

Edinburgh Airport welcomes report on climate change

✖ A report published today by the Climate Change Committee proves that the Scottish Government's 50 per cent cut to Air Passenger Duty can be met without any increase in CO2 emissions according to Edinburgh Airport.

Reducing Emissions in Scotland Progress Report 2016 says that cutting APD by 50% would increase the number of flights and could lead to an increase in aviation emissions of 4%.

The report suggests that the potential increase in CO2 emissions would be a small part of total Scottish emissions which are all lumped together into one statistic. The increase would be 0.1% of the Scottish total and this is described as 'manageable'.

Edinburgh Airport says that one of the salient points in the report is that across the UK cars produce more emissions than all other transport modes combined. Other ways of reducing the country's total emissions include introducing average speed reductions on certain roads such as the A9 and the A77 where the government are still looking at the effect this is having.

Edinburgh Airport's Chief Executive Gordon Dewar has praised the report and has highlighted the work that the airport is doing in this area – as well as pledging to give further support towards in the drive to reduce carbon emissions in Scotland.

Mr Dewar said: "This report brings some perspective about the sources of carbon emissions and it shows that that cutting Air Passenger Duty is not a threat to Scotland's CO2 targets.

"A 50 % cut to APD in one move will incentivise airlines to bring more aircraft to Scotland which in turn will deliver

greater inbound tourism and business opportunities creating new jobs and stimulating the economy to the tune of £300 million GVA per year.

“Cutting APD gives a clear signal to Europe and to the world that Scotland is very much ‘open for business’ – and this is a message that must surely be backed by everyone.

“We support the Scottish Government’s ambitious carbon emissions targets and already have Tesla Superchargers onsite and we are investigating further electric car charging points. Our public transport mode share is the highest of any UK airport outside of London and the majority of buses operating public services to/from the airport meet EURO VI emission standards.

“The debate on emissions and the growth in aviation need not be so polarised. New technology is helping to reduce emissions as well bring noise reductions and improve safety. We will continue to work with Sustainable Aviation and with the Scottish and UK governments and all who want to make Scotland both better connected and environmentally more sustainable.”

You can read the full report [here](#).

Recruitment company opening office in Edinburgh



primestaff the recruitment consultancy who have been based in Glasgow until now are opening an office in Edinburgh and expansion to Dundee is on the cards.

The company have confirmed that their target is to increase turnover to £20 million by 2020, and this is now in sight.

The company was recently bought out by management and they have launched a major sponsorship of one of the only two Scottish rugby teams, Glasgow Warriors.

Technical business manager Derek Thomson will work in Edinburgh and Glasgow and his colleague Matthew Bowater, a recruitment consultant has also come to work at the firm.

Robert Muir, formerly of Bibby Factors, has taken on the role of Group Business Development Director, while recruitment consultants Leigh Carroll and Stephen Johnston have joined Black & Black Recruitment and Prime Commercial Ltd respectively.

Chief Executive Danny McIntyre said: "This is an exciting time for our business. There's a great deal of opportunity across Scotland and we have a talented group in place ready to take Primestaff to the next level.

"Hiring the right people has always been central to our growth and by continuing to grow our team with talented staff, it will help us to adapt to challenges and take advantage of opportunities in the marketplace."

Group Business Development Director Robert Muir added: "While at Bibby Factors I worked closely with Primestaff for many years. I have always been impressed with their approach and have watched with interest as the company has grown. I couldn't be more pleased to join the team and help the company take the next step.

"With some rival agencies moving out of Glasgow, and with Edinburgh as an area of growth, I'm excited to work across both cities to create and unearth new opportunities."

What's on at WHALE Community Cinema




A family-friendly half-term screening of Bugsy Malone on Thursday 20th October, 6pm-8pm at the WHALE Arts Centre.

Tickets are £3 and can be purchased from WHALE Arts reception or online: <http://ow.ly/y07F304S2be>

One week on and police revisit scene of attack in Southside



Last Sunday at around 3.00am a 19 year old woman was indecently assaulted while walking home along Salisbury Place. Edinburgh police have revisited the scene this weekend to try and find any witnesses.

 The suspect is described as being white, early thirties and of large build. He was wearing a dark kilt, dark-coloured boots covering his calves and a distinctive dark-coloured 'Dropkick Murphys' hooded top with the band's name on the chest and their skeleton bagpiper emblem on the back.

As a result of ongoing inquiries it has now been established that seven people were walking in front of the suspect as they made their way from Clerk Street onto South Clerk Street at around 2.47 a.m. on Sunday morning, minutes before the offence took place.

These people are believed to have been in three separate groups.

Two males and a female were in the first group.

One of the males was wearing a dark hooded top, dark jeans and had dark hair, while the other male was wearing cream trousers, a dark-coloured coat with distinctive toggles and a light hood and glasses.

The female was wearing a maroon hooded top with a light emblem on the chest and light-coloured jeans.

The second group consisted of a male and a female, with the male wearing a t-shirt with the word 'Club' on the chest, dark skinny jeans and light shoes.

The female he was with had shoulder-length blonde hair and was wearing a dark jacket, dark jeans and ankle boots.

Two other women were also in the area, with one described as wearing a fake fur headband.

All of these individuals are asked to contact police immediately, as they may have vital information that can assist with this investigation.

Officers will be conducting inquiries within Salisbury Place, The Cowgate and Grassmarket areas during the early hours of Sunday 9th October to speak with anyone who regularly frequents the area and may have seen something suspicious the previous weekend.

They are eager to hear from anyone who saw the suspect or can

provide more information as to his movements following this incident.

Detective Inspector Julie Marshall from Edinburgh's Public Protection Unit said: "So far the public response to our appeal has been tremendous and we've received a number of calls that have been really useful in helping us reach this stage of our investigation.

"However, we've yet to receive that one vital piece of information that helps us identify the suspect and I firmly believe that this answer lies within the community.

"I am confident that someone knows this male and is aware of them being out within the Capital last Saturday evening while wearing this distinctive clothing. This person may be a friend or family member, but they have committed a serious offence and it is important that we are able to trace them.

"If you were out on Saturday evening into Sunday morning last weekend and remember seeing the suspect at any time then please contact police immediately, if you've not already done so.

"Similarly, if you know this male or know how we can find us then I would encourage you to also get in touch and assist with our investigation."

Those with information can contact Police Scotland on 101, or alternatively the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Police investigation into

Hampden pitch invasion continues



Police Scotland says it continues to investigate acts of violence, disorder and vandalism that took place during the pitch incursion immediately following the final whistle at Hampden Park after the Scottish Cup Final on Saturday 21 May 2016.

Police have made 81 arrests to date as part of this ongoing investigation.

Police Scotland is releasing images of individuals they are keen to trace whom they believe may be able to assist them with their enquiries.

Anyone with information about the identities of the persons pictured is asked to contact the Incident room at Govan Police Office, Greater Glasgow CID on 0141 532 5457 or the dedicated mailbox

address: Scottishcupfinalpitchinvasion@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Alternatively CRIMESTOPPERS can be contacted on 0800 555 111, where anonymity can be maintained.

Pro Rugby – Edinburgh v Treviso, Guinness PR012

Edinburgh deliver try-fest for Hodge



Friday night's match in the Guinness PRO12 league against Italian side Benetton Treviso was, interim coach, Duncan Hodge's maiden home encounter. Left holding the reins following Alan Solomon's mid-week departure prior to the Leinster match, Hodge only had a week to put some of his ideas into action before taking on the, what was deemed to be, the relatively straightforward challenge in Round 6.

It was a challenge his fairly young squad took to early on as, with less than eight minutes on the clock, Edinburgh were 14-0 ahead.

The first try came after just four minutes when, under pressure from Treviso just outside their 22, a loose pass was gathered in by wing, Damien Hoyland, who then sprinted the length of the field to go over, albeit with some 'attention' from a couple of big forwards, in the right hand corner. Eventual Man-of-the-Match, Jason Tovey then kicked the touch-line conversion for 7-0.

Less than three minutes later, it was 14. Hanging onto the ball a bit better from the restart, the home side brought the play up into the visiting half, with Chris deane proving instrumental with a break up the centre. A quick recycle then put flanker, Hamish Watson through a huge gap to touch down for the second, Tovey converting for the 14 points.

The next period of play was probably shaded by the Italian outfit, who retained a fair bit of possession and won a couple of penalties. The second of these gave stand-off, Tommaso Allan, a shot at goal which he sent over for 14-3.

Just before the half hour mark, Edinburgh scored their third try of the half. Following on from the restart, Treviso, once again, encroached on home territory, but the ball was eventually cleared and the match moved back to familiar areas of the pitch i.e. deep in the away end.

A series of rucks on the left, pulled the defence over and, a quick string of passes found Hoyland on the right wing again.

This time he only had a few metres to go, and had a bit more opposition,

but he hammered home to score his second try, and Edinburgh's third try of the match. Tovey was, this time, unsuccessful with the conversion, but it was 19-3 with 10 minutes of the half remaining.

The fourth, and bonus-point, try for the home side came up just over two minutes later from Marcus Bradbury. With the Italians struggling to put a defence together, Edinburgh launched into 'enemy' territory once again, this time Bradbury doing the necessary to sprint in from the edge of the 22. He did get half-tackled about 10 metres out by opposing wing, Angelo Esposito, but he's a big boy and momentum – plus a bit of scrambling – took him over in 'Hoyland's' corner.

Tovey then slotted home the kick from out wide and the score board showed 26-3, which is where it stayed to the break.



The second half started with a bang for Treviso. Looking dangerous from the off, they quickly gained ground and had the Edinburgh defence struggling to cope. A rolling maul deep in the home 22 then gave them an opportunity, which was seized by lock, Marco Fuser, who peeled off the side of the maul and galloped over the line. A foot on the ball from Tovey, led the referee to go to the TMO for a check, but all was good and, with Allan's successful conversion, it was 26-10.

That, however, was the last the Italian side saw of the score board, or much of the ball, as Edinburgh went on the score three further tries for a comprehensive victory.



The first of these was scored five minutes after that try by wing, Tom Brown. A great deal of pressure on the Italian line preceded the score, the final pass coming from Tovey, who found Brown with a long pass giving the No. 11 a clear – but short – line in for his trademark dive to score. Once again, Tovey followed up a try with a successful conversion for 33-10.

The faithful had to wait another 20 minutes before the sixth try was

chalked up. Treviso probably had the majority of the ball in intervening time, but mistakes and good defence meant that they were finding it difficult to make much headway. The lead-up to the try was set up a few minutes prior to scoring as Tovey popped a speculative ball over the defence and then managed to collect, after a bit of juggling, to make some ground.




A few minutes after having his nose 'remodelled', Gilchrist was back on.

This put Edinburgh on the front foot and a penalty line out in the right corner gave them field position for the attack. Once again, with the defence pulled in, the ball was fired across the pitch, and Brown in the right place to cross the line. Tovey was again on the ball and, with less than 10 minutes to go, it was 40-10.

The final try was scored deep into over time. Edinburgh were in possession as the clock turned 'red', but they continued to play, with Blair Kinghorne firing over in the left corner to complete the impressive win against, admittedly, one of the weaker sides in the PRO 12 league.

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

Edinburgh councillor blogs – Councillor Maureen Child

 Councillor Maureen Child represents Portobello/Craigmillar. She writes:

The **Jack Kane Community Centre** are hosting a workshop

on **reducing food waste** this Monday, 10 October from 11am to 1pm. Each participant will take home with them a 'Kitchen Canny' kit which has tools and equipment to help us reduce the amount of food and money wasted in our homes if we throw food away. Please do pass this information on to anyone who may be interested. If you would like to join in, please do contact the Garden Globe Project's development worker Elly, either by email: eleanor.kinross@jackkanecommunity.org or phone 0131 657 1595.

The inaugural meeting of the **new Portobello Community Council** (PCC) is on Monday 10 October at 7.30pm in Portobello Baptist Church Hall where the new Members will elect office bearers to carry the PCC on to its next meeting, at least. The following meeting will have a full agenda to discuss, that is Monday 31 October, same time and place. I understand that the PCC agenda for 31 October will include consideration of the '**New Brunstane**' planning application, following the public consultation PCC undertook. The period for comments on this major Green Belt application was extended a month to 21 October, but the planning officer has given PCC (as a statutory consultee on local planning matters) a further extension of the time for putting their own comments until 1 November, given the timescales.

The Council last week agreed a consultation on the **future shape of the services in the city**, all of which underpin everyone's daily lives. **Please do take part!** Details be found here: <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/playyourpart> There is also a link there to a consultation on shaping the new long-term **City Vision**, which our Portobello High School youngsters helped launch. All positive contributions welcome!

Craigmillar Castle featured in the New York Times recently as a highly recommended place to visit – in preference to Edinburgh Castle if you have only 36 hours to spare in the City. See here, if you don't believe me! <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/09/19/travel/what-to-do-36-hours-in-edinburgh.html> Thanks to my colleague Councillor Gordon Munro for giving me the heads up on that one! It's now all over social media as a result.

The Thistle Foundation's first foray into **Doors Open Day** on Saturday 24 September was a great success with over 200 visitors on the one day. Now the **Thistle Foundation Centre for Health and Wellbeing** has been shortlisted for this year's FX Magazine International Interior **Design Awards**. The landmark project will be competing in the 'Public Sector' category against other projects from across the UK and beyond. The purpose-built Craigmillar facility replaced the former Tudsbery Centre and offers the local community a central Hub to come and discuss their health and wellbeing with the Foundation's staff or experience a breadth of leisure activities including making use of a specially designed gym. The first floor of the building primarily comprises open plan office space and also features a self-contained living space, which offers overnight accommodation for support workers who are on call, out of hours. Well done Thistle and fingers crossed for a win in London in November!

Community organisations **fighting inequality and promoting social inclusion** can now bid for awards of up to £5000. The £333,000 available is being administered by SCVO (Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations) on behalf of the Scottish Government. The fund closes on the 31 October. More details here; <http://www.scvo.org.uk/running-your-organisation/funding/capacity-resilience-fund/>

If you would like to share your event or story with the **community news online Chronicle**, please do contact them by email or use the form on the Chronicle website here: <http://chronicleonline.net/contact/>

There is plenty of positive local news from the **fantastic Castlebrae** Community High School including progress on the skiff they are building, thanks to a fruitful partnership with the rowing club in Portobello. <http://www.castlebrae.org.uk/> I also heard today that their S4 won first place in the Merchant Company Prize for Initiative – just to add to that long list successes for the school!

By all accounts this **road safety** event was a great learning experience for senior pupils in our schools which will help keep them safe at a time when they are setting out to learn to drive. Statistically it is their young lives which are affected by accidents on our roads, as they are their most inexperienced as drivers. More here: http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news/article/2161/crash_survivor_reinforces_safety_messages_for_young_drivers?utm_content=buffer05217&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

Following a few requests, community enterprise **Bridgend Inspiring Growth (BIG)** have produced a summary of their programme of activities for the next few months. This includes the weekly drop-in sessions and activities happening at the farmhouse, as well as other activities in the surrounding areas. This is below, so please do share! Bridgend will be having an open 'bring and share' type **celebration event** in the

evening after their drop-in on **6 November**. More here www.bridgendfarmhouse.org.uk

I thought you might be interested in a local history link about **Portobello sea swimmer Ned**
Barnie: <http://www.kingofthechannel.com/dr-william-edward-barnie>

Another date for your diary: **Apple Day** in Portobello Community Orchard on **Saturday 29 October**. See here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/916872231780092/?ti=ia>

See all those **wildflower areas in our parks and gardens** – they are doing good work! More here: <http://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/blog-post/50-for-the-future-create-new-wildflower-meadows/?platform=hootsuite#.V-4rTv5iVwM.twitter>

Edinburgh Leisure offer lots of **activities for older people**. See brochure here: http://about.edinburghleisure.co.uk/images/downloads/EL_AgeingWell_A5_4pp_28.07.pdf

Ageing Well Edinburgh has had over 10 successful years of making a significant difference in the lives of those over 50's who regularly attend the activities. For further details on taking part section or telephone the Ageing Well team on 0131 458 2183 or email: ageingwell@edinburghleisure.co.uk All the activities are here: <http://www.edinburghleisure.co.uk/activities/older-adult-activities> More on the background here: <http://about.edinburghleisure.co.uk/what-we-do/physical->

[activity-health/ageing-well/](#)

“The simplest of moments – a word of inquiry, a knock on the door to check up on an older person, a quick chat in the street, an offer not to go for the messages but to go with them for their messages can be life giving; for us all.” – sound advice from **Cyrenians**: Click here: <http://cyrenians.scot/4412-2/> **Vintage Vibes** is a partnership aimed at **tackling isolation and loneliness** among over-60s. They offer a number of options for VIPs (over 60s), including friendships based on one to one visiting in and outside the home, as well as friendship pools and family visiting. Vintage Vibes offer companionship, reliable support and the chance to be more connected with other people. They have a waiting list of VIPs who do need some support and it would be really great to be able match them with a local volunteer. During October, Vintage Vibes are actively looking for volunteers, particularly in Craigmillar. They are keen to speak to local groups of people and will hold a Volunteer Information evening at The White House Centre on Thursday 3 November. More here: www.vintagevibes.org.uk

There is good reason for the city's **Transformation Programme** which is causing such disruption to our current staff and services. http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20254/our_future_council/1310/transforming_service This is not just transforming the Council, alone, but all of us marshalling all the city's resources to better effect, improving lives in the process. This is the kind of thing we should be able to tackle in future much more effectively by working together in future: <https://www.theguardian.com/healthcare-network/2016/sep/28/sunderland-health-partnership-cut-hospital-admissions>

Following a consultation on new strategic priorities for **Police Scotland**, the government has identified **localism** as one of seven key priorities. They now acknowledge (at last) that the force should: “ensure that the needs of local communities are understood and reflected in the planning and delivery of policing at a local and national level.” The other six themes cover inclusion, prevention, responsiveness, collaborative working, accountability and adaptability, which recognises the need to tackle new and emerging threats to the public such as cybercrime.

The **Portobello Heritage Trust** annual lecture this year is entitled *St Kilda: the Last and Outmost Isle*. Angela Gannon, joint author of the book of this title, will give this lecture at **7.30pm on Monday, 21st November** in St. Mark's Church. Angela is an Archaeological Field Investigator and Project Manager with Historic Environment Scotland. The book this lecture is based on is a wonderful production and contains photographs previously unpublished. St Kilda is one of only 24 global locations to hold World Heritage Status for both its natural and cultural significance. It is also home to Europe's most important seabird colony. As always all are welcome, so please bring a friend or anyone you think would appreciate what promises to be a fascinating talk.

People with dementia get by with a little help from their friends. Anybody can become a Scottish Dementia Friend. It's just about understanding a bit more about dementia and the small things you can do to help people with the condition. This could be helping someone find the right bus or being patient in a till queue if someone with dementia is taking longer to pay. Every action counts! More

here: http://www.dementiafriendsscotland.org/?utm_content=buffer77983&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

It's **Portobello Book Festival** this weekend and I will see some of you – hopefully – at the opening event in Portobello Library or at some of the other talks throughout the weekend. Some events might already be fully for **Portobello Book Festival** next week, so get your tickets from Portobello Library as soon as possible or take your slim chances at the door on the day. More detail here: <https://portobellobookfestival.wordpress.com/2016/09/27/ticket-update-and-full-programme/>

And if you **love books and writers**, here's another programme of Scottish Book Trust Events to look forward to – <http://www.scottishbooktrust.com/events>

Have a great weekend!

Best wishes

Maureen

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Colony tales

The brilliant [Tales of One City](#) blog run by the city libraries staff has alerted us to something quite special in Capital Collections.



Courtesy of Capital Collections and
Mary Archibald

Mary Archibald who lives in Slateford has kept a journal of daily activity in the colony garden from her Sitooterie. She is someone who gets up early and watches the flora and fauna in the garden. She also sketches what she sees and this is a lovely record of what is happening in her world.

There are five volumes to browse [here](#)

Letter from Scotland



Harvesting our allotments

Harvest is always a telling time. It tells us what we've sown and how we, and the weather, have cared for it. This week a kind neighbour, who has an allotment, shared some of her produce with me – potatoes and onions and two pots of jam she'd made from her apples and bramble berries.

She is one of 1,360 amateur gardeners in Edinburgh who rent an allotment from the Council for £100 a year. She is one of the lucky few, because there is a long waiting-list of people keen

to till the soil and grow some of their own food. In Scotland's four main cities, there are over 4,000 people on the waiting list for allotments, some of whom have been waiting, spade in hand, for ten years.

These brave city diggers who keep our age-old connection with the land deserve our admiration. Even more so do our farmers, who this year have not enjoyed a good harvest. The first official estimates from the Scottish Government suggest that cereal production is down 11 per cent this year to 2.7m tonnes, most of it due to a fall in yield but 3 per cent due to a smaller area being sown. Barley production is down 16 per cent, oilseed rape by 37 per cent. The only crop that's shown any increase is oats, up 36 per cent.

My thoughts naturally turn to harvest at this time of year, with its low sunlight and darkening trees. But as we come near the end of the party conference season – the SNP conference in Glasgow next weekend is the last – I'm left wondering what sort of harvest we have got in return for the hopeful political seeds we planted back in the spring.

Back then, we had a Prime Minister who'd not long won a general election and was cruising to victory in a referendum designed to silence the slightly batty wing of his own party. We had a Labour Party with fresh and popular leaders north and south of the border. We had an SNP enjoying a surge in membership in the wake of the independence referendum. But now in the autumn, like the farmers, we have a disappointing harvest. The SNP won the Scottish elections but lost its majority. The Labour Party collapsed into third place in Scotland and endured a farcical coup attempt against its leader at Westminster. And we are now heading out of the European Union on a whim and a prayer.

This week we got another warning of how damaging this is going to be for the Scottish economy. The Fraser of Allander Institute suggests our national income could fall by as much

as 5 per cent, meaning 80,000 people losing their jobs and personal income dropping by £2,000 a year. Nicola Sturgeon said, at first minister's question time at Holyrood, that this is why she will be fighting to keep Britain in the European single market, if not in the EU, and, if that fails, a second independence referendum is on the cards.

She went on to condemn the Conservative Party conference for steering Britain towards a "hard Brexit" and for pandering to racist elements in the party by suggesting a "naming and shaming" exercise against firms who employ a large number of foreign workers.

Not that Scotland is free of racism. We've just had a verdict in the curious case of the murder of an Indian waiter Surjit Singh Chhokar 17 years ago. Three white men were present when he was stabbed to death in a street Wishaw in a row over a stolen £100 welfare cheque. From some strange reason, the three men were not tried together, so at separate trials they were able to blame each other and were acquitted. The prosecution service and the police later apologised for their handling of the case.

However since then the law on "double jeopardy" has been changed to allow a second trial if new evidence emerges. And this week one of the men, Ronnie Coulter, was finally convicted of the murder and it was clear from the evidence that a racial element was involved.

There was further evidence this week that Scotland and England are growing apart politically and geologically. While the UK government was approving the first licence to begin fracking for shale gas in Lancashire, the Scottish government was coming out against underground coal gasification (UCG). The two processes are not quite the same but after a technical report into UCG the Scottish energy minister Paul Wheelhouse concluded that it "poses numerous and serious risks to the environment." The Scottish government already has a ban on

fracking while it awaits the results of a consultation which is expected to be overwhelmingly against.

The nation's heart has again gone out to Pauline Cafferkey, the Scottish nurse who contracted Ebola while helping to fight the outbreak in Sierra Leone in 2014. She was taken to hospital in Glasgow on Thursday after becoming unwell, though not directly from Ebola itself. It's the latest in a series of hospitalisations since she came home from West Africa and comes just three weeks after she was cleared of trying to hide a high temperature on her arrival at Heathrow airport in December 2014. Public Health England were seeking to make her a scapegoat to hide their own "chaotic" arrangements for checking medical staff returning from Sierra Leone. I can't help thinking the strain of that cruel and unnecessary hearing may have contributed to her latest illness.

How boxing could ever be classified as a "sport" has always beaten me. I've only once pulled on a pair of boxing gloves and I got knocked silly in the first few seconds of the "bout". Last Thursday, the boxing world got a rude awakening when 25 year old welterweight Mike Towell was knocked out in a fight in Glasgow and died the next day in hospital. There have been vague suggestions that he had suffered headaches in training but, either way, the boxing authorities need to look again at the rules or consign the whole "sport" to the dustbin of history.

Happily, there was some evidence this week that we are not a nation of head-bangers. No fewer than three Scots have won this year's Nobel Prize for Science. It's only a few years since Professor Peter Higgs won the prize for predicting the Higgs Boson phenomenon in particle physics.

Sir Fraser Stoddart has been awarded his Nobel Prize for the part he played in pioneering tiny machines which can operate inside a molecule. Professor David Thouless and Professor Michael Kosterlitz won their prize for work on unusual states

of matter, the science of topology, which may one day pave the way for so-called quantum computers.

It's perhaps useful to note that, like Professor Higgs, their breakthrough discoveries were made several decades ago, and that all of them have worked outside Scotland and in collaboration with other scientists around the world.

Their harvests have been long in coming and have had many cross-winds along the way.

Serial abuser jailed for over six years

✖ Fraser MacDonald (45) was handed a six year and four months sentence for abusing three female partners over 15 years yesterday at the High Court in Edinburgh. He committed the offences in Edinburgh and West Lothian between 2001 and 2016.

Detective Inspector Kevin Harkins said: "MacDonald has proven himself to be a violent and callous individual.

"As a result of the courage of his victims in coming forward and providing their testimony combined with the evidence gathered during police inquiries, he is now going to jail for a significant length of time.

"This custodial sentence will hopefully send a message that domestic abuse will not be tolerated and every report to Police Scotland will be thoroughly investigated.

"Police Scotland is committed to tackling domestic violence and associated offences through the Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit.

"I hope this sentence will give his victims some sense of closure and of justice being done.

"Victims coming forward to report crimes of this nature can rest assured that they will be treated with the utmost sensitivity, compassion and professionalism."

Six arrested in North Edinburgh on theft and road traffic offences

✖ Six men aged between 16 and 47 have been arrested and charged in connection with number of theft and road traffic offences in the North Edinburgh area and four stolen bikes have also been recovered.

Between Wednesday, October 5 and Thursday, October 6, as part of a day of action for Operation Soteria, Edinburgh Division's response to theft of motorcycles from across the area, resulted in arrests.

All six men were reported to the Procurator Fiscal. One man has subsequently pled guilty and has been sentenced to eight months in prison.

As part of the day of action local community officers were assisted by several national Police Scotland resources, including the Roads Policing Unit, the Violence Reduction Unit and the Police Scotland helicopter.

Between June and September 2016 police have arrested 27 separate offenders have been charged with 129 theft and anti-

social behaviour motorbike related offences.

Offices are also working with Edinburgh City Council to target offenders through use of anti-social behaviour legislation or exploring housing sanctions on those who commit anti-social behaviour in their local areas.

Chief Inspector Jimmy Jones, Area Commander of North West Edinburgh, said: "These arrests demonstrate our ongoing commitment to Operation Soteria and the combat of anti-social behaviour and motorbike related crimes.

"In the coming months we will be working with our partners in local government and the justice sector to ensure that we tackle this type of criminality head on.

"Motorcycle owners can also help a great deal by ensuring they make it harder for their property to be taken by taking necessary crime prevention precautions in terms of parking and securing their bikes.

"However, to fully tackle this issue, we need the support of local of the community in North Edinburgh. I would ask anyone with information regarding motorcycle related offending to share that information with us and help us and rid Edinburgh of this dangerous and disruptive crime."

Those wishing to report anti-social behaviour or motorbike related crime can contact Police Scotland on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Take the Monumental Challenge

and win the experience of a lifetime

The council wants you to climb either the Scott Monument or the Nelson Monument on Calton Hill to win the experience of a lifetime.

✖ This is all part of a plan to encourage you to rediscover the city's historic landmarks. All ticket holders will enter a prize draw once you have been to the top of both.

Between 8 October and 8 December those of you who enter could win any one of these experiences, such as tickets for Edinburgh's Hogmanay Street Party with private access to the Scott Monument for the best view of the Midnight Moment fireworks.

Other prizes include afternoon tea for two at Edinburgh Castle, an exclusive bottle of Malt Whisky courtesy of the Scotch Malt Whisky Society and a £100 shopping spree at Cranachan and Crowdie on the Royal Mile.

Councillor Richard Lewis, Edinburgh's Culture Convener, said the vertical challenge was "not for the faint hearted". He said: "Anyone who has climbed these Monuments before will know this is a challenge worth accepting. The journey to the top is, quite literally, breath-taking. While it might not be for the faint hearted, the rewards are spectacular 360 degree views across the city.

"Both attractions offer a great day out but they are mostly visited by tourists. This autumn we are encouraging local people to take on the Monumental Challenge and reconnect with these ancient and iconic memorials to Sir Walter Scott and Admiral Lord Nelson."



Al Thomson, Director of Edinburgh's Hogmanay at Unique Events, said: "We're thrilled to support the Monumental Challenge, giving someone the Hogmanay of a lifetime with this truly unique prize.

"The Edinburgh's Hogmanay Midnight Fireworks are one of the world's greatest firework displays and to have the best view in the city at the top of the Scott Monument, above 75,000 people, will be an unforgettable experience.'


Post your Monumental Challenge photos online #monumentalchallenge.

Winners will be announced on 12 December at 5pm.

A combined ticket to both visitor attractions will cost £10.

Opening hours: Nelson 10am – 3pm, Monday to Saturday; Scott 10am – 4pm, Monday to Sunday.

EIFF appoint first screenwriter in residence

 Krysty Wilson-Cairns who is an award-winning Scottish writer has been appointed the first ever Edinburgh International Film Festival Screenwriter-in-Residence.

From now and until the film festival returns for its 71st edition in summer 2017, Krysty will receive access to Edinburgh's four universities, where she will have the

opportunity to develop project ideas with science and humanities researchers.

A bursary of £7,500 is provided to allow Krysty to take the time to engage with the researchers at key points throughout the year.

This new programme has been developed and supported by **Wellcome** and in partnership with the Beltane Public Engagement Network who provide links and facilitate access to research at The University of Edinburgh, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh Napier University and Queen Margaret University. This access helps build connections between the worlds of film and science.

Holly Daniel, Head of Industry & Talent Development at EIFF said: "We are thrilled to be announcing Krysty Wilson-Cairns as our first EIFF Screenwriter in Residence. She is a very exciting talent, a 'one to watch' and her interest in all things science makes her the perfect writer to explore the knowledge, information and ideas that will be available to her in Edinburgh over the next year."

Dr Heather Rea of the Beltane Public Engagement Network said: "We are delighted to be able to host Krysty as the Edinburgh International Film Festival's Screenwriter in Residence. It will give some of our researchers such a unique chance to learn how ideas get into films and share with Krysty their insights and depth of knowledge about their field of study."

Born in Glasgow, Krysty graduated from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and went on to gain her masters in screenwriting at the NFTS.

Krysty's screenwriting credits include supernatural television drama PENNY DREADFUL and the award-winning short films ALL MEN'S DEAD, THE END OF AN ERA and FINK.

Krysty was named one of *Screen International's* Stars of

Tomorrow in 2014 and is currently in development with features, THE VOYEUR'S MOTEL (Dir. Sam Mendes & Prod. Steven Spielberg), and THE GOOD NURSE (Prod. Darran Aronofsky). Her original screenplay AETHER was listed in the top ten of the 2014 BLACKLIST, BRIT LIST and the HIT LIST and was picked up by Film Nation Entertainment.

Krysty said: "I'm unbelievably excited and very honoured to have been chosen as the Edinburgh International Film Festival's Screenwriter in Residence. The access to scientific researchers and fellows at some of the finest universities in the world is not only a once in a lifetime opportunity, it also offers the possibility to forge bonds across disciplines that are so often (and wrongly) put on opposite ends of a spectrum. I am sure the combination of art and science will provoke an interesting reaction and many unique ideas, I feel truly privileged to be involved."

The residency includes

- £7,500 Award
- Access to some of the leading researchers and fellows in Scotland
- Access to the universities facilities and libraries

The 71st edition of EIFF runs from 21 June – 2 July 2017

First Minister announces

climate change funding

During a visit to the Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavik, Iceland today First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has announced a funding package of £1 million to help developing countries tackle climate change.



The aim is to help them measure climate change better and track the impact, thus helping to improve the assessment of any progress across the world following the Paris Agreement.

Ms Sturgeon said: "Scotland may not geographically be part of the Arctic Circle, but like every delegate here today we are committed to acting on climate change and limiting global temperature increases to below 1.5 degrees.

"We know the most damaging effects of climate change are in developing nations and fall disproportionately on the very young, the very old and the very poor.

"That's why Scotland was the first national government in the world to establish a Climate Justice Fund, which now supports 11 projects in some of the world's poorest communities in four sub-Saharan African countries.

"Following the Paris Agreement on climate change, countries can't just stand back and wait – we all have to deliver. The funding I am announcing today will help developing countries better measure and track climate change, leading to a greater global understanding of how effective we are in limiting its effects.

"This is also a clear signal that we'll do everything we can to remain an open, outward looking country that works to strengthen our partnerships around the world."

Southside Mix & Mingle on Saturday

The Mix & Mingle will take place on Saturday, 8 October 2016
11.00 am to 4.00 pm at Southside Community Centre, 117
Nicolson Street

South Central Neighbourhood Partnership Active Living Action Group is hosting its second Information Day which will provide an opportunity for locals to find out what activities are available to them both in their area and across Edinburgh.

The event is aimed at people aged 50+ but everyone is welcome.



There will be a number of interesting stalls and taster sessions

You can get more information from the Neighbourhood Partnership [website](#).

Barbara Smith named as new

Chief Executive of Edinburgh Zoo



Barbara Smith has been appointed Chief Executive of Edinburgh Zoo.

Jeremy Peat, Chair of Trustees of the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS), said:

“I am delighted to announce that, following a very thorough externally-supported process with consideration of a range of internal and external candidates, the Board of Trustees of RZSS has appointed Barbara Smith as the organisation’s new Chief Executive Officer.

“Barbara was previously the Managing Director of RZSS and has been acting as interim CEO since the departure of Chris West, the previous CEO. She will take up her new position immediately.

We all look forward to working with Barbara in her new capacity, to the benefit of the Society.”


Lagavulin Islay Jazz Festival 2016 (and why you might plan to go next year)



‘Two of these musicians are Jazz Festival virgins...’

And they aren’t the only ones... I had never even been to Islay, the southernmost island of the Inner Hebrides, never mind its annual whisky-fuelled festival. And now here I am, on a boat leaving Kennacraig, **Calmac’s** terminal on the Argyll peninsula, in pouring rain and 40mph gales. Does the Captain really think this is a good idea? Do I? (No...)

The **Lagavulin Islay Jazz Festival** is something of an  institution. It’s been going for 17 years – which is 183 years fewer than its sponsor, one of the eight distilleries on this tiny island. Unlike Glastonbury or T in the Park, there is no central venue – musicians perform in village halls, community centres and even an RSPB centre. Fresh off the ferry (yes, I survived...) the first concert we attend is held at  **Ionad Chaluim Chille Ìle**, a Gaelic medium college surrounded on three sides by water. Listening to **Fraser Fifield’s** ethereal piping and **Graeme Stephen’s** beautiful guitar as the sun sets over Loch Indaal is a magical experience. I’m beginning to think even I can last three days without city comforts.


The festival organisers, **Jazz Scotland** and **Islay Arts Association**, aim to create ‘a giant house party where musicians, local audiences and visitors meet and enjoy each other’s company’. The weekend attracts some of Scotland’s  finest jazz musicians, but there’s still space for the locals; Fifield and Stephen are preceded by a short but enjoyable set from Brian Palmer’s **Islay Jazz Quartet**, who are greeted with just as much enthusiasm as the well kent names.

It doesn’t take long to realise that this festival really is a party. Everyone is extremely friendly, you see the same faces at every session, and although many people have been coming along for years there is little sense of cliqueness – you’re soon exchanging greetings with folk you’ve only known for a few hours. The free drams offered at every venue could have

something to do with this...



Our second concert (there are 18 to choose from) is held at **Lagavulin** itself, a picturesque distillery housed in stunning white buildings. You could almost think you were in a Mediterranean village. Almost. **Haftor Medbøe** (*guitar*), **Espen Eriksen** (*piano*) and **Gunnar Halle** (*trumpet*) – how Norwegian do these guys sound? Well very, in the case of Espen and Gunnar. Haftor, an associate professor at Napier University, actually left Norway when he was 7 and sounds more Bruntsfield than Bergen. The three of them form an impressive trio; not only do they play great music, they do so with tremendous style and humour – and this is a recurring theme of the festival. Everyone, musicians and audience, is here to have a good time – there is no posing or tantrum-throwing, even when equipment falls apart or a baby decides to join in. It's all tremendously relaxing.

✖ Although we're here for the jazz, Islay has plenty more to offer the visitor. **St Columba** visited the island around 720 AD, but it's thought that fishermen and hunters lived here as far back as 7,500 BC. Archaeological remains abound, and there are many carved stones and Celtic crosses. At **Kildaton** you can see the last unbroken ringed Celtic cross in Scotland. You can also visit a particularly *ileach* café – a bench, a picnic hamper and an honesty box. You may struggle to get dinner after 8pm in the Hebrides, but where else can you eat home-made cake on a hillside where people worshipped almost one thousand years ago? 

You could have just stayed in Edinburgh and seen the **Ryan Quigley Quintet** at the iconic **Jazz Bar** – they were, after all, playing there just 24 hours after their stint in Islay. I'm sure they were fantastic in Chambers Street – but I'm pretty sure they were even better in the **Bruichladdich Hall** (and I didn't even partake of the free Lagavulin). Being the festival

virgin that I am, I've never even heard of Quigley, a Derry-born Glaswegian and major jazz scene player. The Quintet's launch of a new CD ***What Doesn't Kill You...*** at London's **Pizza Express Jazz Club** just five days before the Islay gig was, according to none other than **John Fordham** (*The Guardian*) 'live jazz playing at its best'. Their performance in this little distillery village is better than best – it's nothing short of sensational.

✖ Quigley may be nominally in charge of these people, but each one is a fabulous player in his own right – and it's clear that Quigley knows that (he even flew them all to Islay while driving the van up from London himself – 'I've had two hours sleep and my girlfriend may no longer be my girlfriend'). The rapport between these musicians is unmistakable, as is their respect for each other's playing. Saxophonist **Paul Booth**, pianist Geoff Keezer and drummer **Clarence Penn** all produce stunning solos, while phenomenal bass player **Michael Janisch** does all that and more with hugely entertaining style. Quigley's trumpet breaks are quite simply breathtaking. Apparently what the quintet does is called hard bop. I don't care what you call it, it's glorious. You come away from such a performance feeling not only that you have experienced great music, but also that you have been let in on a particularly friendly club – not so much a 'giant house party' as an intimate, highly-charged and exhilarating adventure.





An eagle that I didn't see...


Islay is also famous for its wildlife – and here I must admit defeat.

I come hoping to see eagles, or at least a few harrier hens. I bring the binoculars and even manage to focus them. I look for bottle-nosed dolphins, seals and otters; I look in vain. Does


a chough grace my walk? It does not. Islay has two **RSPB** reserves; we set off by ourselves on a brisk walk across one, the **Oa** (pronounced O – do they have a surplus of ‘a’s in Gaelic?), leaving the car park in such sunshine that I almost don’t take a coat.

By the time we make it to the headland we’re being battered by wind and soaked by horizontal rain. It’s said that the American soldiers who built the impressive memorial to their compatriots, who died in two ships lost off this very point  (one, the *Tuscania*, torpedoed, the other, *HMS Otranto*, sunk after a collision with another vessel) found conditions on this lonely cliffside even worse than those they’d endured in the trenches. We see a few intrepid mountain goats. It soon becomes clear that everyone’s seen them – in fact they’re the local show-offs.

Undaunted, we try another walk, this time with Dave, warden of the other RSPB reserve, **Loch Gruinart**. Loch Gruinart is much more sheltered than the Oa; rowan trees, fuchsias and wildflowers line the path to the observation point, the sun is dutifully shining. Dave tells us lots of interesting stuff  about the RSPB’s land management. Can he show us a bird? Reader, he cannot. ‘It’s not the best time for them’ he admits – and right enough, the book I consult afterwards advises that late spring is the season for successful Islay birdwatching. Never mind, we have a great walk, and Dave is an excellent guide – one who knows his stuff, but doesn’t make you feel like a total ignoramus (some achievement when it’s me he’s talking to...).

 We may not see any birds at Loch Gruinart, but we do see some excellent jazz. A lunchtime session in the RSPB centre offers us three young Scottish jazz stars, **Tom Gibbs** (*piano*), **Brodie Jarvie** (*bass*) and **Stephen Henderson** (*drums*). It’s the first time that they have played together as a trio, which comes over at times – but never during the music, where once again the empathy between them shines through and makes for a

most enjoyable hour (interspersed with a fine fundraising lunch from the RSPB volunteers). Henderson in particular deserves a mention for his outstanding (and very unassuming) playing.


And so, as the weather deteriorates, we come to the closing  concert of the 2016 festival. We have seen trumpeter **Colin Steele** and saxophonist **Martin Kershaw** in Aberdeen, we have seen them in Edinburgh – but we have never seen them perform as well as they did in the Bruichladdich Hall. On stage with **Brian Shiels** (*bass*), **Alyn Cosker** (*drums*) and **Paul Harrison** (*piano*) they form Steele's supergroup, ***Mercy Mercy Mercy***, playing a set of **Cannonball & Nat Adderley** tunes. Assured playing from musicians at the top of their game always makes for a great evening, but these five have so much more – their solos are electrifying, their humour infectious, their enthusiasm thrilling. Kershaw may personify Mr Cool while Steele gyrates all over the place, but few performers have such brilliant rapport – and it's a rapport they freely share with the audience, thanking us for turning up, thanking Lagavulin for its continuing sponsorship, thanking Jazz Scotland and Islay Arts for doing all the leg work, then coming down to chat with anyone and everyone after the show. A spectacular and triumphant ending to a magnificent festival.

Was it worth travelling 200 miles for? We're already planning next year's visit. If you'd like to hear top class music in a unique setting, you should too.





REVIEW – The Suppliant Women Edinburgh Lyceum *****

 The Suppliant Women by Aeschylus in a new version by David Greig directed by Ramin Gray composer and musical director John Browne

Urban, street-wise, shouting from its relocation to the Athens of the North, David Greig's reinterpretation of Aeschylus' earliest known extant script is primal, vibrant and packs a viscerally modern punch. Evocative publicity posters and the programme cover depict a lone refugee waving a ragged life-jacket, a potent contemporary image indelibly fused in our consciences. Apposite, startling in its contemporary relevance, The Suppliant Women's message is as timeless as is it disturbing. Its feral and dangerous volatility shrieks with indignation and brutalised vulnerability.

The young women under the protection of Danaus (Omar Ebrahim) their totemic, paternal guardian, flee from Egypt to escape forced marriages to their cousins. They seek asylum and protection from Pelasgus, King of Argos (Oscar Batterham) with whom they claim ancestral ties that the Goddess Io and even Zeus must recognise. They will choose suicide rather than submit. After seeking the agreement of his people, Pelasgus

rejects the Egyptian herald's petition for the Danaides' return and offers them sanctuary within the city walls. He has put honour, duty and the radical concept of fledgling Democracy before and above hostile, alien Gods and culture. The play is the first of a trilogy, the other two are lost.



The Lyceum stage is utilitarian; stripped raw to its core, voluminous, potent, anticipating. Choreographer, Sasha Milavic Davies, exploits this with both compressed, suggestive military formations and serpentine fluidity as the 'Edinburgh Community Chorus' of Suppliant Women led by their principal spokeswoman, the Amazonian confident Gemma May, writhe and agitate delivering their battalion precise verses of supplication and defiance. At times a ghostly suggestion of Diaghilev's riot-provoking interpretation of The Rite Of Spring haunts the prowling, menaced Chorus.

Composer, Musical Director, John Brown's intuitive and supremely sparse use of percussion (Ben Burton) and performance defining dual-accompanied Aulos pipers (Callum Armstrong/Barnaby Brown) weave themselves within the rich tapestry of this performance with delirious insistently. King Pelasgus must juggle the fate of his febrile subjects against the determined will of the cock-sure swaggering intimidation of the Egyptian Heralds. His is a life or death decision of impossible diplomacy.



Parallels, analogies and potent symbolisms abound within this maelstrom of human dynamic. The plight of brutalised and exploited refugees, the flotsam and jetsam of sectarian, religious and proxy super-state conflicts is most prominent. The spectre of the speciously referred to 'honour killings', the recent data that reveals the scale of mental health issues amongst many younger women in the UK are subtexts that clammer

to be heard. But Director, Ramin Gray, lets the poetry speak across the millennia. As Danaus beseeches his young cohorts, 'We are foreign, we cannot hide that, people will judge that,' what Aeschylus would make of Brexit sloganeering can only make us shudder. Might Danaus speak for us all when he asks the Suppliant Women – 'Let us see if we find ourselves reflected in this strange and ancient mirror?' Outstanding performances, emblazoned with a critical mass of supreme assurance. Miss at your peril.

[Tickets here.](#)

Moderator calls for new strategy on homelessness



The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland Right Rev Dr Russell Barr is speaking at a seminar in Edinburgh today on the matter of solving homelessness.

He wants bodies such as local authorities to get together in a 'collective endeavour' to end rough sleeping and the reliance on temporary accommodation.

This would be based on a successful Finnish model where the number of homeless people has been reduced.

Dr Barr founded Edinburgh charity Fresh Start in 1999 which supports people out of homelessness. Scottish Government figures for 2015/16 show 34,662 homeless applications were

from households. And 17,822 children and young people under 18 are members of these households – a situation the Moderator described as “shocking and shameful”.

The application figure is not dissimilar to that from 1996, when there were 40,989 applications according to the housing charity, Shelter. The Moderator says anecdotal evidence suggests the current figures also underplay the true level of homelessness, as they do not capture the number of people who are ‘sofa surfing’ without registering themselves with their local council.

The Moderator has raised the issue and his concerns at the highest levels with the Scottish Government and the City of Edinburgh Council.

Dr Barr will say during his speech today : “Finland is the only western European country which has been able to significantly reduce the number of people homeless in recent years.

“Based on Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, the Finnish distinctive ‘housing first’ model has demonstrated it is always more cost-effective to end homelessness rather than manage it.

“This nationally agreed policy made it possible to establish a wide partnership of state authorities, local communities and non-governmental organisations.

“And because there were co-ordinated and targeted measures in the implementation of the policy, it is working.

“Collective endeavour – as expressed in a nationally agreed strategy appropriate for the Scottish context – could not be more urgent.

“A strategy which commands cross party and cross discipline support and a strategy which embraces local authorities, housing associations and the third sector including the

various charities involved in supporting people who have been homeless.”

Dr Barr will say: “The current shortage of affordable housing is placing pressure on temporary accommodation and this in turn has a negative impact on emergency accommodation.

“And if access to emergency accommodation is difficult then the outcome is an increase in rough sleeping

“The homelessness ‘pipeline’ is effectively blocked at the exit point into affordable social housing and until that blockage is removed so the problem will continue to grow.”

Children’s art competition celebrating Drumbrae Leisure Centre relaunch

Edinburgh children took part in ActiveArt competition celebrating the refurbishment of Drumbae Leisure Centre last Monday, 3 October 2016.

In ActiveArt entrants were asked to create a colourful A4 picture illustrating their favourite way of being active. They could choose from a painting, collage, printmaking or photography.

Emily Neil, Drumbrae Leisure Centre’s Manager said: “Being part of the biggest club in town, we wanted to see what inspired the children to get active. From gym, swim and fitness classes, children’s coaching and health and wellbeing programmes for the local community, no matter what age or stage you are, there is something for everyone.



Olympic medallist Robbie Renwick and Louise Inglis

There were 3 age groups: under 8 years; 8-12 years; and 13 – 19 years. The winner in each group received a [Clip 'n Climb](#) voucher for six people. The runners up in each section won a £20 art voucher and a goody bag.

Olympic swimmer, Robbie Renwick, presented the winners and runners up with their prizes.

Emily Neil continued: "Having Olympic silver medallist, Robbie Renwick, present them with their own prizes has been the icing on the cake. They couldn't believe their luck in meeting a real life Olympian and getting to wear his medal."



Robbie Renwick and Atahan Sezgin

The gym at Drumbrae was recently refurbished with the latest equipment. The experienced gym team will be launching new gym classes and helping customers to achieve their personal goals.

Edinburgh Leisure has invested in a deal of technology in the building to improve its energy efficiency and green credentials. The customer experience has been improved, with the introduction of 'easy access' which will reduce queues at the reception.

*We met a real Olympic athlete today! [@Ed_Leisure](#)
[@RobbieRenwick](#) #Drumbraefit pic.twitter.com/oqNB2a8Tvq*

– Edinburgh Reporter (@EdinReporter) [September 30, 2016](#)

The new café ,Café 4 Good, is a social enterprise café run in conjunction with Beer for Good. It is set to make a difference to unemployed people who are looking for their opportunity to progress and take that next step.

Visitors to Drumbae Leisure Centre can also see pictures of the winners and runners up of the Active Art Competition being displayed on the TV screen there.

December at The Queen's Hall



This is a big month for The Queen's Hall when they host the Christmas concert that should definitely be on your list.

Scottish Chamber Orchestra : An Orkney Wedding

1 December 2016 at 7.30pm

The music of Scotland's own Sir Peter Maxwell Davies is celebrated with an outing for his iconic work An Orkney Wedding as a fitting crescendo for a concert which begins with Sibelius' The Tempest : Suite No 2.

But the end will really come with the bagpipes telling you it's time to go home!

[Tickets here](#)



Blue Rose Code plus special guests Zervas & Pepper

2 December 2016 at 8.00pm

Another new album has meant a busy year for Blue Rose Code, but it is his rise which is both breakneck and breathtaking. He began the year with a standing ovation at Celtic Connections and an award nomination for the album. Now he will end it in his home town alongside his band, the Edinburgh Contemporary Choir and guests Zervas & Pepper who all join him on stage. Ross Wilson is celebrating a big year with a homecoming gig. And Lo! The Bird is On the Wing

Listen to some of his music here.

[Tickets here.](#)

An Evening with Lau

3 December 2016 at 8.00pm

This is the final night of The Bell That Never Rang World Tour and you should try hard not to miss it!. They are winners of the BBC 2 Radio 2 Folk Awards and have appeared on Later...With Jools Holland. Far from being mainstream or ordinary they are masters of the acoustic folk tradition mixed with some electronica. Theirs was the Best Scottish Album of the Year in 2015 and they were nominees this year.

[Tickets here](#)

Scottish Chamber Orchestra : Chamber Sundays

4 December 2016 at 3.00pm

Great way to relax after your Sunday Dinner with some Mozart and Beethoven in the mix today. Kristian Bezuidenhout will play fortepiano and the SCO Wind Soloists will be in the forefront.

[Tickets here](#)

Joshua Radin plus support

5 December 2016 at 7.00pm

An American from Ohio he has been compared to Nick Drake and Simon & Garfunkel. He is showcasing his new album Onward and Sideways.

[Tickets here.](#)

Scottish Chamber Orchestra : Kristian Bezuidenhout plays Mozart

8 December 2016 at 7.30pm

The fortepiano is the instrumental 'technology' – Kristian Bezuidenhout's word – that Mozart knew and loved, and for which he effectively created his own genre in Vienna in the 1780s: the piano concertos that he would compose, perform, and sell in his subscription concerts as an independent musician in the capital of the Habsburg Empire.

[Tickets here.](#)



Emily Smith's Song for Christmas

9 December 2016 at 7.30pm

A wee bit early for Christmas unless you are off on holiday soon afterwards! This festive concert will include original music written by Smith as well as traditional tunes. There will be a surprise guest.....

[Tickets here.](#)

Malcolm Martineau and Friends

10 December 2016 at 7.30pm

Martineau is accompanied by friends and colleagues in a concert which will form a musical tribute to his mother, Hester Dickson Martineau. Some members of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and no fewer than eight cellists will join him this evening. The proceeds of the concert will be donated to the Edinburgh Breast Cancer Institute.

Born in Edinburgh he is known for his own series at the Wigmore Hall and appearances at the Edinburgh Festival.

[Tickets here](#)

Harps of Gold Christmas Concert

11 December 2016 at 2.30pm

Edging ever closer to Christmas with the Clarsach Society who invite you to a charity concert with the harps of Na Clarsairean and the George Watson's College Caritas Choir.

[Tickets here](#)

SNJO : A Christmas Festival of Jazz with TSYJO

16 December 2016 at 7.30pm

A chance for you to have a bit of pre Christmas cheer as the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra combine with the Tommy Smith Youth Jazz Orchestra to bring you a double bill of swinging jazz.

[Tickets here.](#)

Scottish Chamber Orchestra : Strauss Wind Concertos

17 December 2016 at 7.30pm

As well as Strauss there will be some Schubert thrown in to this the final SCO concert at the Queen's Hall for the year. The First Horn Concerto No 2 in E flat was written when Strauss was not even twenty years old.

[Tickets here.](#)

Dunedin Consort : Children's Messiah

19 December at 4.30pm

Just the thing to occupy children while presents are being bought for them! All the best bits of Handel's Messiah for you to sing along to.

[Tickets here.](#) and free for adults who have tickets for the evening performance

Dunedin Consort : Handel's Messiah

19 December 2016 at 7.00pm

This is one of the best known pieces of Christmas music. It's all about the angels and Dunedin under the direction of John Butt will bring it all to life.

[Tickets here](#)

Phil Cunningham's Christmas Songbook

20 December 2016 at 7.30pm

The first of two nights bound to be very popular with those in the know. Phil is joined by Eddi Reader, Karen Matheson and John McCusker. There will be laughter and music galore – and you are allowed to sing along!

[Tickets here.](#)

Phil Cunningham's Christmas Songbook

22 December 2016 at 7.30pm

Just in case you can't make it on the 20th there is a second night of fun and laughter with the accordionist supreme Mr Phil Cunningham and friends. His 'breezy banter' will get your Christmas started.

[Tickets here.](#)



Afore the Bells : Hogmanay At The Queen's Hall

31 December 2016 at 9.00pm

This is the way to see the old year out – dance your socks off at The Queen's Hall! This is a real party with good food, drink and music.

There will be a traditional ceilidh with Heeliegoleerie with callers to keep you in the right place at the right time. A piper will bring the new year in at the appropriate moment and you will be cosy and warm in one of Edinburgh's prettiest music venues.

[Tickets here.](#)

Full winter programme here:



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Witness appeal after man attacked in Russell Road



Police are appealing for witnesses following a serious assault in Roseburn last night where a man in his 20s suffered serious facial injuries which took place on Russell Road at around 8.35pm.

The man had been riding a moped behind two male youths, one also on a moped and the other on a mini moto. They all stopped near to the railway bridge and the youths attacked the man before riding off on their moped when other motorists stopped to help.

The mini moto, which had been stolen from a property in Greenbank earlier in the evening, was recovered at the scene.

Detective Constable Kevin Walls based at Corstorphine Police Station is investigating and said: "This was a particularly violent attack which thanks to the presence of passers-by, was prevented from becoming even more serious. We are very grateful for the assistance of those drivers but still want to speak to anyone who may have witnessed the assault, in particular the driver of a dark coloured Nissan X-Trail which was in the area at the time.

"The mopeds rode along Dundee Street, Henderson Terrace, Murieston Road, Murieston Place and Murieston Crescent prior to the assault on Russell Road. The mini moto was stolen from

the Greenbank area at around 8.15pm so I'm also keen to hear from anyone who may have seen the youths in these areas too."

The youths are described as in their mid-teens and of slim build, both spoke with local accents. One was around 5 foot 7 inches tall and was wearing a white helmet, grey hooded top, blue jogging bottoms and white trainers – the second male had shaved light brown hair and was wearing a black and yellow helmet and a grey hooded top.

Anyone with information should call Police Scotland on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Police launch partnership with Blood Cancer charity



Police Scotland has launched a pioneering partnership with blood cancer charity Anthony Nolan which could help save the lives of hundreds of people with blood cancer.

For the first time in its history, Police Scotland will work in partnership with a charity to recruit police officers to the national stem cell donor register.

With hundreds of healthy young recruits joining the police force every year, this could result in lifesaving matches for blood cancer patients in Scotland and around the world.

As part of the ground-breaking collaboration, police recruits, known as probationers, are given the opportunity to hear a presentation during their time training at the Police Scotland College and will have the opportunity to join up as a

potential donor for someone in need of a lifesaving transplant.

At the launch of the partnership on 4th October, probationers who choose to join the register will be asked to fill in a medical form and give a saliva sample. They will then be added to the register and notified if they are a match for someone in need of a stem cell transplant.

As many as 800 recruits can be trained in a year at the College based at Tulliallan Castle in Kincardine, Fife. They will be invited to a donor registration event at the college, which will also be open to serving officers who are visiting the college.

To register as a potential donor, people must be aged 16-30, weigh at least 50kg and be in good health. The charity is particularly looking for more young men to join, as they are currently underrepresented on the register.

Police Constable Frazer McFadyen, 29, has first-hand experience of the lifesaving difference stem cell donors can make. Frazer joined the donor register in 2002, and helped set up a Marrow student group at Stirling University to organise donor recruitment and awareness-raising events for Anthony Nolan.

Ten years later, as he was completing initial police training, he was selected as a match for someone with blood cancer.

"The week that was scheduled for the transplant happened to be my passing-out parade from the Police College," said Frazer. "I explained to everyone that the transplant was going on and they were really supportive and we made the timings work.

"Donating was easy, just like an extended blood donation. I had a visitor from Anthony Nolan who was really helpful, and the whole thing was an incredible experience."

Knowing how important stem cell donation is, Frazer realised that his colleagues at Police Scotland could help tackle the shortage of donors.

“I learned a lot about Anthony Nolan and blood cancer through the experience of donating, and about the need for more donors.

“I realised that patients are dying because of a lack of young, fit people signing up to donate, and that’s who the police recruitment attract. It seemed like a perfect match.”

There have already been three pilot events to test the initiative with the previous intakes of probationers, which saw the majority of eligible people present join the register.

Frazer added, “It would be really great to see loads of police officers, particularly young men, joining and helping to tackle the inequalities that exist on the donor register.

“It would be brilliant for people to see this as part of being a police officer.”

Laura Regan, 22, from Berwick-upon-Tweed, knows just how important it is to raise awareness of the Anthony Nolan register. Laura, who graduated from Aberdeen University this summer, had a stem cell transplant from an anonymous donor in November 2015 to treat her acute lymphoblastic leukaemia.

“Being told there was someone who was a match for me was amazing and it was incredible knowing that someone was there and willing to help,” said Laura.

“I’ve always wondered who it was. I would just thank them so much for doing that for me. The fact that someone is willing to go out of their way to help someone is incredible because it makes such a big difference – if it wasn’t for them I might not even be here.

“I think the partnership between Police Scotland and Anthony

Nolan could make a big difference, especially as the police recruit young men of the right age group.

“I was lucky as I was able to find a match but a lot of people struggle.”

Superintendent Chris Stones, of the Training, Leadership and Development department at Police Scotland, said, “Helping people is at the heart of everything we do in Police Scotland. To be able to take this beyond what a Police Officer does on a daily basis is something we are hugely proud of.

“Our recruits have always spent time and energy on supporting charitable work while they undertake their training and the opportunity to support Anthony Nolan was one we embraced.

“Having met with the Anthony Nolan team and spoken to those affected, my hope is that Police Scotland can make a difference to someone’s life.”

Henny Braund, chief executive of Anthony Nolan, said: “We are delighted to partner with Police Scotland and encourage more people on the force to register with Anthony Nolan. By joining the stem cell donor register, officers at Police Scotland have the potential to save the lives of people with blood cancer.

“This is an exciting opportunity to raise awareness of the stem cell donor register and make a massive difference to people with blood cancer in Scotland and beyond.”

The partnership is especially timely as Anthony Nolan published a Scottish strategy last month, outlining new ways to engage supporters in Scotland and increase awareness of the need for more stem cell donors.

Currently around 10% of the potential donors on the Anthony Nolan register are from Scotland, and in 2015 Scottish supporters helped to raise almost £1million of vital funds. Anthony Nolan aims to recruit 10,000 Scottish donors a year by

2020.

Bogus Caller warning in East Lothian and Scottish Borders



Police have issued a warning following three reports of bogus callers targeting residents in East Lothian and the Scottish Borders.

The incidents happened in Kirk Park, Dunbar; Callandar Place Cockburnspath and Croft Road, Kelso on Monday 3rd October.

In the Kirk Park incident, a 92-year-old man was charged an excessive three-figure sum to have some gardening work done. The suspect bogus workman called himself John Smith and left a business card.

The suspect in the Cockburnspath incident called unannounced and offered to tarmac the driveway, leaving a business card.

In the Croft Road Kelso incident, a workman was contacted via social media, he asked for payment up front and left without completing the work.

Officers are advising residents to be on their guard for bogus callers, rogue traders and not to engage anyone cold-calling to do property maintenance, gardening or home repairs.

Sergeant Michele Lindsay said, "Police Scotland is committed to tackling those involved in this crime and will use all means at our disposal to ensure they are swiftly brought to justice."

“Rogue traders usually turn up announced, claim to be bona fide tradesmen when they are not and charge inflated prices for shoddy or unnecessary work.

“However, an effective way of preventing these incidents from happening in the first place is by raising awareness of the problem and advising members of the public on what steps they can take to stop themselves falling victim.

“We would recommend that you never engage anyone who turns up at your door and never give them money up front.

“We would also caution against keeping large sums of cash in your own home.

“More information about how to protect yourself against bogus callers can be found on the Police Scotland website at the link below.”

[Doorstep Crime and Bogus Callers](#)

Firefighters rescue two people from blaze in Lower Granton Road



Around 50 firefighters tackled a large blaze at a ground floor property on Lower Granton Road last night.

Emergency services were called to the scene at 7.15pm and two residents were trapped inside their house.

Firefighters used breathing equipment to rescue the pair who

were taken to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

One was kept in hospital overnight for observation, and their condition is not thought to be life-threatening.

Lower Granton Road was partially blocked throughout the night but police have confirmed that the street has now reopened.

Family pay tribute to woman who died in collision near Leadburn



The family of a Borders woman who lost her life in a road traffic collision in Midlothian have today paid tribute to the 68-year-old.

Irene Robson, from Peebles, died after her red Honda Jazz was involved in a collision with a silver Vauxhall Zafira on the A6094 between Leadburn and Howgate shortly before 1pm on Sunday 2nd October.

The incident also claimed the life of a 41-year-old man who was the driver of the Vauxhall.

Today, Irene's family issued the following statement through Police Scotland.

"It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Irene.

"It has come as a great shock to us all and we're grateful for the messages of condolences from friends.

“Irene was a devoted wife, mother, granny, daughter, sister, auntie and good friend to many.

“She will be sadly missed by all.”

Police are continuing with their enquiries into the collision and are particularly keen to speak to those who stopped at the scene immediately after the collision itself

Anyone with information can contact Police Scotland on 101 or alternatively an anonymous report can be made through the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

North Bridge closed due to concern for man



The North Bridge was closed to all pedestrians and traffic at around 8.45am this morning after reports of concern for a man.

Emergency services including police, paramedics and the fire service remain at the scene and motorists are advised to avoid the area.

A spokeswoman said: “Police in Edinburgh were called to North Bridge around 8.45am on Thursday following a report of concern for a man.

“Closures are currently in place while emergency services attend the scene and the public are thanked for their patience.”

Three arrested after drugs seizure in Haddington



Three people have been arrested and charged after police recovered a significant quantity of drugs in Haddington.

Officers from the East Lothian Community Action Team carried out a search of a property in Lanngriggs on Thursday 29th September, and in excess of £4,500 worth of cannabis, cocaine, tablets and cash were seized from the address.

Two men aged 27 and 21 and a 24-year-old woman have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal and will appear in court at a later date.

Chief Inspector Matt Paden, Local Area Commander for East Lothian said, "Every day we gather intelligence on those involved in drug crime within East Lothian and regularly carry out activity like this to seize harmful substances before they can make their way into our communities.

"I would continue to urge the public to come forward with information relating to ongoing drug offences in their area so we can investigate thoroughly and respond accordingly."

Anyone with information should call Police Scotland on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Bayern Munich run out comfortable winners over brave Hibernian Ladies



Despite a brave performance Hibernian Ladies were unable to prevent their more illustrious opponents Bayern Munich from running out comfortable winners last night in the historic UEFA Women's Champions League fixture.

The club opened the lower tier of the West Stand and a crowd of 2551 watched the encounter, including Scotland Under 19 coach Gareth Evans, former Hibernian Ladies manager Willie Kirk and striker James Keatings.

The Germans also brought a small but noisy contingent to the capital.

Hibernian started brightly with a fantastic piece of skill from Lizzie Arnot on the left wing however Bayern quickly found their rhythm and opened the scoring in the 4th minute Stefanie van der Gragt headed in from a Verena Faisst corner kick.



From then on the German team dominated possession and produced wave after wave of attacks but the Hibernian players defended stoutly and did have the occasional foray upfield and Rachael McLauchlan sent over a dangerous cross which just eluded Abi Harrison.

The elegant Arnot then ran 50 yards with the ball before her long-range strike produced a good save from Tinja-Rikka Korpela in the Bayern goal.

Korpela spent the majority of the game playing in a sweeper role between her own penalty box and the half way line.



The Germans added a second in the 26th minute when Nera Berge Holstad fired a powerful strike past Jenna Fife from 12 yards.

Ten minutes later Vivianne Leupolz made it 3-0 with a well taken near post header to give the visitors a well deserved half time lead.



Former Glasgow City player Lisa Evans set up Bayern's fourth when her cross was diverted into the net by Melanie Miedema before Melanie Leupolz made it 5-0 with a close range effort after the Hibernian defenders were unable to clear their lines.

Behringer completed the scoring by sending Fife the wrong way with a penalty kick but the action didn't stop there.

Fife produced excellent saves to deny substitutes Anna Gerhardt and Rolser who later missed Bayern's second spot kick off the night when her effort struck the crossbar.



The pair meet again in Germany next Wednesday.

The Hibernian team can hold their heads up high after a spirited performance against a full-time German team containing many internationals who were physically stronger in every position.

Hibernian Ladies: Fife, Williamson (Brownlie 81'), Hunter, Robertson, Arnot, Smith, McLauchlan, Graham, Murray, Cornet (Small 68'), Harrison (Ewens 68'). Substitutes not used: Jeffries, Michie, Heron, Notley.

FC Bayern Munich: Korpela, Lewandowski, van der Gragt, Behringer, Leupolz, Miedema (Rolser 64'), Holstad, Evans, Faisst (Gerhardt 64'), Schnaderbeck, Dabritz (Falknor 75'). Substitutes not used: Zinsberger, Abbe, Wenniger, Maier.

Referee: Esther Staubli (SUI).

Attendance: 2,551.

Photographs by [John Preece](#)

Allotments safe after planning appeal fails

The Craigentenny-Telferton allotments have been given a reprieve following yesterday's decision by the Scottish Government's Reporter to throw out the landowner's appeal to allow building on the land.



The planning committee decided unanimously in April 2016 to refuse the application to 'formalise' the allotments and allow housebuilding on part of the site. The landowner, Avant Homes, then appealed that decision to the government's Planning and Environmental Appeals Division who issued a written decision throwing out the appeal on 5 October 2016. The application to the council included affordable housing and retained some allotments within the site, but the land was designated as open space in the Local Development Plan drawn up by the council last year, which appears to have secured the future of the allotment site.

[The allotments](#) have had a chequered history, and this is the

latest in a long line of decisions over their future. It seems that although Avant Homes own the site they will not be able to develop it as they had wished unless there is a legal reason why the decision should not stand. The campaigners have fought for their rights to remain, and one of the ways they have done this is by using social media, particularly [Twitter](#), to their advantage.

The council owns and rents many of the allotments in Edinburgh, and in the case of one of the nearby sites in Findlay Gardens, the waiting list for a plot is now eight years. The council consultation on a strategy for allotments ends tomorrow, and you can have your say [here](#).

Rachel Purnell one of the allotment holders and campaigners to save the site from development said : “We are still celebrating! We are pleased the Reporter recognised the value of the site to the community as allotments and green space. We understand that any further appeal would have to be on a point of law rather than challenging the planning decisions for refusal. We can now get back to growing!”

The area has been used as allotments since 1923 when a local rented land from Edinburgh Corporation Electricity Service and an allotment association was first constituted.



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