

#GE2017 SNP campaign to be a strong voice



Earlier today in Liberton Nicola Sturgeon called in to explain to some SNP supporters that her party has plans to protect pensioners across Scotland from deeper Tory cuts.

The First Minister bowled a 'blocker' against the Tories plans on pensions when we met her earlier today
pic.twitter.com/btD8XBhr8c

– Edinburgh Reporter (@EdinReporter) [May 20, 2017](#)

She was well-received by the small group who had assembled to have a light lunch with her (hot foot from The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland) and the club president JT then gave her a lesson in bowling.

The SNP will call on voters across Scotland to back strong SNP voices who will stand up for Scotland against further Tory austerity which is set to hit pensioners hard.



Saying that the Tories' confirmation this week that they plan to end the pensions triple lock and slash the winter fuel allowance will hit pensioners hard, along with denying many women born in the 1950s the pensions they are due, the SNP aim to protect pensioners in their manifesto to be published on Tuesday.



Margo and Jimmy Crawford who enjoyed the First Minister's visit.



Katie Wilson with the First Minister



John Miller who spoke to the First Minister about Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy



Flora Halliday with the First Minister



Jean Duncan gives the First Minister a hug.



Joe Rendled's club shirt.



Joe Rendled with First Minister signing his club shirt.
Some of the key points will include:

- Demanding the retention of the triple lock on the State Pension
- Committing to maintain winter fuel payments and extending the eligibility to families with severely disabled children
- Opposing plans to increase the State Pension Age beyond 66
- Supporting women who have been deprived of the pensions they expected to secure the pensions they are due







The Princess Royal opens the General Assembly



General Assembly 2017 L-R New Moderator of the Church of Scotland Rt Rev Derek Browning, HRH Princess Royal and outgoing Moderator Rt Rev Russell Barr.

HRH The Princess Royal has addressed the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, where she is serving as Lord High Commissioner representing Her Majesty The Queen.

After praising the General Assembly as a place for “reasoned and civilised debate” she said the numbers worshipping in church may be falling, but “there is still a need for ‘spiritual leadership, and in fact, “that need is greater than ever.” She continued “The importance of the General Assembly has been reasoned debate and that reasoned debate is in quite short supply at the moment.”



From a position just next to the newly installed Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh the Rt Hon Frank Ross, she addressed the gathered clergy.

HRH The Princess Royal also noted that churches in Scotland have “a major role to play in welcoming strangers,” a tradition she believes is “stronger in Scotland than in many other parts of the world”. The speech came after the election of the new Moderator Rt Rev Dr Derek Browning, who was installed in the role by the retiring Moderator Very Rev Dr Russell Barr.

Her Royal Highness is the first member of the Royal family to take on the role for a second time, having first served in the role in 1996. On Friday she took part in the Ceremony of the Keys at Holyrood Palace and she resumed her duties this morning with the ceremonial procession which opened the General Assembly. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon also took part in the opening ceremony.



Saturday 20th of May 2017: General Assembly of the Church of Scotland: New Moderator Rt Rev Derek Browning with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. They are flanked by Moderators Chaplains, Miss Ann Mulligan and Rev John McMahon.



Saturday 20th of May 2017: General Assembly of the Church of Scotland: HRH The Princess Royal shakes hands with new Moderator Rt Rev Derek Browning following speeches this morning.



Saturday 20th of May 2017: General Assembly of the Church of Scotland:



Saturday 20th of May 2017: General Assembly of the Church of Scotland: HRH the Princess Royal, The First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon and other dignitaries process into the General Assembly



The opening session included an address from retiring Moderator, Very Rev Dr Russell Barr, who has drawn attention to the situation of homeless people across Scotland throughout his year of office. Addressing the Assembly he identified a lack of political will as the one thing missing to resolve a situation that he described as “unacceptable”. He said “Homelessness continues to be a stain upon our nation’s

character and consciousness. There should be no room for homelessness in 21st century Scotland.”

Speedway – Clegg in the groove with double-figures



Max Clegg was outstanding for Monarchs with ten points. Picture by Jack Cupido

SGB Championship: Edinburgh Monarchs 53, Newcastle Diamonds 39; Peterborough Panthers v Berwick Bandits postponed.

Edinburgh: Ricky Wells 10, Mark Riss 7, Erik Riss 7, Josh Pickering 1, Sam Masters 13, Max Clegg 10, Mitchell Davey 5

Newcastle: Aaron Summers 5, Ashley Morris 9, Lewis Rose 6, Ludvig Lindgren 8, Ben Barker (guest) 10, Ben Hopwood 1, Connor Coles 0

Magnificent Max Clegg powered to ten points from seven rides as Edinburgh Monarchs came from behind to see off Newcastle Diamonds.

Sam Masters top scored with 13 points for the home side, winning four of his five heats and Ricky Wells also collected ten points.

Guest rider Ben Barker was best for Newcastle with ten points but Edinburgh made the worst possible start against the side with the best record against them at Armadale.

Monarchs lost the first heat 5-1 but snapped back with a 5-1 in the second thanks to ex-Glasgow Tigers racer Mitchell Davey

and Clegg.

But they lost the next race 5-1 for an 11-7 deficit and this see-saw match saw Monarchs come within two points with a 4-2 in Heat Four for an overall score of 13-11.

Newcastle then hit the home side with another 5-1 to take their lead to 18-12 but then Edinburgh upped a gear.

They posted 5-1 scorelines in the next two races to lead 22-20 and never looked back.

Back-to-back 5-1s in Heats 10 and 11 saw Monarchs ten points clear and they closed out the opposition.

Meanwhile, Berwick Bandits were due to race at Peterborough Panthers but the match was postponed.

Specsavers Beach Party raises money for Sick Kids



The Fort Kinnaird Specsavers branch recently celebrated its second birthday throwing a beach party to raise money for Sick Kids.

The beach in question, was none other than the store itself. With weather no longer an issue, the staff decorated the store with props and wore their summer clothes.

A DJ was brought in and began playing classic summer songs as children were entertained with face paints and a balloon artist, raising £50 for the charity.

In the past six months the shop has raised £250 through various events towards Sick Kids. Tracy Galloway, director of the Fort Kinnaird branch, said : "It's been great to celebrate our second birthday with a beach party but we also wanted to raise vital funds for a charity that is close to our hearts."

"We are delighted to so many of our customer were able to join us on the day to help us celebrate."

Four charged after cocaine, ecstasy and cannabis worth £47k seized in North Berwick



Police have charged four people following a significant recovery of Class A and Class B drugs from within a property and a vehicle in North Berwick.

Local community officers, including those from the locally funded East Lothian Community Action Team, searched an address in Lochbridge Road and recovered cocaine, ecstasy and cannabis with a combined street of £47,000.

Further enquiry and analysis is ongoing in relation other substances that were recovered.

Three men aged 34, 43 & 25 and a woman aged 51 were due to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court yesterday.

Local Community Inspector Andrew Hill based at Haddington

Police Station said:"As a result of concerns raised within the local community a targeted police operation was initiated resulting in a sizable drugs recovery and four arrests.

"Police Scotland is wholly committed to tackling any drug related incidents and we will continue to investigate any offences reported using every resource at our disposal.

Tackling the supply of drugs, and the often devastating consequences it has on our communities, is a top priority and we will continue to take action to identify those involved in drug related crime.

"We will also work closely with our partners at the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service to stop drug dealers from benefiting from the proceeds of their criminal activity.

"The police can only progress such matters with the assistance of the communities we serve. I would urge anyone with information to come forward by contacting Police Scotland on 101 or contact the charity Crimestoppers (anonymously if required) on 0800 555 111."

Summer holiday suggestion – Brick City comes to New Lanark



Amsterdam captured in LEGO bricks and soon to be at New Lanark in an exhibition

Brick City has been enjoyed by tens of thousands of visitors across the UK and now fans of LEGO®, young and old , will have

the chance to see this exhibition at New Lanark World Heritage Site from 28 June to 9 August (10-5pm).

It is a celebration of some of the world's favourite buildings and urban icons including The Colosseum in Rome, St Pancras Station in London and L'Arc De Triomphe in Paris recreated solely using LEGO Bricks all designed by Warren Elsmore, a professional LEGO® Brick artist.

The exhibition will include a display of over 60 fantastic models made from an estimated half-a-million LEGO® Bricks.

Within the exhibition area there will also be a self-led play area where visitors will be able to have fun building their own LEGO® creations within a set session time.

Visitors can also book to take part in one of the LEGO® Robotics Workshops using the latest LEGO® robotics technology to build and program amazing creatures that can move using motors, gears and wheels.

Hibs Ladies determined to retain SWPL Cup on Sunday



Hibernian Ladies Head Coach Chris Roberts is expecting a tough game against Celtic on Sunday's SWPL Cup Final at Broadwood, which kicks off at 4:10pm.

Hibs beat East Fife, Rangers and Glasgow City en route to the final in their bid to retain the trophy and Roberts knows that his players will have to be at their best.

2016 was a successful year for club as they completed a domestic double, winning both cup competitions in gripping finals against Glasgow City.

Roberts told the club website: "We feel really good going into the final. It's a big game for us. Of course we won the trophy last year so we'd love to retain it.

"Celtic are a top team and we've faced them twice already, both games have been tight and both were victories for Hibs which is great, but it will be a really tough game and definitely a big one.

"It will be a physical game as Celtic are a strong team and the previous matches have taken a lot out of our players. We'll need to match them physically and then get on the ball and pass it about because we are technically a very good side.

"Because they are a very good side we'll have to be at our best. We have been in the previous matches and got the goals in the second half of both games to win them, so we'll definitely need to be at our best.

"It would be a great achievement to retain the trophy. Last year when we won the league cup, it was about continuing to win things and being serial winners.

"To then go and win the Scottish Cup later in the year, we started that journey and we want to be a team and club that continues to win things and bring trophies back to Easter Road.

"It's huge for us to try and retain the trophy, to make sure that we continue on that level of success. Of course, being the 21st of May it would be great to have a trophy coming back to Easter Road on that famous day!"

Supporters heading to Broadwood will be able to pay at the gate, with a cost of £5 for adults, £2 for concessions and

free admission for children under 16.

Photo by John Preece

Witness appeal after deliberate fire at Gorebridge building site



Police are appealing for information following a wilful fireraising which took place around 4am on Thursday afternoon at a building site in Hunterfield Road Gorebridge

The fire was deliberately started at a community centre currently under construction, causing extensive damage.

The suspect is described as a white man, in his mid to late teens, of skinny build, with short dark hair and a fringe.

He was wearing a long-sleeved top with a distinctive pattern, dark-coloured skinny jeans, white trainers and carrying a black rucksack.

Detective Sergeant Dave Reilly of Dalkeith CID said: "This mindless act has caused thousands of pounds worth of damage and delayed the construction of a centre which is being built to benefit the local community.

"Anyone who may have seen suspicious behaviour in the area, or who recognises the description of the suspect, is asked to get in touch with us as soon as possible."

Those with information can contact Police Scotland via 101,

quoting incident number 0407 of 18 May, or report this anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Wolves look to bounce back with a win over the Wolverines



Just one week on from a grueling loss Edinburgh Wolves host Lancashire Wolverines tomorrow, Saturday 20th May, at Meggetland.

After a tough 27-20 defeat the Wolves will take pride from the effort they put in and the result they very nearly achieved.

This week they will be up against a side seeking their first win of the season and know that there are no easy games in British American Football.

The Wolves looked like a team pushed to their limits last week with men lain on the sidelines after giving everything they could for the team, and another performance like that could well have them reach the midway point of their season in a comfortable position.

The Wolves currently have one win, two losses and a tie to their name but in a short ten game season, a second win here could be crucial.

The knowledge that the team they have beaten this season, Sheffield Giants, still have to travel north means that they know that a victory will all but guarantee another season of

BAFA Premiership status.

The Wolverines come to Scotland on the back of two disappointing defeats, one resounding to Tamworth the other a closer affair with local rivals Merseyside. With the added desire of knowing that a win here would but a much-needed boost to their season, they will travel north knowing that anything short of a victory would be disastrous to their playoff aspirations.

Last week the Wolves defense put a solid showing together, and the offense did very well against one of the best defences in the country.

Head Coach Don Edmonston will be reminding the team that should they pick up a win this week, they can have a well-deserved rest before hosting Merseyside Nighthawks on the 3rd of June.

Kick-off is at 2:30 pm and gates open an hour before. Tickets on the day are £6 and can be bought online for £4 at Skiddel.com.

Fishing – new Clubbiedean owner wants to encourage youngsters to fish



Steven Johnston the new owner of Clubbiedean Trout Fishery in the Pentland Hills Regional Park. Picture Nigel Duncan Media

Clubbiedean Fishery in the Pentland Hills has just changed hand following a tender process.

Former joiner and keen fisherman Steven Johnston from South Queensferry is the new man in charge.

And he has enjoyed a strong start with over 50 fish caught on his open day.

The 12-acre reservoir in the Regional Park offers fly fishing from boats and now bait fishing from banks.

Steven hopes that bait fishing will encourage young people to take up the sport and move into fly fishing in the longer term.

Contact: Steven Johnston

Address: Clubbiedean Fishery, Pentland Hills Regional Park,
Torduff Road EH13 0PA

Telephone: 07341 839378

Open: seven days

Times: 9am to 10pm (during the summer)

Car park: for 12

Species: brown trout and rainbow trout

Basic prices: keep three fish for four hours £20; catch and return for four hours from boat £15; parent and child (under-14), keep three fish between the pair for four hours £24. Full details on www.clubbiedeantroutfishery.com

Concessions: £2 reduction

Rod hire: no

Catching methods: fly and bait

How many pegs: no fly fishing from bank

How many boats: four

What comes with boats: oars

Lifejackets: eight

Bait: can be purchased on site

Outings: contact Steven on 07341 839378

On-site facilities: toilet and bothy

Food: hot dogs, chocolate, crisps plus tea and coffee and juice

Tackle: hooks, weights, floats and line for coarse fishing plus flies and leader material plus hooks for fly fishing

Toilets: yes (portable)

Landing nets: four

Rules: fly a bait fishing only, one rod per angler, no ground baiting, no treble hooks, swim feeders, bubble with fly, natural bait only, no power bait or pellets, no dogs on site, all children must be with an adult at all times, no fires, camping or alcohol on the premises.

Woman's five year ban on keeping horses after causing unnecessary suffering



A Midlothian woman who caused unnecessary suffering to her horse (William) has been given a £180 fine and a five year ban from owning or keeping horses following a Scottish SPCA investigation.

Louise Paton, 20, formerly of Glen View Road, Gorebridge was sentenced at Lothian and Borders Sheriff Court on Wednesday (17 April).

Paton pled guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to William by failing to provide appropriate veterinary treatment.

Commenting on the investigation and court case, Scottish SPCA Inspector Tracy Dow said, "William has been caused unnecessary suffering for approximately six months due to Miss Paton failing to provide adequate veterinary care.

"Miss Paton initially failed to seek veterinary assistance and subsequently failed to follow veterinary advice that she received.

"Had she sought veterinary assistance from the outset the level of suffering would have been significantly reduced and the long term prognosis may have improved.

"Unfortunately on veterinary advice William has had to be put to sleep due to the extent of his injuries and the pain and discomfort he suffered.

"We hope Miss Paton will give serious consideration to her ability to care for horses again once her ban is over."

Scottish SPCA looking for volunteers to help at Pets at Home event



The Scottish SPCA are appealing to the kind hearted people of Edinburgh and Lothians to help at the Pets at Home event to raise vital funds for abused, abandoned and injured animals in their care.

Scotland's animal welfare charity is looking for anyone who can spare even an hour of their time; it's a great activity to do with friends, work colleagues or come along and meet new people.

Edinburgh Animal Rescue and Rehoming Centre Manager Diane Aitchison said, "From the 17 May to 13 June, locals can pop down to the Livingston Pets at Home store where they will get the chance to meet Scottish SPCA volunteers, supporters, staff members and dogs from the Scottish SPCA's animal rescue and rehoming centres.



"We are encouraging the public to get into the fundraising spirit by dressing up in fancy dress, taking a four legged friend along or bringing some baked goodies to encourage donations."

Diane then went on to say, "The Scottish SPCA receives no government or lottery funding and we rely on the kindness and generosity of the public to continue our work. We would be extremely grateful if anyone would like to donate their time and help us raise vital funds."

For more information on Scottish SPCA fundraising events please email fundraising@scottishspca.org or call fundraising on 03000 999 999 (option 4).

Letter from Scotland



Councils in coalitions and chaos

Two weeks on from our local council elections, we are still in some confusion about who is in charge in our 32 districts. We're hoping that the town clerks, or "chief executives" as we must now call them, are just getting on with the day to day chores of making sure the schools are opening each morning and the care services are up and running and the dustbins are being emptied.

While the politicians haggle over coalition agreements, Scotland's 240,000 council workers are valiantly providing the services we all depend on. Which goes to show two things: we don't really need politics....at least in the short run....and local councillors don't have much power anyway.

For what it's worth, the political map that is haphazardly being formed in front of us looks like this. The SNP have more councillors than any other party (431). They are the largest party in half of the 32 districts. They have taken over the administration of Glasgow City Council, ending nearly 40 years of Labour control. Along with a few independents, they rule Dundee. They have formed the administration in Falkirk. And just about everywhere else they are the party the rest are ganging up against.

Except in Fife, where Labour has agreed to work with the SNP.

At the time of writing, it looks as though the same may happen in Edinburgh. In Aberdeen, nine Labour councillors have gone into coalition with the Conservatives (yes, the afore-hated Tories !) to keep the SNP out. For their high-mindedness, they have all been suspended from the Labour Party and will sit as Independent Labour councillors.

The Highlands, of course, is in a world of its own. Its 28 Independents have joined with the Liberal Democrats and Labour to form the administration, under the redoubtable Margaret Davidson who once again will lead the council. The Borders too are an exception, with the Conservatives in charge, along with a handful of Independents.

I can't myself see why all this coalition-forming is necessary. Why can't the largest party form the administration in each district and have to come to the full council for approval of each of its actions in turn? This would allow a proper, open debate about each policy separately, rather than having a package bundled together in haste in what we used to call "smoked filled back rooms" and now we must grandly call the "cabinet."

The process of forming these unfortunate coalitions has proved particularly messy this year because the general election campaign is taking place at the same time. Who wants to be seen in bed with the enemy as we approach 8 June ?

But actually, I doubt if these little local difficulties will matter to the electorate at large. The battle lines are already drawn; for or against independence. Even Brexit doesn't seem to matter in Scotland. It will be interesting to see over the next couple of weeks whether other issues can break through, now that the campaign in England has moved onto issues such as taxation and spending, living standards, pensions and immigration. The Scottish parties have yet to publish their manifestos.

While all this politicking has been going on, the economy has been chugging along nicely. Unemployment has fallen to 4.4 per cent, it's now lower than in the UK as a whole and the best rate for over 40 years. The number of Scots in work also grew in the last quarter by 41,000 to 74 per cent of the working age population. And many thousands of jobs are expected to come in the renewables industry with a court ruling that four huge off-shore wind power projects can go ahead off the east coast. It's not such good news for kittiwakes, gannets and puffins however and the RSPB says it is considering an appeal.

This weekend the British Pipe Band Championship comes to Paisley and the 140th annual university boat race takes place between Edinburgh and Glasgow on the Clyde. It's also the

beginning of the Church of Scotland's General Assembly.

The assembly has already been in the news because one of its guest speakers, Rev Rola Sleiman from Syria, was refused a visa by the Home Office. Some pettifogging civil servant told her he wasn't convinced she would go back to Syria after her visit or that she would be supported while here by the Church of Scotland. Lo and behold, within hours of the story appearing in the newspapers, the Home Office changed its mind.

Finally, the next time I go into my local outdoor equipment shop, Tiso's, I'll be on the look-out for one member of its glamorous staff in particular. Mollie Hughes (26) has just become the youngest British mountaineer to climb Mt Everest from both the north and south side. She and her climbing partner Jon Gupta succeeded in scaling the north face on Tuesday after spending a month on the mountain. Five years ago, she climbed the traditional south col route.

"I'm elated," she messaged from the summit, "and I'm exhausted. And I know I still have the hardest part to do, the long and difficult descent to base camp." She hopes to raise over £8,000 in sponsorship for Cancer Research UK.

When the Edinburgh councillors finally get their act together, I hope they award her a medal.



Theatre preview: La bohème – Festival Theatre



La bohème (The bohemians) – *The course of true love never did run smooth. It's complicated* – so why not Jazz it up a little and shake it all over in a Parisian flea market?

The team behind 2014's hit *Don Pasquale* returns with a new production of Puccini's classic, *La bohème*. Director Renaud Doucet and designer André Barbe set the romance amidst the jumble of Paris's famous flea markets. Inspired by the Jazz Age of Josephine Baker. This production will be full of their trademark colour, character and style. Scottish Opera's new production of Puccini's timeless classic will be sung in Italian with English supertitles.

One evening Rodolfo hears a knock at the door. It is Mimi, a neighbour, who has no match to light her candle. They stumble in the dark, their hands touch, they fall in love. But love is complicated and all is not as perfect as first it seems...

Puccini's sublime score never fails to cast its spell – his lush orchestration and exquisite vocal lines combine in some of the most ravishing music in opera. Hye-Youn Lee (*Madama Butterfly* 2014) is the fated Mimì and Luis Gomes, winner of 2015's Grand Prize at the Verbier Festival Academy and a Covent Garden regular, is Rodolfo. Music Director Stuart Stratford conducts.

This production is supported by The Scottish Opera Syndicate & Scottish Opera's 'Play a Supporting Role' appeal.

Conductor Stuart Stratford & Derek Clark (25, 27 May)

Director Renaud Doucet

Mimì Hye-Youn Lee & Nadine Livingston (8 Jun), Rodolpho Luis Gomes & Christopher Turner (8 Jun), Marcello David Stout, Musetta Jeanine De Bique, Schaunard Božidar Smiljanić, Colline Damien Pass, Alcindoro/Benoît Jonathan Best.

Wed 31 May, Sun 4, Tue 6, Thu 8 & Sat 10 June 2017 | [Festival](#)

[Theatre](#)

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

Evenings Wed 31 May, Tue 6, Thu 8 & Sat 10 June 7.15pm |
Matinee Sun 4 June 4pm

Duration: 2 hours 45 minutes (including 20 minute interval)

New magazine aims to spark architecture debate



An example of old Edinburgh. Picture by
Nigel Duncan Media

It was perhaps appropriate that the launch of an architecture magazine should take place in Edinburgh's Lothian Street. On one side sit traditional Edinburgh sandstone buildings housing pubs and flats.

Opposite is the stunning McEwan Hall in Bristo Sqaure, it's circular dome and external stone highlighted by the evening sun.

And to our left is an example of modern architecture in Potterrow.

We're at Paradise Palms, once a traditional pub but now packed with 'palm trees' and totally lacking any shred of sympathy with the surroundings.

And the bi-annual magazine. Well, Crumble hopes to encourage

constructive conversation about architecture in the public realm.

The editors claim a meaningful debate has been lacking recently.

Our environment could have sparked a lengthy discussion on its own, but to business.

Crumble is born. The name does not, the six-strong production team stress, signal a view that Scotland's Capital is falling to bits.

Far from it. However, they hope the publication can provide answers to current political and social issues.

The theme of the first publication is "What is Urgent?" Issues discussed by the team who are students and professionals include the on-going St James' Centre development which they claim is "hauntingly similar to the Caltongate scheme of 2007".

The author said: "As with many huge new urban projects, its reason for being built seems almost entirely in-substantial. The new centre promises four floors of shopping, dining, leisure and entertainment even though Princes Street, George Street and Multrees Walk already offer more than enough – along with the additional gift of fresh air."

Another piece claims that Edinburgh has a city centre manager but the author alleged: "His role seems to be primarily concerned with getting the best deal for city from the promoters of Edinburgh's Hogmanay or making life difficult for buskers".

International issues encountered within its 40 pages include

the refugee crisis, whether architecture can be a vehicle for social good and an enlightening piece, the first, incidentally after the editor's page, about the Badjao, a nomadic tribe of sea dwellers travelling with the currents of South East Asia.

Editor-in-chief, Theo Shack, who is originally from Dumfries, said: "The magazine is critical-propositional, so it raises questions about the status quo but also contains answers and ideas for solutions."

It costs £5 and you can find out more at www.crumble.press.

Taste the Spirit of Summer at M&S this weekend

Today and tomorrow at M&S you are invited to embark on an adventure to explore the flavours of the Mediterranean as M&S hosts a tasting event at its high street store, introducing the new Spirit of Summer collection.

The M&S team has tracked down the very best regional dishes and ingredients from Sicily to Santorini, Barcelona to Beirut for a summer full of delicious specialities.



City-centre shoppers will be able to indulge in the likes of Velvet Houmous with Lamb Shawarma, an Israeli inspired meal which is a first on the high street; Chicken, Halloumi & Olive Kebabs; Harissa & Sweet Potato Handcooked Crisps, which are bursting with flavour; and Murcia Lemon Bucks Fizz, plus many more mouth tingling treats.

Fresh and fruity flavours of the Med are abundant across the

collection – so all you'll need is a knife and fork to travel this summer!



The tasting event will be located at M&S Edinburgh on both Friday and Saturday, with various deals throughout the store – including two for £3 on Spirit of Summer Handcooked Crisps and two for £12 on Wines of the Month.

The show-stopping collection of slow cooked meats, gourmet kebabs, spicy dressings and vibrant desserts brings an exciting range of summer foods to M&S customers. Shawarma is set to be a big trend for 2017 and can be seen across the summer range, from meats for the barbeque to wraps and salads to eat on the move.

The M&S Spirit of Summer range is available to purchase at all M&S Foodhalls.

Edinburgh's "most spectacular outdoor dining space" launched



The stunning decking area with non-slip panels at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. Picture by Nigel Duncan Media

It is no surprise that visitor numbers at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) are within touching distance of one million a year.

The garden is an green oasis away from the bustle of central

Edinburgh, yet it is within a 20 minute walk – downhill – from Princes Street.

Strolling through the space, which was founded in 1670 as a physic garden, is a pleasure, particularly on a still night, and it is easy to see why so many people come regularly.

One man was sitting on a bench with his eyes closed, contemplating, a woman was reading a book, excited children were playing, I nodded to several groups sitting in the late evening sunshine chatting. This is a wonderful place to be.

On previous visits I've noted artists capturing the plants on canvas and photographers delighting in the colour and the diversity of plantlife on their doorstep.

The RBGE is a world-renowned centre for plant science, horticulture and education and extends over four gardens (Edinburgh, Benmore, Dawyck and Logan) boasting a rich living collection of plants.

The vision, explained Simon Milne, Regius Keeper, is to explore, conserve and explain the world of plants for a better future

Put simply, without plants, there would be no life on earth.

But there is another side to RBGE which has been growing and studying plants for more than 330 years.

Aside from their world class Living Collection, Herbarium and Library, there is a business to run.

Mr Milne explained that they are continuing to explore ideas to increase visitor numbers.

Their portfolio of events includes an annual winter light show, which is stunning, and the board is also looking to extend its corporate business.

Along with caterers Sodexo they have invested heavily in the John Hope Gateway, the largest event space on-site with a capacity for up to 250 for a seated dinner or 400 for a standing reception and BBQ.

It is available for evening events with access to a large, decked area (with non-slip panels) overlooking the biodiversity garden.

It was there that Sodexo hosted a reception to spread the word that the re-furbishment was over and that the John Hope – with a new outdoor kitchen serving a movable feast which includes pizza and burgers – was now fully open.

Fraser Sharp, general manager of Sodexo, Prestige Venues and Events, believes that the decking area outside the restaurant in the John Hope Gateway at the main entrance to the garden is the most spectacular outdoor dining space in Scotland's Capital.

Patrick's photos show off the Hospitality of Edinburgh

Patrick Keast is a local man and former alcoholic who got himself back on his feet with the support of Cyrenians and along the way picked up a camera to record the city and people around him.



The Hospitality of Edinburgh

Patrick's dramatic photos caught the eye of Trainspotting 2 assistant director, Garry Fraser, last year, their raw and

honest view of the beauty and darkness of the city led Fraser to open Keast's last exhibition in December.



Patrick, 47, suffered from alcohol addiction for many years, until he found the support of Cyrenians, a charity dedicated to supporting people excluded from family, home, work or community on their life journey.

Patrick enrolled in a recovery programme and picked up a second-hand camera to photograph his journey to and from his rehab appointments.



A natural photo-journalist, Parick saw the city through fresh eyes, often capturing sights that many would walk by, including people living on the streets of Edinburgh.

Other photos document his journey, the streets themselves and the views he enjoyed along the way. The resulting photos are an honest and raw portrayal of one man and his city.

The exhibition is on now at Adagio Edinburgh Royal Mile, which has opened inside Edinburgh's renowned Old Sailor's Ark building.

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Photos by Neil Hanna Photography

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Speedway – Berwick want to end 18-year hoodoo



Max Clegg prepares his bike and he is now at Reserve after a reshuffle by Monarchs. Picture

by Nigel Duncan Media

Berwick Bandits travel to the Peterborough Panthers tonight looking for their first win over the English side for over 18 years.

They have drafted in British champion, Danny King, as a stand-in for No 1 Nick Morris who is riding for Swindon Robins in the Premiership.

Peterborough are minus Jack Holder as rides in the World Under-21 Championship. Lasse Bjerre deputises and reserve Bradley Wilson-Dean is also out as he rides for Swindon. Workington Comets racer Mason Campton guests.

Dennis McCleary, Bandits' co-promoter, said: "We want to end this 18 year-old hoodoo."

At Armadale, Edinburgh Monarchs have reshuffled their side because of the new averages and they hope the new running order provides a better balance for the side.

In-form Mark Riss moves to No 2 while Aussie newcomer Josh Pickering is the new No 4. Bosses hope that taking away the pressure of riding in Heat 1 will allow Pickering to ease into the meeting. Max Clegg replaces Riss at reserve.

Newcastle have the best travelling record of any team in the Armadale era but Robert Lambert misses the meeting as he is racing for Great Britain under 21's.

Glasgow Tigers captain Aaron Summers, a former Monarchs racer, steps in, and he is backed up by ex-Monarch Steve Worrall, Ludvig Lindgren who raced to two maximum scores while deputising for the Monarchs last season, and Lewis Rose who is carving a big reputation in the sport.

This is a quartet which Monarchs co-promoter, John Campbell, believes will push his men who drew 45-45 at Newcastle on Sunday.

Edinburgh Napier student has a cracking idea!

It's the food stuff that is traditionally enjoyed scrambled, poached, boiled or fried.

But eggs could soon be appearing on tables in a way never seen before thanks to the work of one Edinburgh Napier student.



Martina Zupan, a fourth year product design student at the University, has struck upon the cracking idea of using eggshells to make a range of disposable tableware.

The 26 year-old has designed and produced a product called 'Colleggtion' – a disposable circular plate with tearaway cutlery that is made from waste eggshells.

One of hundreds of exhibits at Edinburgh Napier's More Than A Degree Show, the designer has developed a process that allows for waste eggshells to be formed into products.

This process is currently patent pending, but Martina believes her tableware could help highlight the opportunities that upcycling waste eggshells can bring.

She said: "The idea literally came to me one day as I was making scrambled eggs in the house and after some extensive research I found that despite eggshells carrying a range of beneficial components, very little was actually being done to upcycle waste product.

"I tested eggshell powder in a range of formats – including adding it to muffins, into plaster for egg cups and even

cement and other resins but it was the tableware idea that really caught my imagination.

“I worked closely with research teams at Edinburgh Napier who had some leftover raw materials from various experiments that they were happy for me to use. I started testing it with the eggshells and things fell into place from there.

“I think I’ve managed to produce a sophisticated product that has the potential to highlight a new method of producing sustainable tableware and cutlery – it’s been really exciting to work on.”

Martina’s idea was sparked by becoming dismayed at the lack of recycling options for by-products within the food industry, meaning that potentially beneficial components such as calcium carbonate were simply being lost in landfill.

According to egginfo.co.uk, the UK consumes more than 12.5 billion eggs each year, which equates to more than 75,000 tonnes of eggshell waste. As a result of current laws and regulations, egg processors are obliged to send their eggshell waste to landfill, with more than 17,000 tonnes being disposed of in this way last year.

Despite some eggshell waste being used domestically, in restaurants and recycled generically through food bins, Martina still believes there is room for improvement when it comes to finding an alternative use for leftover waste.

She added: “Sustainability was a key consideration throughout the entire project and I’ve been careful to ensure that nothing goes to waste throughout the entire process. In my testing, I’ve even tried using waste food material to dye my tableware in certain colours – there is so much scope to be creative with food waste!

“Very few know of the benefits that eggshells can bring to the environment. With this project, eggshell waste could not only

be prevented and reduced, but eggshells would be recycled into a valuable product. Being fully compostable means the tableware can be disposed of together with food waste, which will then be, with the help of anaerobic digestion, turned into biogases which act as a source of green energy as well as nutrient-rich bio-fertiliser. It has massive potential.

“I’d love to continue the development of the tableware after my time at University comes to an end. Ideally I’d like to work with like-minded investors who could help commercialise the patent pending process further – it would be great to get some help and support to fully get the product up and running and onto kitchen tables.”

Richard Firth, Programme Leader, BDes (Hons) Product Design, said: “One of the many achievements that singles out Martina’s project is the incredible amount and range of her research and ideation process. Martina’s commitment, determination and drive to ‘try and try again has been rewarded in a design project that is truly unique with the potential to achieve real change with regard to how we think about materials, design our products and how we engage with producing our products within the 21st century.”

Edinburgh Napier’s More Than A Degree Show is an annual showcase of the creative talent of new and emerging designers, photographers, film makers, journalists, creative writers and actors from its School of Arts and Creative Industries and School of Computing.

The exhibition runs within Merchiston campus and is open to the public from 19-28 May.

Speedway – Diamonds have a cutting edge



Aaron Summers, back at Armadale as a guest this week after his superb display for Glasgow at the West Lothian track. Picture Ian Adam

Newcastle Diamonds have the best record of any team visiting Armadale.

And Diamonds will be looking for revenge after Monarchs held the Brough Park men to a 45-45 draw on Tyneside last Sunday.

Diamonds built an eight point lead before the Monarchs turned the tide in the second half of a meeting with only a last heat Diamonds 5-1 salvaging a draw.

Both teams strengths are at the top end of the line-ups however Newcastle are forced into a change as their No 1 Robert Lambert is racing for Great Britain under 21's.

Glasgow captain and winner of last week's heat 15 decider Aaron Summers steps in.

Summers will be backed up by ex-Monarch Steve Worrall, Ludvig Lindgren, who raced to two maximum scores while deputising for the Monarchs last season and Lewis Rose who is making great strides in the sport.

Alex Harkess, Monarchs co-promoter, said: "We accept that Edinburgh v Newcastle matches are tough.

"It's not unusual to win the away tie and lose the home one when we have raced each other. None the less, we always set out to win at home and this week is no different."

The Ingliston Revival 2017 declared a success



The Ingliston race track finally saw burning rubber last Saturday: the first time in almost two decades.

On Saturday 13 May, the Ingliston Revival Festival opened for a weekend of vintage car festivities. The main spectacle involved 68 classic cars competing on the old race track.

The event will be repeated next year as over 11,000 visitors came to see the old race track back in use. Event director, Sandy Bloomer, commented:

"What a fantastic weekend. The crowds were great and the atmosphere was exactly what we were aiming for. I am very proud of the development of the Ingliston Revival project and the entire team has worked tirelessly for months to deliver our vision for the future of Ingliston.

I am delighted to announce that The Revival Festival will become an annual event and we look forward to welcoming everyone to a bigger and better Revival next year."

A 1964 Iso Bizzarinni, a 1966 Ecurie Ecosse IMP and a 1952 Jaguar C-type were just some of the classics that took to the infamous hairpin in a bid to win in the sprint competitions. A vintage fun fair and cinema alongside a retail village and live music from the 1960s, also added to the revival atmosphere. Paul Swift, stunt driver, also wowed crowds with his Italian Job-inspired stunt show, while commentators Paul O'Neill and Joe Tanner kept crowds updated with the latest track action.

[The Ingliston Revival Festival will return on May 12th 2018.](#)

#GE2017: General Election Hustings in Edinburgh

[As the general election on the 8th of June](#) approaches these hustings events are an important opportunity for you to make sure you have the information you need about all the candidates in your constituency.

Below is a list of the local hustings we have been able to find. If you are organising an event please let us know.

General Assembly: Wednesday 24th May, 4.30pm – 6pm



Free event, but [tickets must be booked online.](#)

Holding candidates from 5 major parties, including:

Ian Blackford (Scottish National Party)

Iain Gray (Scottish Labour)

Patrick Harvie (Scottish Green Party)

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Scottish Liberal Democrat)

Jeremy Balfour (Scottish Conservative)

General Assembly, Mound Place, EH1 2LU

Norton House Hotel: Thursday 25th May, 6.30pm



Scottish Grocers Federation is holding an opportunity for

voters to head from candidates what they will do in Government to support independent retailers. For more

Ian Murray, Labour candidate for Edinburgh South and Christine Jardine, Liberal Democrat candidate for Edinburgh West have confirmed. All major parties will be represented.

Confirm your attendance by contacting Angela Blacklock by email at a.blacklock@scottishgrocersfed.co.uk or by calling 0131 343 3300.

Norton House Hotel, Ingliston, Edinburgh, EH28 8LX

Annandale Mosque: Wednesday 24th May, 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Holding candidates from Edinburgh North and Leith constituencies.

Visitors are asked to remove footwear before entering the mosque and all members of the community are encouraged to come along, question, hear and debate with local candidates.

Annandale Mosque, 45 Annandale Street, EH7 4AZ

Balerno Parish Church: Saturday 29th May, 7pm – 9pm



Balerno Council will host their parliamentary hustings with candidates from Pentlands Ward and Edinburgh South West. If you would like to submit a question ahead of the date, email pentlandhustings@gmail.com no later than Wednesday 24th May. [For more information click here.](#)

52-2 Main St, Balerno, EH14 7EH

Hayweight House: Tuesday 30th May, 6pm – 8pm



Equality Hustings organised by the Equal Representation Coalition, is bring together candidates to discuss matters of equality, human rights, and Brexit. [Book in advance for this free event.](#)

23 Lauriston Street, Floor 3, Edinburgh, EH3 9DQ

Out of the Blue Drill Hall: Tuesday 30th May, 7pm – 9pm



Leith Central Community Council is holding candidates for the Edinburgh North and Leith constituency. All are welcome to attend and question their local candidates. [Click here for more information.](#)

36 Dalmeny St, EH6 8RG

Pollock Room, St Leonard's Hall: Thursday, May 25th, 5pm – 7pm



The Lothian branch of the Royal College of Nurses is holding their hustings for nursing matters; including the future of the NHS, healthcare provision, pay and job satisfaction, to be addressed by the 5 main political party candidates. Open to public and RCN members. [Free event but book ahead here.](#)

Pollock Room, St Leonard's Hall, University of Edinburgh, Holyrood Park Road, EH16 5AY

Not sure who your local candidate is? [Read our comprehensive list of all candidates standing for parliament on June 8th.](#)

[2017, so you can vote with confidence.](#)

Landmark group launch for Edinburgh charity

Contact the Elderly has now launched its 20th group in Edinburgh.

The charity organises free Sunday tea parties for elderly people who live alone and they now support over 100 Edinburgh residents.

The Edinburgh 20 Group met at volunteer Anne Grindley's house with an established group.

✖ Jennifer Kaney, Development Officer at Contact the Elderly, said: "We are delighted to now have 20 groups in Edinburgh supporting more than 100 older people who live alone. Anne has done a fantastic job and I am confident I speak for the entire Contact the Elderly community in offering our sincere thanks for her efforts."

"The new group had a lovely afternoon together and we are looking forward to hearing how the relationships between guests and volunteers flourish in the months ahead. One of the guests told me she had made a new friend five minutes into the party. It's comments such as this one which perfectly illustrates the power of our parties."

In Scotland, Contact the Elderly has around 125 groups

supporting more than 1000 older people. Tea parties take place one Sunday afternoon a month in a volunteer host's homes. Guests are collected by a volunteer driver and accompanied by them at the afternoon tea.

To learn more about the charity, or offer to volunteer, please contact Jennifer Kaney by email or telephone Jennifer.kaney@contact-the-elderly.org.uk or 01786 235034

Greenpeace say Bass Rock polluted with ocean plastic



An expedition by the Greenpeace ship *Beluga II* has revealed high levels of plastic pollution around the famous Bass Rock in the Firth of Forth.

Shocking images reveal plastic around eggs in nests and strewn across the island, and even in the birds' beaks. Unfortunately, the groups says this phenomenon is not rare, as it is estimated that up to 90% of seabirds have ingested plastic.

The findings come at the beginning of research conducted during the *Beluga II*'s scientific voyage around Scotland, which runs until the end of June. They will document the impact of plastic pollution on some of the UK's most precious wildlife like puffins, gannets and basking sharks.

"Being surrounded by tens of thousands of gannets on the Bass Rock is a stunning spectacle – but it's seabirds like these which are acutely threatened by ocean plastic pollution," said

Willie Mackenzie, oceans expert at Greenpeace UK. "We found plastic bags, packaging, bits of old fishing gear and even crisp packets strewn across the island."

"It's no wonder that that studies have shown that 90% of seabirds have eaten plastic."

Beluga II will continue her two-month expedition around the Scottish coast until the end of June. The trip is conducted by students and crew from Exeter University.

Speedway – Havelock craves for slice of luck



Gary Havelock looking for a slice of luck at Peterborough.

Picture by Colin Poole

Gary Havelock hopes for better luck when Berwick Bandits visit Peterborough Panthers tonight Friday.

The former world champion is frustrated as the Borders club prop up the rest of the ten-strong SGB Championship.

Last weekend, bad luck struck again as Lewis Bridger fell ill on the way to Workington Comets for a league match.

Rider replacement was granted but that only collected five points and team manager Havelock said: "Cannot believe our luck.

"We get our side how we want it and Lewis (Bridger) falls ill on the way to Cumbria.

“It’s unbelievable. If he’d been fit I honestly think this was another match we could have won.

“It’s so frustrating. When you’re down look out for the sand getting kicked in your face.”

Bandits will be at full strength at Peterborough on Friday and at home to Peterborough on Saturday.

Five One Five Years On



Rudi Skacel demoralises Hibs –
2012 Scottish Cup final. Photo:
Eric McCowat

William Hill Scottish Cup Final – Saturday 19 May 2012 – Hampden Park

The first time I cried at a football match was 1st January 1973. I was ten years old and was spending New Year with my father, my parents having divorced three years earlier. In 1968 my father had taken me to my first football match, the less than exotic delight that was Brockville Park, Falkirk. Living in Cumbernauld at that time, my Dad didn’t want me being associated with the baggage that came with Celtic and Rangers and his intention was to bring me up as a Falkirk Bairn. But on that cold, October day, Hearts were the visitors. The Maroon Army had taken over the old ground creating an atmosphere that was spellbinding for an innocent six-year-old. The boys in maroon won 3-1 – and that was that. I was bitten by the Jambo bug and it’s been part of my DNA ever since.

On the first day of 1973, I stood on the Tynecastle terracing with my father who was less than thrilled at succumbing to my badgering to take me to the Hearts-Hibs game. I was badgering him again at half-time but for entirely different reasons. Hearts had been the victims of five blatantly offside Hibs goals. I begged my father to take me back to his house in Cumbernauld. His reply was less than sympathetic.

'Listen, son, you wanted to be a Hearts fan so you'll bloody well stay to the end'

Thanks, Dad.

For decades, those of the Hibernian persuasion had thrown that game in the faces of those in maroon. Damn it, to this day there's even a shop at the foot of Leith Walk still selling tee-shirts with the Hibs team line up emblazoned on the front. It was an Edinburgh derby that would remain in the spotlight until it was over-shadowed by the Scottish Cup semi-final in 2006 – and then totally eclipsed by the Scottish Cup final in 2012.

There was a tense build up to the 2006 semi-final. With Second Division Gretna waiting in the final the victors knew they would be red-hot favourites to lift the Scottish Cup. It had been eight years since Hearts had last lifted the famous old trophy. It had been 104 since Hibs had done so.

A Paul Hartley hat-trick inspired Hearts to a 4-0 triumph over their city rivals. I wrote at the time it was the mother of all Edinburgh derbies. I was wrong. Hearts duly lifted the cup by defeating Gretna in the final (albeit after a penalty shoot-out) but the chance for Hibernian to gain revenge came six years later when the capital pair faced each other in the Scottish Cup final of 2012.

As was the case before the all Edinburgh semi-final in 2006, the build-up to the first Scottish Cup Final between Hearts and Hibs since 1896 was full of tension. Hearts were installed

by the bookmakers as odds on favourites but several players, including Ian Black and talisman Rudi Skacel, were looking unlikely to be continuing their careers at Tynecastle, as there were no offers of any new contracts on the table. Semi-final hero Craig Beattie had been nursing a hamstring injury and wasn't included in the starting eleven. Hibernian, who had only just managed to avoid relegation, had several players who were on loan, including striker Leigh Griffiths who had scored their winner in the semi-final win over Aberdeen.

A crowd of over 51,000 packed into Hampden and the tension was palpable as the teams walked on to the field. It was Hearts, however, who made the brighter start and good work from Andrew Driver saw a cross for Rudi Skacel but the Czech Republic player could not direct his header on target. If Hearts were nervous they certainly didn't show it during that opening period as they pinned their city rivals inside their own half. With 15 minutes gone, the breakthrough arrived. A corner from Danny Grainger seemed to bemuse the Hibs defence. Ryan McGowan showed commitment to get to the ball first and his attempt at goal fell at the feet of Darren Barr who stabbed the ball past Hibs goalkeeper Brown and into the net to give Hearts a deserved lead.

Already in the ascendancy, Hearts confidence grew further. Shortly after the goal, Hibs defender Kujabi was booked for a foul on Santana – a foul that would have major implications later. Ian Black was dominant for Hearts and it seemed astonishing that Hibs were allowing the former Inverness Caledonian Thistle player so much space to orchestrate the Hearts midfield. It was from Black's pass that Rudi Skacel doubled the Maroon's lead after 27 minutes. Collecting the ball on the edge of the Hibs penalty box, Skacel produced a trademark turn past McPake before firing in a shot that took a deflection off the Hibs player before flying past Brown. 2-0 to Hearts and the Maroon Army erupted in anticipation of another Hearts cup triumph.

Hibs had barely been in the game and when striker O'Connor had a chance on the edge of the Hearts penalty box, his effort on goal soared over the bar and in among the goading Hearts fans in the West Stand. Hearts nearly made it game over when Suso Santana's effort on goal was scrambled off the line by McPake. And, typical of Hearts, what should have been 3-0 turned into 2-1 as Hibs grabbed an unexpected lifeline a minute before half time when McPake poked home Soare's cross. At half time, there was slight irritation among the Hearts camp that the game was now on a knife-edge after dominating the game.

The second half had a spectacular start. In the 47th minute, Suso Santana set off on a run down the right wing skipping easily past a couple of Hibs challenges. He had his shirt pulled by the pursuing Kujabi who also clipped the Spaniard's heels as the winger danced into the penalty box. Penalty said referee Craig Thomson who also booked the Hibs player for a second time meaning the Easter Road team were down to ten men. They also went 3-1 down when Danny Grainger stroked home the resultant penalty kick and looked to the skies in tribute to his late grandfather.

Any lingering doubts that the Scottish Cup was heading back to Gorgie disappeared two minutes later when Hibs keeper Brown could only parry Stephen Elliott's header and Ryan McGowan leapt to head the ball home. 4-1 to Hearts – and it was game over, a fact the mass exodus of Hibs fans at this point clearly indicated.

Hearts seemed content to toy with their great rivals and sprayed passes all over the Hampden turf, much to the delight of the baying Jambo Army. With 15 minutes to go, Rudi Skacel collected the ball on the edge of the penalty box and fired in an effort and that trundled past Brown to make it an astonishing 5-1 to Hearts. Ecstatic Hearts supporters taunted those few Hibs fans who were still in the National Stadium with chants of 'ole' and 'we want six' and 'there's only one

Pat Fenlon'. This was too much for the Hibernian manager who made an ill-judged salute with his arm to the Hearts support – and was duly sent to the stand by referee Craig Thomson for his troubles.

The game ended at Heart of Midlothian 5 Hibernian 1. I had waited 30 years to see Hearts win a trophy before they won the Scottish Cup in 1998; this was Hearts third Scottish Cup triumph in 14 years and was the sweetest of them all. Hearts had dominated the Edinburgh derby for nearly 30 years but this magnificent victory over an admittedly poor Hibernian team took derby domination and humiliation of their city rivals to new levels.

As in 1998 and 2006, the west end of Edinburgh partied. As the Maroon Army bellowed throughout this glorious weekend, the Hearts were having a party – the Hibs were in their beds!

Man due in court following a series of thefts from homes in Penicuik



A man has been arrested following a series of thefts from homes in Penicuik.

The incidents happened at four properties in the town between 7th and 15th May, and two cars were also stolen. There was a further housebreaking with intent and three incidents of suspicious behaviour outside homes which were all investigated

by the Community Investigation Unit at Musselburgh.

Inquiries were carried out and a warrant was executed at an address in Bilston, and stolen property was recovered.

A 41 year old man was due before Edinburgh Sheriff Court today.

Sergeant Michele Lindsay of Penicuik Police Station said: "I would like to thank the public for their assistance, after speaking to the local community we received information which allowed us to carry out the warrant and ultimately bring charges. I would also like to remind people to keep their property secure at all times, and anyone seeing or hearing anything suspicious should call police immediately

#GE2017 Alex Salmond out campaigning with Joanna Cherry in Edinburgh South West



Earlier today in Broomhouse The Rt Hon Alex Salmond had lunch at the Broomhouse Centre with Joanna Cherry QC who is standing for re-election in the Edinburgh South West constituency.

The main reason for having lunch there (other than the fact that they serve delicious food) was to celebrate the fact that the Centre has won backing for its ambitious plans to demolish and rebuild. It has run a fundraising campaign meaning it now has enough funds

The Edinburgh Reporter asked Ms Cherry why she chose to bring her fellow Westminster candidate there.

✖ She explained : "Broomhouse Centre is an amazing place which does an incredible amount of fantastic developmental work with people in the community. And that is not just in Broomhouse but in fact across South West Edinburgh and indeed in other parts of Edinburgh. There are many different and diverse projects which are run from here from working with elderly people with dementia in the Beacon Club to working with young carers and young people who are vulnerable.

"The projects which are started here don't just stay here they fan out across the community. There are some really energetic people working here such as in the café with its fantastic home cooking. The kitchen here is used as a place for people to come and learn new skills making it easier for them to make the transition from being at school to being employed."

Some of the groups represented at today's campaign stop included Bridie Ashrowan the CEO of The Broomhouse Centre. The BIG Project which offers young people from 5-15 opportunities for personal growth. EVOC was represented by CEO Ella Simpson. EVOC helps to support develop and promote the interests and work of voluntary organisations in Edinburgh.

A representative from The Broomhouse Food Bank explained to us that demand is increasing all the time. And we also met up with the Rev Michael Mair who is the local minister at Broomhouse Parish Church.

✖
Some of the community groups who met Alex Salmond and Joanna Cherry

And when asked about her main campaigning points Ms Cherry explained : "The Tories of course have tried to make this election about the independence question in a desperate

attempt to trick people away from looking at their record in government. But what this election is really about is the Tories failed austerity project and their disastrous plans for Brexit. This will have a huge impact on jobs and the economy right across the United Kingdom. The austerity plans have failed despite making people, like the people in this community, suffer. They have failed to reach any of their targets on debt, deficit or borrowing. They are still hammering hardworking people in this community, people on low incomes by taking away their tax credits, forcing them to rely on the food bank just up the road."

As to the need for food banks, Ms Cherry was scathing of the Tory benefit cuts. She said : "The food bank here helps people with all sorts of problems not just about having enough to eat. We should not need to have projects like this in modern Britain. The Tories have tried to balance the books on the backs of the poor and haven't even succeeded in doing that.

"Their manifesto issued today is more of the same. So it is the responsibility of politicians like me to remind voters what this election is really about – and that is whether you want another five years of Tory austerity or a positive vision for Scotland such as the one the Scottish Government has."

Alex Salmond who is standing as SNP candidate in Gordon was there to see first hand the work that the Broomhouse Centre does. He was as expected very critical of the Tory government and warned against the consequences of an increased Conservative majority at Westminster. He said : "If the Tory government get a big majority the sort of thing that will go through parliament will be things like tax credits.

"These measures would take more money off people who need it, hard-working people who need these tax credits. They would get less. People who are vulnerable like the disabled will continue to get treated shabbily and the bigger the majority the shabbier the treatment will get. The SNP provided the real

opposition and so they must get sent back to Westminster because this Tory government needs real opposition.”

He then explained that the SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon has laid out a three point plan for this election. Firstly to provide the real opposition which Labour can't provide just now, and everybody knows they can't. Secondly to strengthen Scotland's hand. Theresa May keeps talking about strengthening her hand. We have to strengthen Scotland's hand to make sure that we don't get the hard Tory Brexit that she is aiming for because that will cost jobs and prosperity in Scotland.

“Thirdly we must have the future of Scotland decided in Scotland by The Scottish Parliament and by the Scottish people. Scotland's future must be in Scotland's hands not in the hands of the government in Westminster.

“So these are the three points that Nicola Sturgeon has outlined and I think they are a powerful platform and a powerful mandate to seek in this campaign.”

As to whether he has had any input into the SNP manifesto which will be launched next week, Mr Salmond admitted he had put forward a few ideas, but said it is a personal document for the leader of the party. He concluded : “I am sure you will see a visionary and uplifting manifesto which does not talk about hard choices for other people, but rather talks about how we can work together to provide real hope for Scotland.”

[#GE2017 on the campaign trail with Joanna Cherry](#) from [Phyllis Stephen](#) on [Vimeo](#).

The candidates for Edinburgh South West are
BRIGGS, Miles Edward Frank – Scottish Conservative and Unionist

CHERRY, Joanna Catherine – Scottish National Party (SNP)

CHOUDHURY, Foyso Hussain – Scottish Labour Party

Speedway – Perry hoping for rain before every home meeting



Tom Perry and his team-mates on track inspection duty at Armadale last Friday.

Picture Nigel Duncan Media

Tom Perry revealed the key ingredient for his big points haul for Glasgow Tigers against Redcar Bears.

The Shropshire-based racer revealed a downpour just before the match was crucial and now the 24-year-old wants rain every week in Glasgow so he can keep racking up big scores.

Perry had his best meeting in Tigers colours, scoring eight points plus four bonus points, and put his good form down to having plenty of dirt on the surface.

Tigers' talented reserve said: "The track was packed down but it was because of the rain that it was so grippy.

"I'd prefer it to chuck it down like that every week. It produced natural dirt instead of them having to water it all day.

"They (the track curators) know that we all like the dirt, so if they keep setting it up like that, it'll be a bit of a fortress. People will be scared of coming to the place."

Looking back at Saturday, he said: "Everything clicked and it worked well for me. Even when I wasn't making every single start, I was still making passes."

Perry also contributed five points with one bonus point in Glasgow's draw at Edinburgh on Friday.