

An appeal has been conducted through the media and on social media together with a poster campaign. Over half a million people have been reached since last Friday via Police Scotland’s social media channels.

A public search of the Bo’ness area was also conducted on Thursday, July 13, which was attended by 59 volunteers.

Inspector Jim Young of Falkirk Police Station said: “We are continuing our search to find Arnold today and are again appealing to the public for their assistance.

“I’d like to pay tribute to Arnold’s family who have shown incredible strength during what is undoubtedly a very difficult time. I would also like to thank the public for

their assistance throughout this investigation, their support has been crucial.

“Unfortunately we are still looking for that key piece of information that will lead to us finding Arnold and give us the answers his family are desperately seeking.

“I would again ask anyone who remembers seeing Arnold on the morning of Friday 7 July 2017 or recognises his description to come forward. That piece of information may be vital and lead to us tracing Arnold.”

[tweet_box design="default"]Anyone with information about Arnold Mouat who has been missing since 7 July can contact officers at Falkirk Police Station on 101, quoting incident number 1022 of 7 July 2017.[/tweet_box]

Field hockey – Duncan praises Scotland under-16 squad



Chris Duncan (second right) celebrates a goal with his Edinburgh University teammates. Picture by Nigel Duncan Media

Scotland under-16 coach Chris Duncan praised his squad after they bounced back with two convincing wins after a defeat.

The Scots beat Ireland 7-3 and 4-0 in Belfast after going down 4-2 in their first game.

Fraser Heigh, Euan Menzies, Struan Walker and Frazer Moran netted in the final game.

Scotland took a 1-0 half-time lead on Sunday and controlled the game but goalkeeper Matthew Taylor was called upon to produce quality saves.

Scotland upped the tempo in the second-half after weathering an early storm and two quick goals ended the contest.

Duncan said: "Overall, I'm extremely pleased with the group. Friday's defeat was a reality check.

"They had won recent international games comfortably but we were pushed and that's just what I wanted.

"They responded magnificently on Saturday and then again on Sunday and I'm really pleased with their effort and application during the last few months.

"They are an excellent team and this was a great way to end the season."

Boxing – doors are opening for talented Easton



Jason Easton in the dressing room at Braehead wearing the WBO belt after his stoppage of Steve Jamoye. Picture by Nigel Duncan Media

Jason Easton went to war to win the vacant IB0 inter-continental super lightweight title.

The Niddrie-based fighter also had to dig deep to stop brave Steve Jamoye from Belgium at Braehead.

Easton's game plan worked. He had watched his rival on tape and knew he would have to weather an early storm.

Jamoye, who is in the form of his life, forced the pace early on and Easton suffered a gash over his right eye in the second round.

But the Scots accurate punching caused Jamoye, the current Belgium and BeNeLux super lightweight champion, damage as his left eye puffed up after four rounds and his corner had to work smartly.

Easton's barrage continued. The Edinburgh puncher hit his opponents with combination shots and hurt him with lefts and rights to head and body.

By the seventh round Jamoye, the younger brother of former double world title challenger and European champion, Stephane Jamoye, looked ragged but kept on coming. He caught Easton in the three minute session and walked back to his corner smiling.

However, Easton re-focused and stopped his man in the ninth to be acclaimed a worthy winner. Now doors are opening for the Edinburgh boxer.

In his previous fight he stopped dangerous Zoltan Szabo in two rounds at Edinburgh's Meadowbank Arena.

That impressive win followed Easton's first title success in October last year when he stopped Welsh fighter Rhys Saunders for the vacant Celtic super lightweight title.

Easton, who was backed by nearly 300 fans, said: "I'm very fit and my training went really well.

"We'd watched some of his fights on YouTube and we knew he would come forward.

"I also knew that if I played a waiting game that we would get

through in the second-half of the fight.”

He added: “There is no doubt that Jamoye is an experienced fighter who has been in with quality opposition.

“His record indicated he would be a tough opponent and he was. He gave me a wake-up call.

“I knew he would come looking for me but it was my job to stay cool, keep my chin out of the way, work him out and then go from there.”

He did just that. Easton said: “I felt he started to tire in the seventh and eighth rounds and I just kept the pressure on.

“It was then I started hurting him. However, I know I was head-hunting too much during the fight and that’s something I’ll have to watch. I must pick my shots a wee bit more.

“I felt relaxed and comfortable during the fight and I thank my trainers for their work.”

Boxing – Simmons looking for title fight



Edinburgh’s Alex Arthur (right) with Ricky Burns commentating ringside on the fights at Braehead for Channel 5. Picture by Nigel Duncan Media

Edinburgh cruiserweight Stephen Simmons earned a comfortable victory over an awkward opponent as one of the main fights on the Josh Taylor undercard at Braehead.

Lukasz Rusiewicz was disqualified for repeated use of the head and the Scot said he had faced more awkward opponents than that.

Now Simmons is looking for a title fight and he revealed: "I've been back in the gym three weeks and I had two weeks notice for that fight.

"The key for me was the jab. I was happy with that and getting the win.

"I thought I was going to stop him as he was getting really tired. He kept grinding his head into my head but the referee was aware and kept warning him.

"Every time I caught him with a body shot he was holding on and that was like a spar.

"I am looking forward now to getting a shot at a title of some sort in September or October."

Meanwhile, Haddington middleweight Iain Trotter believes he learned a great deal from his points win over Borislav Zankov on the undercard at Braehead.

The full-time professional, who travels to Airdrie daily to train, admitted he made mistakes despite winning 40-37.

Trotter now has four straight wins as a paid fighter to his credit and he said: "I was happy with the win but that was a C or a D performance.

"It was a good learning fight for me and I gave him time to gain his confidence.

"I made silly mistakes but we'll get back to the gym and nullify that and move forward."

Tourism boss makes pledge as Scotland remains must-visit destination



Sunsets and scenery, two of the factors keeping Scotland high in the global tourism market. Picture at Morton Fishings by Nigel Duncan

VisitScotland Chief Executive, Malcolm Roughead, claims Scotland continues to be a must-visit destination in the global tourism market.

He was responding to the release of the International Passenger Survey (IPS) tourism statistics by the UK Office of National Statistics (ONS).

Mr Roughead said: “These latest figures show that Scotland continues to punch above its weight in a hugely competitive global market, with our country seen around the world as a ‘must-visit’ destination.

“In the 12 months from April 2016 to March 2017, we saw a three per cent increase in trips and a nine per cent increase in spend among our international visitors.

“This was driven largely by a 19 per cent increase in trips and a 40 per cent rise in spend among those coming from North America, who are showing an ever-growing appetite for our history, culture and our stunning landscapes. Favourable exchange rates during this period also played a part.

“We will, of course, not rest on our laurels. We need to think bigger about Scotland as a tourism destination to ensure we fulfil our potential – every visitor must get a quality experience every single time.

“Our industry is the heartbeat of the Scottish economy, causing a ripple effect which touches every industry and community, creating employment and economic growth.”

Ice hockey – Lynch lands national role



Steven Lynch (grey suit) is now part of the Great Britain coaching team

Former Edinburgh Capitals forward Steven Lynch has been confirmed as the new head coach for the Great Britain (GB) under-16 squad.

The Kirkcaldy-born, 40-year-old also played for Fife, Dumfries, Ayr and Paisley, and represented GB at under-20 and under-18 level.

Lynch currently heads Scottish ice hockey's national coaching programme and was appointed head coach of Scottish Ice Hockey (SIH) last year.

He said: “I am relishing the challenge of working with and developing the most promising junior players in the country and to prepare them for what hopefully will become long international careers.

“Having spent the last three years working with SIH and their

national programme, I felt that the time was right to test myself at the next level of junior hockey while continuing to further my own education as a coach.”

Tony Hand, Ice Hockey UK’s national development head coach, said: “Steven is an excellent coach and is well-regarded in Scotland and across UK ice hockey.

“He has a passion to develop young players and so is a perfect fit for the role of GB Under-16s head coach.

Speedway – Monarchs boss orders: “No last places”



Alex Harkess (left) with Berwick Bandits boss Scott Courtney at Armadale. Picture Nigel Duncan Media

Edinburgh Monarchs co-promoter Alex Harkess admitted that his men are not firing on all cylinders.

The Armadale side have been knocked off the top of the SGB Championship by Ipswich Witches and Harkess is desperate to claim back pole position.

He said: “We need to win against Newcastle but we are not really producing what we should be doing anywhere. At home consistency is what we want, no last places.”

He added: “Newcastle have a solid outfit with plenty of experience so we know it will be tough.”

Diamonds traditionally travel with confidence to Armadale and

one of the main danger men is Robert Lambert.

He secures double-figure points consistently and Ludvig Lindgren raced to two maximums while guesting for Monarchs last season.

Guest Richie Worrall, who is standing in for his twin brother, Steve, already has a 14 point return to his name at the West Lothian Arena so far this year.

Tapes-up 7.30pm Friday 14 July 2017

Edinburgh councillor blogs – Councillor Lesley Macinnes

Councillor Lesley Macinnes, Convener of Transport and Environment for the City of Edinburgh Council writes for us on the need for traffic to slow down and for drivers to take heed of the 20 mph speed limits.



“One of the comments often made by people who aren’t fully persuaded yet of the need to slow down traffic in our city is that they “support it around schools but don’t see the need for it on other roads”.

“There’s a glaring hypocrisy in such statements. If 20mph is suitable around schools, it must be because it’s safer. And if it’s safer around schools, which account for only the last 100m of a child’s journey to school, what about the streets in the rest of their journey? Isn’t it just as important to keep children – and all vulnerable road users, for that matter –

safe for the whole of their journey? And now we're into the summer holidays, aren't children more likely to be out and about away from, rather than close to, schools?

"Slower speeds in built-up areas are fast becoming the norm in cities and towns all over the world. And the World Health Organisation recently made a call for 30kmph (slightly slower than 20mph) to be the limit wherever motorised traffic mixes with pedestrians and cyclists.

"Here in Edinburgh, in response to public support for 20mph, we're just over halfway through a roll-out of the lower limit to all residential and shopping streets in the city, as well as the city centre.

"This is still a transition phase, as different parts of the city get used to spotting 20mph repeater signs reminding them where the new limit applies. Many streets are of course remaining at 30mph or even 40mph – contrary to false claims about it being a 'blanket' scheme, we've designed the project deliberately to retain a strategic 30mph and 40mph network.

"Clearly improving safety is one of the main benefits of slowing traffic down, but it's far from the only one. As we saw from our successful South Edinburgh pilot, slower speeds encourage people to walk and cycle more, improving the environment and calming traffic noise. And because they feel safer, people are happier to spend time in 20mph streets, boosting community cohesion and wellbeing.

"We know from positive feedback sent in that these benefits are already being felt in the first zones of our rollout. People welcome reduced traffic noise in their streets, celebrate feeling safer travelling on foot or by bike and report finding driving more enjoyable with more consideration from other motorists.

"We also know, from surveys and public consultations, that most people in Edinburgh do support 20mph, however loudly

opponents may shout. We need this quieter majority to speak out and make their voices heard. Talk about it to your family and friends, your work colleagues and the person you sit next to on the bus! 20mph is here to stay and it's going to be great for us all."

Will F1 bosses step in to save the British Grand Prix?



[BAKOUNINE/Shutterstock](#)

[Bruce Grant-Braham](#), [Bournemouth University](#)

Silverstone is playing hard to get. The venerable racing circuit [signalled its withdrawal](#) from the Formula One season from 2020, citing escalating costs. It is a fascinating moment for the sport. So much of F1's appeal is wrapped up in the sentimentality of history, but its push for a modern, glittering future risks leaving that behind.

So will F1's new owners, [Liberty Media](#), take the bait and seek to help? The only legitimate way for everyone to save face in this scenario would be for Liberty to buy Silverstone itself and shut down any accusations that they are letting the circuit back in the game on the cheap.

Or might there be a new role here, perhaps, for a certain billionaire with a shock of white hair who [only recently relinquished his grip](#) on the world's premier motor racing competition?

Street fighters

The Silverstone circuit is enshrined in motor sport history. It hosted the first ever World Championship Formula One race in 1950. But now its owner, [the British Racing Drivers Club](#) (BRDC) has reached a financial tipping point. It feels [unable to sustain continued losses](#) from hosting the British Grand Prix, which were £2.8m in 2015 and £4.8m in 2016. It has therefore exercised a break clause in its contract with F1/Liberty Media.

There has been talk about the race relocating elsewhere, but there is no other facility that could host the 350,000 spectators that annually visit the former airfield in Northamptonshire, northern England.

A mystery street circuit in London was [suggested as an alternative](#) by Liberty's F1 CEO Chase Carey but no details have been aired in public. In any case it seems unlikely that the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, who is working with the [C40 Cities organisation](#) to identify real-world car emissions and their impact on air quality, would find that this fits with his agenda.

Politicians are sensitive to their electorate. Wherever such a circuit might be in London the local residents almost certainly would follow the lead of the ["Save Battersea Park" campaigners](#) who saw off the much more politically acceptable [electric motor racing series Formula E](#) after just two seasons.



No more green lights for Formula E in Battersea Park.

[Sheep](#), CC BY-NC-ND

Well-known motor racing circuits such as [Brands Hatch](#) and [Donington](#) cannot cope physically with the demands of modern grand prix racing and the huge crowds involved – Brands Hatch's record crowd is only a [little more than 100,000](#). Silverstone itself seems the only realistic solution for the

British Grand Prix. If no deal is done the worst case scenario would be that this iconic event, which was first run at Brooklands in 1926, could be lost.

Silverstone could be sold or leased to the right bidder.

Jaguar Land Rover, which was recently keen on just such a purchase, [failed to pull it off](#). One of their aims had been to establish a company heritage centre at the track. The BRDC has plans for [its own heritage experience](#) to open there in 2019 as well as for a hotel complex.

So, what sort of organisation might take on such an asset? Is it too far fetched to think that F1's new owners might fit the bill perfectly? Liberty Media is well versed in the entertainment business and you only have to look at another of its sporting assets, Suntrust Park, the home of the Atlanta Braves baseball team to see the [company's existing experience](#) in establishing a major entertainment complex.

Old hand, new role?

Liberty is hoping to emphasise F1's potential as an entertainment spectacle, and to bring in more and younger fans from around the world, but it still has a keen eye on the decades of glamour and stories which have defined the sport's appeal. The company has stated its wish for the British Grand Prix to continue as one of motor sport's historic blue-riband events, and has already [offered to run the race for the BRDC](#).

But what about buying the whole entertainment complex and developing it? Zak Brown, executive director of the McLaren Technology Group, [thinks they should](#).

The added bonus is that this would sidestep any accusations of favouritism from other race promoters if, in an alternative scenario, the BRDC were granted a reduced fee for the race.

The final twist could be that Bernie Ecclestone, who is just getting used to semi-retirement from a lifetime of running F1,

is not without influence, knowledge and funds. Could he come up on the rails and buy Silverstone and could the BRDC work with him? He admits to having made [just such an offer in the past](#), but denies he is interested right now. Is this a classic piece of posturing?

At the British grand prix this weekend, the action will be focused on a historic circuit as iconic names such as Ferrari, Mercedes and Williams fight it out. The huge crowds both at Silverstone and watching on global television will find it hard to believe that the race might be lost after 2019. Think that's impossible? Well things do change in this sport. The French Grand Prix [reappears on the F1 calendar](#) again next year after an absence of ten years.

[Bruce Grant-Braham](#), Senior Lecturer, [Bournemouth University](#)

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

Chris is taking on the Mongol Rally in an electric car



Chris Ramsey from Aberdeenshire will take on an epic rally challenge this month by becoming the first person to enter an electric vehicle (EV) in the 2017 Mongol Rally.



Raising funds for WWF Scotland, Chris, his wife Julie and

their Nissan Leaf, will start the 10,000 mile journey on 16 July 2017 from Goodwood Race Course to Ulan-Ude in Siberia, via Mongolia.

They will be crossing mountains, desert and the steppe of Europe and Asia with around 340 other petrol or diesel cars.



Chris is pictured with his Nissan Leaf outside the Scottish Parliament.



(Photographs: MAVERICK PHOTO AGENCY)

Neil Lennon happy with Hibs' pre-season performances



Hibs' Head Coach Neil Lennon is happy with his team's pre season performances ahead of their competitive debut against Montrose on Saturday.

Lennon admits that his squad is thin at the moment but he is hoping to do some business in the transfer market before the league starts against Partick Thistle on 5th August although he delighted with the progress of some of his youngsters.

Lennon told Hibs TV: " The players are in good condition. We have played really well in the three pre-season games and trained really well.

“We respect our opponents and we want to get off to a good start in the group. I think it will get the player’s juices going.

“We are looking forward to the game. Montrose will come and make life as difficult as possible for us but if we are on our game we should be in for a good day.

“Our squad is thin, there is no question about that, but there is plenty of time left. The league season kicks off on 5th August and we are looking to do some business between now and then.

“We have got some good young players who can handle the first team environment. It doesn’t faze them and they have been around it for a year now and they are progressing very well and I would imagine they will feature in the games as well.”

Lennon also revealed that new signing Efe Ambrose has returned to training albeit a few days later than expected. The defender has been dealing with personal problems and the head coach insists that the matter is closed.

He added: “We were training on Monday and this is Thursday so he is a couple of days late. We couldn’t get in touch with him because he had left his phone here while he was away. He had a personal problem to deal with as well but he is back training now. Saturday will be too soon for him but he should be back for the Ross County game.

“He has come back in excellent condition and he is a fantastic athlete. He gave me a full explanation so that’s the matter closed.

Scottish SPCA receive generous donation from 'Pets at Home'



The Scottish SPCA have thanked Pets at Home Livingston for raising an amazing £2,526 for Scotland's abused, abandoned and injured animals.

Scotland's animal welfare charity has been overwhelmed by the generous support of the public.

Edinburgh Animal Rescue and Rehoming Centre Manager Diane Aitchison said, "We're delighted to receive this generous donation.

"All the staff at Pets At Home Livingston have done a wonderful job raising this money, and it will make a huge difference to us here at the centre. "This type of fundraising takes a lot of organising and effort and we fully appreciate all the help given by the public and our own volunteers towards making these collections a success.

"As an animal welfare charity we receive no government or lottery funding so we rely entirely on the support of the public.

"Without these donations we would not be able to continue our vital work rescuing and rehoming abandoned and unwanted animals in Scotland."

If you are interested in rehoming an animal or wish to donate to or join the Scottish SPCA, visit scottishspca.org or telephone 03000 999 999.

Photo by Scottish SPCA

Speedway – Lawson stars but Berwick skid to defeat



Richard Lawson in fine form
guesting for Berwick. Picture Ian
Adam

SGB Championship: Sheffield Tigers 51, Berwick Bandits 42

Guest Richard Lawson top scored but Berwick Bandits skidded to
another defeat.

The Glasgow Tigers racer powered to 14 points as the Borders
side, who prop up the Championship table, lost 51-42 at
Sheffield Tigers.

Ex-Glasgow rider Josh Grajczonek top scored for the home side
with 14 points and Lasse Bjerre collected 13.

Earlier, Bandits were only eight points adrift after eight
races but back-to-back 5-1 scorelines for the home side in the
next two races ended the contest.

Lawson and Joe Jacobs combed for an 8-1 win in Heat 11 on a
tactical ride to cut the scoreline to 39-30 and Sheffield held
on to take the points.

Edinburgh Festival Fringe

2017 – Fix

Internationally acclaimed, Fringe First winning Worklight Theatre, present a brand new ensemble show that examines the causes and effects of various addictions in society – from substance abuse to behavioural addiction.



Based on research and interviews with addicts, and the people who love or work with them, Worklight use their trademark juxtaposition of the personal with the political, the head with the heart, the micro with the macro. With an ensemble of three actor-musicians, Fix tells a story of three very different people battling three very different vices.

The use of music within Fix is an integral part of its storytelling. The language is full of imagery about the brain and the body and the music makes the experience as sensory as it is cognitive.

In developing Fix, Worklight have spoken to academic experts in the field, such as Behavioural Neuroscientist Dr Femke Buisman-Pijlman, as well to those who work in addiction counselling. They have also interviewed people with a range of different addictions, in various stages of rehabilitation which has strongly influenced the production

Co-writer Joe Sellman-Leava comments, It has been fascinating to learn more about how our brains reward us for things like eating, by releasing feel-good hormones, and how this changes

if you become addicted to a substance or behaviour. The show asks if we all have the capacity to develop an addiction, and the role things like smart phones might play in this.

Fix has been commissioned by Theatre Royal Stratford East.

***Underbelly Cowgate (Belly Dancer), 66 Cowgate, Edinburgh,
EH1 1JX***

Thursday 3 – Sunday 27 August 2017 (not 16th), 17:40

[Tickets here](#)

Scottish SPCA says ‘thank-you’ to volunteer Marilyn Cole,



The Scottish SPCA is saying thank-you to volunteer, Marilyn Cole, who has been giving up her time to help Scotland's abused, abandoned and injured animals for an incredible six years!

Marilyn has been volunteering at the Edinburgh Animal Rescue and Rehoming Centre where she has created quite a bond with many of the staff and animals through the years.

Centre Manager Diane Aitchison said, "Without the amazing help of our volunteers we couldn't do what we do.

"Over the years Marilyn has helped the centre out by cleaning

the kennels, cat units and the small animal room and is also amazing at keeping on top of all the laundry at the centre!

“She’s always very positive and helpful so we look forward to seeing her cheery face every week.”

Diane continued, “As an animal welfare charity we receive no government or lottery funding so we rely entirely on the support of the public.

“A lot of our volunteers see volunteering as a great way of meeting new people or for adding experience to their CV. It’s a fun way of being able to give back to the community and helps us to continue rescuing animals.

“Without this help we would not be able to continue our vital work rescuing and rehoming abandoned and unwanted animals in Scotland.”

If you are interested in rehoming an animal or wish to volunteer, or join the Scottish SPCA, visit scottishspca.org or telephone 03000 999 999.

Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2017 : Smoking With Grandma

A Play about Refugee, Humanity and Hope from Hong Kong and
Adelaide Fringe 2017

“I didn’t remember it was June or July, but it was the season
of cicada... We all are... drifting wood.”



Created by HKADC Emerging Artist Grant receiver Cathy SK Lam
(The Immigration Lottery, Wither on the Vine and Confessions),
Smoking with Grandma is a new cross media play about refugees,

receiving critical acclaim from both Hong Kong and Adelaide Fringe 2017.

Maia called 1996 the 'year of lost': the year before the transfer of sovereignty over Hong Kong, and the year her grandmother passed away. Her grandma had spent most of her life in Tiu Keng Leng, a remote island in Hong Kong where it used to be a refugee village housing former Kuomintang officials and follower who escaped to Hong Kong from Mainland China after Kuomintang was defeated by the Communist; was demolished in the same year. Just the night before Tiu Keng Leng was going to be disappeared on the map, when Maia unveils the buried secrets, she wants to go smoking with grandma. ThreeWoods Playwright was registered as non-profit theatre company in 2011, formed by a group of young theater artists based in Hong Kong. Their production can be seen in Europe, Australia, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Mainland.

Venue: C royale (studio 2) Edinburgh Festival Fringe

Dates: 2-15 August 2017

Time: 13:40 (50min)

Ticket Prices: £9.50-£11.50 / concs £7.50-£9.50 /
under 18 £5.50-£7.50

Venue Box Office: 0845 260 1234 / www.CtheFestival.com

Fringe Box Office: [0131 226 0000](http://0131.226.0000) / www.edfringe.com

Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2017 – Curse of the Mummy

From the creators of smash hits, Dracula: Sex, Sucking and Stardom and Frankenstein: UnBolted, comes a tale from the darkest depths of Ancient Egypt. Unwitting hero, Montana Jones, is on a quest for archaeological eminence; however a love-cursed Mummy and a Nazi spy threaten to destroy everything he hopes for!

This ancient legend is unwrapped, revitalised and whipped up with mischievous musical mash-ups and outrageous humour in a frenetic hour of riotous theatre comedy.

Using both shockingly catchy pop songs and obscure '80s ballads combined with an intriguing interpretation of world history, Last Chance Saloon takes us on a whirlwind adventure. As Sam Dunham, Jack Faires and Jack Gogarty play a huge array characters in the course of one hour, they will have audiences crying out for more.



Last Chance Saloon is a collaborative comic theatre company who specialise in twisting classic tales, whilst infusing them with their unique brand of character-based comedy. Giving a nod to the golden age of British humour, mixed with farcical physical comedy and quirky musical parody, their aim is to allow audiences to escape from the doom and gloom of everyday life into a world of pure unadulterated enjoyment.

Director Simon Egerton said : "I'm really happy to be working with the guys again on what will be our 4th show together. The rehearsal process is always particularly fun as the script is never seen as sacrosanct but just a starting point for the show we create. Ideas are thrown in, flipped around and transformed to make the show a melting pot of organised chaos that leaves the audience crying with laughter and gasping for breath. I sometimes wish we had a longer time slot to fit more musical numbers, vaudeville routines and exotic dance numbers in!"

***Just the Tonic (Big Cave), 12 Niddry Street South | EH1 1NS |
3- 26 August 2017 (not 14) |19:30***

Tickets [here.](#)

Edinburgh Festival Fringe

2017 – BRUCE

In 2015, a floating block of yellow foam took the Edinburgh Fringe by storm, and now BRUCE is back! The creators of award-winning international smash hits *The Adventures of Alvin Sputnik* and *It's Dark Outside* return to the Fringe with their lo-fi puppetry spectacular that bends time and melts your heart.

Keeping you on the edge of your seat, BRUCE will sweep you away on an epic adventure of love and revenge, as he sets out to prove he has a heart of pure gold. Brought to life by jaw-droppingly talented puppeteers, BRUCE takes the audience on an action packed, hilarious adventure, narrating his story as a self-proclaimed hero-cop turned novelist-astronaut.

Bruce is a loveable screw-up; he's got one last shot at redemption but, with a lifetime of regrets hunting him down, he's running out of spacetime. This side-splitting story is unapologetic in its minimal approach.

Wearing black on a dark stage Wyatt Nixon-Lloyd and Tim Watts invisibly manipulate their bodies to create BRUCE, moving and intertwining their limbs so that their white gloves become hands and feet. Fusing mime and puppetry, BRUCE is a non-stop rollercoaster of action, adventure and nostalgia.



Creator Tim Watts commented : "BRUCE at its core is audaciously simple; just a block of foam and two white gloves. But with that we take the audience on an epic and heartfelt journey that is spectacularly joyful. I can't wait to bring it

to Underbelly and Edinburgh Fringe this year.”

Underbelly Cowgate (Belly Button) | 66 Cowgate | EH1 1JX

Thursday 3 – Sunday 27 August 2017 (not 14), 18:40

[Tickets here.](#)

Hibs pre-season continues with 2-0 win over Berwick Rangers



Hibs continued their pre-season fixtures with a comfortable 2-0 win over Berwick Rangers on a sunny evening at Shielfield Park.

Neil Lennon rested a number of the team that played against Dunfermline and Sunderland and included a number of youngsters.

Jermaine Pennant was given another chance to impress at right midfield, while fellow trialist Andrew Blake, a New Zealand U20 internationalist, started behind him at right back.

Both teams had chances before Hibs wasted a great opportunity to open the scoring after 20 minutes when skipper for the night Brian Graham blasted a penalty high over the bar which had to be recovered from Argos Car Park outside the ground.

Just before the break, Fraser Murray almost opened the scoring with a fine strike which struck the post.

Hibs eventually took the lead in the 72nd minute when Danny Handling capitalised on a mistake in the Rangers defence and rolled the ball into an empty net.

Youngster Oli Shaw made it 2-0 with 12 minutes remaining.

The team that finished the game contained 10 players who came through the Academy.

After the game Neil Lennon confirmed that he has been unable to get in touch with defender Efe Ambrose who was given an extended summer break and also that Simon Church, the Welsh international striker is training with the club.

Hibs face Montrose at Easter Road on Saturday.

Berwick Rangers: McCrorie (Brennan, 46'), Fleming (Cook, 75'), Notman (Gillan, 78'), Thomson (Orru, 56'), McDonald, Rutherford (Chapman, 65'), McKenna (Helm, 78'), Phillips (Heriott, 70'), Irving (Murrell, 46'), Stewart, Scullion (Fairbairn, 65').

Hibernian: Laidlaw, Blake (I Murray, 81'), Porteous, Waugh (Stirling, 55'), Crane, Pennant (Mackie, 76'), Martin, Murray, Swanson (Stanton, 56'), Shaw, Graham (Handling, 56'). Unused substitutes: P Martin.

Attendance 1206