

Auld Reekie Roller Girls take on Granite City on 5 November



Remember, remember the Fifth of November!

The Auld Reekie Roller Girls (ARRG) are preparing to take on Aberdeen in what promises to be an explosive game of roller derby on 5 November 2016.

ARRG are set to do battle with the Granite City at Edinburgh's Meadowbank Stadium and sparks are sure to fly this Bonfire Night as Auld Reekie's All Star Reserves prepare to fight hard for a win on their home track.

Roller derby is gaining a huge amount of popularity in Scotland and whatever the outcome, when Auld Reekie face Granite City's Northern Fights on the 5th November both seasoned derby fans and those who are new to the sport are guaranteed a fantastic game of day out with a difference.

You are promised more than roller derby as there are plenty of activities to keep the entire family entertained including local craft stalls, top roller derby merchandise, a stocked bar, tasty cake stalls, half-time entertainment and a kids' area with crafts and face painting.

Tickets: £5 online, £8 (£6 concessions) on the door, free entry for under 14's

Doors open at 13:20 at Meadowbank Stadium

For further info and tickets visit: arrg.co.uk

Kerry's cake knocks them out!



Best reader's recipe award winner Kerry Teakle, for her whisky, orange and almond cake recipe.

The Observer Food Monthly awards 2016, held at Freemasons Hall in central London, 13 October 2016

Our fabulous friend and [Edinburgh Foody](#) blogger Kerry Teakle won a huge award in London last night in the category

- Best reader's recipe – Whisky orange and almond cake

We have tasted this cake made with Glengoyne whisky and it is just gorgeous!



Best reader's recipe award winner Kerry Teakle, for her whisky, orange and almond cake recipe is presented with her award by Sue Perkins and Jay Rayner.

The Observer Food Monthly awards 2016, held at Freemasons Hall in central London, 13 October 2016

Kerry said : "I felt like a million dollars in my Scarlett and Jo dress, and I got the best goody bag in town, but I am not sure how I will get this award back to Scotland! It's a lethal weapon!"

And the winner is . . . drum-roll. . . ME . . . Best Reader's Recipe [#OFMAwards2016@EdinburghFoody](#) [@fionarichmond8](#) [@EdinReporter](#) [@CCameron_](#) [pic.twitter.com/ZK25nZJBla](#)

– Edin Culture Vulture (@KerryTeakle) [October 13, 2016](#)

It certainly looks as though Ms T had a great time at the 2016 Observer Food Monthly Awards where she was hobnobbing with Sue Perkins and Jay Rayner! The awards are sponsored by [A0.com](#)

Another Edinburgh worthy [Social Bite](#) which employs and supports homeless people was recognised in the outstanding achievement category.

Observer Food Monthly editor Allan Jenkins said: “This year’s OFM Awards reflect the fast-changing face of British food. Tonight’s awards have showcased the nation’s best bars, markets, cookbooks, cafes and restaurants, with winners from Belfast to Padstow and Edinburgh. It’s great to see our readers voting in tens of thousands in support of these local heroes.”

The Observer Food Monthly Awards issue is available on Sunday 16 October, free with The Observer.



The Observer Food Monthly awards 2016, held at Freemasons Hall in central London, 13 October 2016

The Edinburgh Reporter Podcast – Interview with Cllr

Paul Godzik about Boroughmuir High School



A further delay to the opening date for the new Boroughmuir High School was announced yesterday. We spoke to the Education Convener this morning to find out more.

Scottish Land Fund award will enable community purchase of former council buildings in Eyemouth



The community in Eyemouth is about to bring the old Burgh Chambers and Town Hall into community ownership with a Scottish Land Fund award.

The Eyemouth and District Community Trust (EDCT) will now be able to proceed to purchase and redevelop the vacant properties as a Social Eco Innovation Centre providing a learning and training space, a social enterprise training kitchen, IT resource centre, office space for new businesses and space for the local community to use.

Sina Anderson of EDCT said: “We are delighted to receive this

generous award from Scottish Land Fund. This funding will enable us to proceed with the proposed Eyemouth Social Innovation Centre, a project set right in the centre of Eyemouth, supporting the regeneration of the town and bringing a much loved building back into community use. Whilst the community has always been keen to retain the old Burgh Chambers and Town Hall, as a community space, now with the conversion to a multi use space, it will give added benefit to the town.

“Eyemouth until recent times was one of the largest fishing ports in the whole of Scotland but now needs to look to other opportunities to sustain the town. This project will address the need for a variety of training, office space and business support, in an effort to encourage young people to stay in the town, offer retraining, as well as attracting new businesses and start ups, to provide employment.”



Announcing the award, **John Watt, Scottish Land Fund Committee Chair**, said: “This is an important Scottish Land Fund award that will help the people of Eyemouth embark on an exciting journey of community ownership. This project will bring tremendous benefits by helping to increase skills, opportunities and training for local people, as well as encouraging innovation and helping new and emerging businesses to flourish.”

Cabinet Secretary Land Reform, Roseanna Cunningham, said: “I am delighted Eyemouth & District Community Trust have received an award from the Scottish Land Fund to progress the purchase of the Burgh Chambers and adjoining Town Hall. The community ownership of these iconic buildings in Eyemouth will allow the community to make more decisions about the use of these historical buildings. The plans for training areas, community activities and spaces for new businesses are all key to community empowerment and it is pleasing to see Eyemouth &

District Community Trust's innovation here."

Sandra Holmes, HIE's sector lead for community assets, said: "Eyemouth & District Community Trust have worked really hard to make their community ambition a reality and I'm glad they were able to secure funding from The Scottish Land Fund to achieve this. It will be great to see the benefits the proposed centre will have on the wider community."

The Scottish Land Fund was relaunched in March 2016. As part of this refresh, the programme was expanded to apply to both urban and rural projects. The programme is delivered in partnership with the [Big Lottery Fund](#).

Forth Bridge is Scotland's greatest man-made wonder



The Forth Bridge in South Queensferry at sunset

Research carried out by VisitScotland has decided that the 126 year old Forth Bridge is Scotland's wonder in the Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design 2016.

The bridge which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site beat our other wonders such as Edinburgh Castle, the Glenfinnan Viaduct, Stirling Castle, the Falkirk Wheel, the Caledonian Canal and the Scott Monument.

Almost two thirds of people in Britain have made a journey to see an architectural wonder or famous building. This figure does not just relate to older people, it also includes those

in the 16-24 year old age bracket. The most popular building which people go to visit is Edinburgh Castle.

VisitScotland have been promoting the Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design since January with events at St Peter's Seminary and Ignite Dundee among those in the packed schedule.

Next year from 1 January 2017 the theme will be a Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology.

Malcolm Roughead, Chief Executive of VisitScotland said:

"It is no surprise that our awe-inspiring Forth Bridge has taken the top spot in this research and it is wonderful to see that new man-made wonders like The Kelpies are already proving a hit with visitors. 2016 has shone a significant spotlight on Scotland's achievements in innovation, architecture and design through a wide-range of activity designed to boost tourism in Scotland. I hope many people continue to make architectural pilgrimages to Scotland throughout the rest of this year and beyond to discover some of our truly remarkable sights."

The full list of Scotland's greatest man-made wonders, as voted for by the British public:

1.	Forth Bridge (30%)
2.	Edinburgh Castle (13%)
3.	The Kelpies (8%)
4.	Glenfinnan Viaduct (7%)
5.	Stirling Castle (5%)
6.	Falkirk Wheel (5%)
7.	Caledonian Canal (5%)
8.	Scott Monument (4%)

9.	Bell Rock Lighthouse (4%)
10.	Melrose Abbey (3%)

Cyclist injured in collision with car on Morningside Road



An enquiry is underway after a cyclist was injured after a collision with a car on Morningside Road around 3.15pm this afternoon.

The road was closed between Canaan Lane and Cluny Avenue.

A police spokeswoman said: "Police are currently in attendance following a road traffic collision in Morningside Road.

"The incident happened at 3.15pm on Thursday when a female cyclist was involved in a collision with a motor vehicle.

"The woman sustained an arm injury, but this does appear to be life threatening.

"Enquiries are ongoing."

Public urged to be vigilant after thefts in Mayfield and Easthouses



Police are advising Ford van owners to remain vigilant after recent thefts in the areas of Mayfield and Easthouses.

Between 3am and 6am on Thursday, October 6th, a total of three Ford Transit and Ford Connect vans were entered and a number of high value tools stolen.

Enquiries into these incidents are ongoing however there are a number of crime prevention measures motorists can take in order to reduce their chances of falling victim.

Inspector Michelle Ritchie based at Dalkeith said: "In light of the recent thefts, I ask all owners, particularly of Ford vans, to review their security and make sure they have taken adequate steps to protect their vehicles and contents.

"This includes parking your van in a well lit spot preferably overlooked by other houses and, when possible, parking tight against a garage, hedge or wall making it as difficult as possible for any would be thief to access.

"After locking your vehicle, double check all the doors are secure and only keep the tools you actually need in the van. If possible leave the tools you don't regularly use at work or in a locked garage.

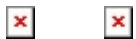
"I also recommend that tools are marked so they can be identified should they be stolen.

"These are relatively straight forward steps but can greatly reduce your chances of falling victim to criminals.

“Thieves will always take the easier option and our message is simple, don’t give them the opportunity.”

Anyone with information in relation to the recent thefts is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101. Alternatively, information can be passed anonymously through the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Lyceum’s David Greig honours the late Dario Fo.



Following the sad passing of Nobel-winning playwright and actor Dario Fo, aged 90, The Edinburgh Lyceum released a short statement from Artistic Director, David Greig.

Mr. Fo was recently due to make a personal appearance at The Lyceum, as part of the [Dancing With Colours, Whipping With Words](#) festival, but had to unfortunately withdraw due to ill health.

“Dario Fo was a great theatre maker. He forged a link between theatre, carnival and protest. Scottish theatre owes him a great debt. His methods and ideas fuel much of our work today. That’s why we wanted to honour him with a festival and to welcome him onto our stage to speak.

“We’re very sad he could not come, but proud that we at The Lyceum, and Scottish Theatre more generally, were able to demonstrate our affection and respect for The Maestro in his final days by planning and staging this festival. Our thoughts and wishes are with his family and colleagues.”

Castlebrae's pizza oven wins Initiative Prize



Castlebrae Community High School has scooped a prestigious prize for their pizza oven designed and built from recycled materials.

Five S4 students from the school won the tenth annual Merchant Company Initiative Prize which was presented to them by Pat Denzler, Master of The Merchant Company.

Paul Morris, Peter Wood, Robert Souter, Callum Jordan and Ryan Johnstone, aged 14-15 years, designed and built a wood-fired pizza oven at their school working with teacher, James Donald.

The pizza oven was made completely from recycled materials.

Money will be raised by donation from those who have enjoyed pizza and will be donated to Macmillan Cancer Support and The Maggie's Centre at the Western General Hospital in commemoration of a much loved teacher at the school who recently died of cancer.

The final three entrants presented their project on 5 October when the judges made their final decision for this year's winners.



Pat Denzler said: "The Merchant Company's Initiative Prize is a challenge to young people to think creatively. We are keen to see enterprising ideas in business or philanthropy as this is at the core of what the Merchant Company is all about and our membership reflects forty-three professions in Edinburgh.

"We hope that the Initiative Prize will encourage young people to play an active role in their city of Edinburgh and beyond to develop their skills and confidence in their own future."

Richard Barron, Chairman of the Initiative Prize at The Merchant Company, commented: "The standard of entries to this year's competition was excellent and the judges' decision was not easy. However, the team from Castlebrae Community High School really impressed us with their idea, the motivation behind it, the work they carried out and the standard of the presentation they made to us. We congratulate them and wish them all the very best for the future. Thank you also to our other finalists, shortlisted entrants and to everyone who showed an interest in this year's prize. We encourage everyone to participate again in 2017."

Norma Prentice, Headteacher at Castlebrae Community High School, said: "We are delighted to have won this prestigious award. The staff and parents are so proud of the pupils involved and are looking forward to many homemade pizzas in the coming months!

"The boys have decided to make a donation from the prize money to Macmillan Cancer in memory of Stewart Allen, a much respected and inspirational teacher."

Scotch Whisky Experience is Unique Venue of the Year

✖ The Scottish Event Awards have lauded The Scotch Whisky Experience on The Royal Mile which has been named Unique Venue of the Year.

The five star whisky visitor attraction beat off stiff competition from across Scotland to claim the title, which was announced at a ceremony at Glasgow's Radisson Hotel.

A 27% increase in revenue in the venue's corporate and event spaces, and the number of delegates up by 55% all stand for something!

The growth follows a major refurbishment in the spring of 2015, which gave each of the two spaces their own whisky inspired identity, and top of the range audio visual equipment.

Wendy Neave, head of events and hospitality at The Scotch Whisky Experience, comments on the results: "It is an honour to accept this title from the Scottish Event Awards. We pride ourselves on providing a unique experience for all our guests, whether it's a whisky tasting or blending session in our Castehill Room, or an intimate private dining experience on our whisky collection.

"After last year's renovation, we have hosted more events than ever, with the number of delegates up 55% on the previous year. As delegates are increasingly seeking unique spaces to

hold events, we are confident these numbers will grow even further.”

Located on Edinburgh’s Royal Mile, The Scotch Whisky Experience is Edinburgh’s whisky home. The five-star attraction has been educating visitors about Scotland’s national drink for more than a quarter of a century, with more than 300,000 people passing through its doors each year.

For more details, log-on to www.scotchwhiskyexperience.co.uk or call 0131 220 0441.

The attraction can also be found on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Children’s playgroup minibus stolen in Livingston



Police are appealing for witnesses after a minibus belonging to a children’s playgroup was stolen in Livingston.

The white Ford Transit, which has the registration SL62 FJU, was stolen sometime between noon on Friday 7th October and 9am on Tuesday 11th October in Kirkton North Road within the Livingston Village.

The vehicle is quite distinct with ‘First Steps’ written on the sides along with multicoloured footprints. Anyone who has seen this van or has information on its whereabouts is asked to come forward.

Constable Julias Nyamakanga of the Community Investigation Unit based in Bathgate said, "I encourage anyone who has seen this vehicle or who noticed any suspicious behaviour in the area of the Livingston Village between midday on Friday, October 7th, and 9am on Tuesday, October 11th, to contact police as soon as possible.

"This crime has had a devastating impact on the nursery and its owners and we are keen to trace the vehicle as well as arrest those who were responsible for its theft."


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

Brakes put on Boroughmuir till next summer



The new Boroughmuir High School which [we visited recently](#) will not be ready until August 2017 the council have announced today. The Chief Executive Andrew Kerr and senior officials have had discussions with the contractor O'Hare McGovern and have decided on a second delay.

The further delay (the school was expected to be ready after the October half term until recently) is to allow for the exam period to pass without pupils having to move. The school building is due to be ready in April 2017, but pupils and teachers will not move until after the summer.

 Councillor Paul Godzik, Education Convener, said: "This is understandably disappointing news for the whole school

community and we certainly share their frustration at this fresh delay. We have made clear our displeasure at the way the project has progressed to date and will be seeking compensation in line with the terms of the contract.

“By postponing the opening until the start of the next school year, we can ensure pupils can sit their exams without the upheaval of moving into a new building.

“When staff and pupils return for the new academic year next August, they’ll be embarking on an exciting new chapter in Boroughmuir’s history, with a fantastic new teaching and learning environment to continue the school’s first-class academic track record.”

Local Green councillor Melanie Main has said she is astonished at the latest delay. She said: “The first priority for any new school building has to be that it is safe and fit for purpose on day one. And I don’t doubt that officers have come to the right conclusion to delay the opening – now for the fourth time.

“However, I am astonished at how this has been handled. The contractor appointed is building a school in Scotland for the first time and, it appears, has really struggled with ground conditions and weather – things that could and should have been anticipated.

“There has been an increasing sense of excitement in the school community about the move so it is really disappointing to see yet more delay.

“After the dust has settled, lessons need to be learned.”

The Council say they will be seeking compensation from the contractors in line with the terms of the contract.

A spokesman for O’Hare & McGovern said: “The unfortunate delay was caused by a number of unforeseen circumstances, but we are

confident Edinburgh will take delivery of a magnificent new educational facility in April next year.”

Police target anti-social behaviour in East Lothian



Police have been conducting Operation Wolfcastle activity throughout Prestonpans and Musselburgh.

Between Friday October 7th and Monday October 10th, officers from the East Lothian Community Action Team and Community Wardens from East Lothian Council actively targeted specific areas where increased anti social behaviour and youth crime had been reported.

During this time a number of calls regarding youths behaving in an anti-social manner were attended, and a quantity of alcohol seized with two further youths reported for disorder offences. A number of follow up letters are to be sent to the parents of young people found to be part of groups behaving in such a manner.

Operation Wolfcastle is set to continue throughout East Lothian and communities are asked to come forward with information that can help identify anyone else involved in antisocial behaviour-related offences.

Chief Inspector Matt Paden, Local Area Commander for East Lothian said, “We recognise the profound impact these crimes can have on our communities and we have been working hard to investigate all of the incidents reported to us and bring

those responsible to justice.

“We are committed to keeping East Lothian a safe place to live, work and visit and will carry out further enforcement activity as part of Operation Wolfcastle wherever and whenever it is required.

“If you would like to report ongoing antisocial behaviour or other criminal activity in your area please contact us on 101 or Alternatively East Lothian Council Anti Social Behaviour Hotline on 0845 601 8518.”

Witness appeal following suspicious fires in Prestonpans



Police are appealing for witnesses following two suspicious fires in Prestonpans which took place during the late evening of Tuesday 11th October.

Officers first received a report of a bus shelter on fire at the West End of the High Street at around 9.40pm before also being contacted at 11pm in relation to rubbish set alight on a grassy area next to the garages in Summerlee.

No one was injured during either fire and officers are now investigating whether these are linked to recent wheelie bin fires in the area. Anyone with information is asked to come forward.

Sergeant Derek MacDonald from Prestonpans Police Station said,

“These reckless acts of stupidity have resulted in significant damage to a bus shelter and to the grass at Summerlee, but the consequences could have been far worse had the fires taken hold and spread to nearby buildings or vehicles.

“I would ask anyone who remembers seeing any suspicious activity in these areas, or who can help us identify those responsible, to contact police immediately.”

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

Hibernian Ladies lose to Bayern Munich after fighting performance in Germany



Despite a brave performance last night in Germany, Hibernian Ladies were knocked out of the UEFA Women's Champions League Round of 32 by Bayern Munich.

Goals from Anna Gerhardt (2) and Lisa Evans gave the home side a 3-0 lead at half time.

Hibernian Ladies attacked straight from the second half kick-off and scored a superb goal from Abi Harrison who fired the ball into the top corner of the net from 25 yards.

Vivianne Miedema made it 4-1 to Bayern in the 72nd minute and the German giants progressed 10-1 on aggregate.

Speaking to the Hibernian Ladies Twitter account, manager

Chris Roberts said: "The team put in a special performance tonight, demonstrating an incredible amount of passion and desire.

"Their work rate was incredible and we showed a lot of quality on the ball. The goal is a special moment we can remember, but the experience overall will help us grow and develop."

Hibernian Ladies: Fife, Williamson, Hunter, Robertson, Arnot, Smith (Michie, 90), McLauchlan, Graham, Murray, Harrison (Ewens, 85), Brownlie. Unused substitutes: Jeffries, Heron, Notley, Cornet, Small.

The side are next in action on Sunday 16 October against Heart of Midlothian in the Scottish Cup, with the game kicking off at 12noon at Ainslie Park.

Photo by [John Preece](#)

New SNP depute leader announced



Angus
Robertson

Earlier today at the SNP conference in Glasgow Angus Robertson MP was announced as the new Depute Leader of the party.

The SNP Leader at Westminster will now also take on the role as Depute Leader following on from Stewart Hosie who resigned earlier in the year.

Over the last few months the Depute Leadership campaign

included plays for the position by Tommy Sheppard, Alyn Smith and Chris McEleny as well as the eventual victor.

Angus Robertson, MP for Moray, commented: "This Depute Leadership election has been about who can best work as a team with SNP Leader Nicola Sturgeon, involve grassroots members, councillors and parliamentarians into the most effective force to deliver independence for Scotland. It is a huge honour to have been elected by the members of the SNP to serve as the Depute Leader and bring that vision to life.

"We should be very proud in this party about the positive, constructive and collegial campaign that has been run. And I would like to thank my fellow candidates Tommy Sheppard, Alyn Smith and Chris McEleny for the way this campaign has been run and for the constructive conversations that this campaign has allowed us to engage in.

"Leadership, Grassroots and Independence – Those are the themes my campaign were run on and those are the themes my role as Depute Leader of the Scottish National Party will encapsulate.

"I think our leadership team representing both urban and rural Scotland is a good thing for the Scottish National Party. We aspire to represent the best interests of everyone in Scotland no matter where we come from. We also stand for the best interests of all parts of Scotland. That is why we are the Scottish National Party – Representing all parts of this nation.

"The SNP is the most effective political party in the country. Our strength comes from our members, branches, local grassroots campaigning and partnership with councillors and parliamentarians."

Terrier dumped on Whitesands Bay beach in Dunbar



The Scottish SPCA is appealing for information after a dog was dumped in a pillowcase on the Whitesands Bay beach in Dunbar.

Scotland's animal welfare charity was called by the police for assistance on Tuesday (4 October) after a member of the public discovered the abandoned dog.

Due to a severe health issue, sadly the dog had to be put to sleep under veterinary advice to end her suffering.

Inspector Steph McCrossan said, "This poor dog was found near the Barns Ness Lighthouse.

"We couldn't be sure how long she was left there for but we think it was at least a couple of days.

"She was very weak and sadly, she did not last the night.

"The elderly terrier was microchipped to the East Lothian area however, the chip details are out of date so we are unable to trace who she recently belonged to.

"To abandon an animal in this way is unbelievably cruel and callous and we want to find the person responsible.

"We're asking anyone with information to contact us urgently on 03000 999 999."

Abandoning an animal is an offence under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006. Anyone found guilty of doing so can expect to be banned from keeping animals for a fixed

period or life.

BB Lewis gets his big award at BBC Broadcasting House



Lewis Shillinglaw, who is a member of the 1st Loanhead Company of The Boys Brigade in Scotland, was presented with his 2016 Make a Difference Award at the Radio 2 studios in BBC Broadcasting House yesterday.

He met Lord Leslie Griffiths, President of The Boys Brigade and BBC Radio 2 presenter Chris Evans at the special presentation, before being interviewed live on air on the Breakfast Show.

Bill Stevenson, Acting CEO of The Boys' Brigade, said: "Congratulations to Lewis, we are exceptionally proud of him. Like so many BB young people, he has gone above and beyond to help others.

"The Boys' Brigade aims to make a difference in the lives of young people, like Lewis who give so much to help others. He is an inspiration and thoroughly deserves this recognition."

Lewis carried out a remarkable amount of volunteering for the Thornton Rose Riding for the Disabled Project. He has spent in excess of 220 hours assisting the charity, which provides riding opportunities for people of all ages and disabilities. Lewis chose to support this charity for the volunteering section of his Queen's Badge, The Boys' Brigade's highest

award.

At the Scotland presentation earlier this year, Lewis received the award from First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon. Following this UK event at Broadcasting House, he said:

“To have met First Minister Nicola Sturgeon was brilliant and to now have travelled to London and appear on radio is truly unbelievable. I’m very grateful to Chris Evans for doing this with us all and I hope that this may encourage more young people to begin volunteering as well.”

Write your will for ‘free’ during Free Wills Month

✘ The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) are making it possible for you to write your new will for ‘free’ during Free Wills Month this October.

This scheme allows you to instruct a participating firm of solicitors to write your will for you and, if you wish, include a gift to a charity.

It is clear that the RNLI hope you might consider them to allow it to continue its vital service funded solely by donations and provided by volunteers.

Gary Crowe, volunteer lifeboat crew member at Dunbar Lifeboat Station, said: ‘The RNLI has helped those in peril at sea since 1824. No one knows what the future holds, but we do know the sea will always be dangerously unpredictable. Our help will always be needed and we’ll always need to safeguard our courageous volunteer crew and lifeguards. With six out of


every ten RNLI lifeboat launches only made possible due to gifts left to the RNLI in Wills, every donation however big or small really does help to save lives.'

'I'm so grateful to everyone who leaves a gift to the RNLI in their Will. Volunteer lifeboat crew members like me can confidently and safely go out and save lives at sea thanks to the generosity of the public – we really do rely on your support.'

Participants are not obliged to leave a gift to the RNLI when they make or update their Will using the Free Wills Month service, but the charity hopes that people will consider doing so.

For more information on how to have a Free Will written in your area, please visit RNLI.org.uk/freewills or contact the RNLI Gifts in Wills team on 0300 300 0124 or legacy_enquiry@rnli.org.uk.

Edinburgh Zoo news – rare deer calf born at the weekend

 Edinburgh Zoo has told us today about their newest addition. The Visayan spotted deer calf was born last weekend, the first time this species has bred at the Zoo.

This breed is also known as the Philippine spotted deer is a rare species and is categorised as Endangered on the Red List published by IUCN. They are usually only found on the Western Visayan Islands of the central Philippines.





Jo Elliott, Animal Collections Manager at RZSS Edinburgh Zoo, said: “The young calf is doing very well and is already able to keep up with its parents. The young female calf has yet to be named by keepers, but she is already stealing visitors’ hearts with her large, blue eyes. She has quite a woolly coat and her white spots are already very prominent.

“This is the first Visayan deer calf to be born at the Zoo, so we are extremely happy. The birth of this deer will play an important role in the conservation of this increasingly threatened species, helping to safeguard it from complete extinction.”

The deer grow only to 80cm in height and about 80kg in weight.

Images Margaret Mollon

Church name Edinburgh minister as next Moderator



Moderator Designate of the Church of Scotland
(2017) Rev Derek Browning of Morningside
Parish Church, Edinburgh.

Edinburgh minister The Rev Dr Derek Browning has been nominated as the next Moderator of the General Assembly. He will be sworn in next May for the following twelve months.

Dr Browning (54), minister at Morningside Parish Church since 2001 was key organiser of the biggest annual open-air festival in Princes Street Gardens attended by 5,000 people.

He said: "Being nominated as Moderator is the greatest honour the Church of Scotland can bestow. It is a huge privilege".

Dr Browning, who graduated with the degree of Doctor of Ministry at Princeton Theological Seminary in the United States in 1997, will succeed the Right Rev. Dr Russell Barr as the Church of Scotland's ambassador at home and abroad.

He read history at Corpus Christi College in Oxford, and opted to train for the ministry ahead of pursuing other graduate career options working for the BBC in London and the oil giant Shell.

Dr Browning, who is also a graduate of St Mary's College in St Andrews, was ordained at Cupar Old Parish Church in Fife in 1987.

He said : "I was in my early 20s when I felt a call not only to be a Christian, but to become a minister.

"For some people this is a gradual realisation, but for me it was a sudden awakening that I couldn't put off until I had

dealt with the questions it posed, and explored the possibility.

“My ministry afterwards has stuck with those two themes: dealing with questions and exploring possibilities.”

Dr Browning says the Church is evolving : “Structures and organisations around us continue to change, but the big questions about who we are, why we are here, and what must we do and be are the ones people continue to ask,” he added.

“These are challenging times for people of faith and for the Church.

“An American colleague said recently ‘The Church isn’t dying, it’s re-forming.’

“Re-forming is a costly and unsettling process but a fit-for-purpose 21st century Church must have the resilience and the flexibility to be unashamed of its faith in Jesus Christ, and practical in its living out of that faith.”

Dr Browning, who enjoys cooking, the performing arts, cinema and theatre in his spare time, has served in the Church in several capacities in St Andrews and Edinburgh Presbyteries and also at a national level.

He is currently the convener of the General Assembly’s Business Committee, which also has responsibility for the Heart and Soul event in the gardens.

Dr Browning, who has contributed to BBC Radio Two’s ‘Pause for Thought’ programme, said: “The theme for Heart and Soul 2017 is ‘Word of Life’ and this rich and layered theme speaks to me about many things but ‘inclusion’ is one of those words of life.

“The issue of social inclusion is a key one in society and the church”.

Dr Browning, a former pupil of North Berwick High School, said he believes social inclusion is clearly a “gospel issue” and hopes to use his time as Moderator to highlight ongoing work carried out by churches that support people on the margins of society.

He added : “People find themselves excluded for all sorts of reasons and the Church must play a role in bridging the gaps between individuals, communities and nations.

“The Church has much to offer, and has much to learn. Jesus was often found not only at the heart and centre of things but also on the fringes and the margins and that is where the Church must be.”

Dr Browning said the Church must recognise that society is changing and must respond accordingly : “The challenge facing the Church is bound up to going to where there is vulnerability and need and offering welcome, hope and acceptance.

“I believe in a ministry of presence and chaplaincies in hospitals and the armed forces, universities and schools, work-place chaplaincies and chaplaincies to groups on the fringes of society, take the work of the Church outwards to where people are.”

**Ian Siegal's '2WENTY5IVE
Tour' to visit the capital**

next month



Ian Siegal's '2WENTY5IVE Tour' will visit the capital next month.

The British Bluesman will be appearing at La Belle Angele on Friday 18th November.

Twenty-five years. Politically, socially, culturally, it's a lifetime. Ample time for a million bands to ignite and burn out, for a thousand fashions to blossom and wither. There aren't many constants since 1991, but Ian Siegal's mission statement has barely changed in that period. Songs that are real. Shows that resonate. Vocals served raw. Such are the old-fashioned values behind an award-winning career that, even now, feels like it's just getting started.

As an artist in constant motion, Siegal has never been a man for backslaps and laps of honour. But in 2016, the British bluesman will toast that milestone anniversary with a trademark burst of hyperactivity. In Autumn, the *2WENTY5IVE* Tour will take him to 11 venues across the UK and 13 dates in mainland Europe. There'll also be a 38-song retrospective release and a 72-page lyric book curating some of his finest moments to date – before a new studio album in 2017 forges headlong into the future.

There may also be a moment of reflection. If you had told the 20-year-old Siegal, on the night of his first professional band gig in 1991, of the acclaim to come, he'd have dryly laughed it off. Likewise, with the blues genre then in desperate straits, it was unthinkable that he would one day take this music overground in 45 countries, or preside over a trophy haul that includes nine British Blues Awards, three European Blues Awards, two *Mojo* Blues Albums Of The Year (not to mention three US Blues Music Awards nominations – an

unprecedented nod for a non-American).

From roots near Portsmouth, Siegal pinballed through his early life. A child of the '70s and an art-college drop-out in the '80s, he learnt his craft as a busker in Berlin before the motherland lured him back. Even then, as a nascent performer, he already had his calling-cards, shaking up the influences of rock 'n' roll pioneers like Little Richard, blues titans like Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf, and leftfield artists like Tom Waits – then adding his inimitable rasped vocal and questing songcraft.

Through the '90s, Siegal – then based in Nottingham – was the best-kept secret on the Midlands circuit. Back-to-back tours in 2003 and 2004 as support to Bill Wyman's Rhythm Kings proved a shop window, and the exposure soon saw him command headline shows in Holland, Belgium, Austria, Hungary (and more), while casting his net beyond the blues genre to draw a pan-generation crowd of both sexes.

In the studio, Siegal opened his account on the Cadiz/Universal distributed Nugene label with 2005's *Meat & Potatoes*, before 2007's *Swagger* saw *Mojo* dub him "one of the most innovative, gifted and engaging blues performers on the planet today". *The Dust* and *Broadside* were similarly acclaimed, the UK rock press noting the newcomer's scholarly appreciation for – but irreverent twisting of – the blues template.

But Siegal's quarter-century rise is more than a European success story. He'd made America's acquaintance as early as 2006, visiting major clubs and lighting up the Waterfront Festival. By 2010, this life-long fan of Mississippi hill country blues was drinking deep from the source, striking up a working friendship with Luther and Cody Dickinson of the North Mississippi Allstars, and taking up semi-residence at their Zebra Ranch studio in Coldwater, MS.

The two resulting albums (2011's *The Skinny* and 2012's *Candy Store Kid*), were Siegal's most vital yet, sparking successive BMA nominations for Best Contemporary Blues Album, induction into the British Blues Hall Of Fame, and the memorable Classic Rock soundbite "Mississippi has a new adopted son and Britain a national treasure."

His visits to the US and in particular to the North Mississippi Hill Country Picnic also resulted in 2014's impromptu, campfire-style and critically applauded collaboration *The Picnic Sessions*, teaming Siegal with friends on the local music scene.

Since then, demand has seen Siegal pulled across the planet, with the performer shedding his skin as he plays countless shows in shifting formats – many of them preserved as live albums. In 2014, the BBC-recorded *Man & Guitar* bottled a solo acoustic performance from the Royal Albert Hall (no doubt a factor in his third BMA nomination for Best Acoustic Artist). The following year's *One Night In Amsterdam* found him amped and dangerous with a full-throttle electric band; while in 2016, *Wayward Sons* showcased his fizzing joint tour with Squirrel Nut Zippers man Jimbo Mathus, a partnership so compelling that the pair teamed up again for 37 more shows this Spring.

Twenty-five years. A thousand highlights. And yet, for all the dizzying achievements in the rear-view mirror, the most important part of any Siegal chronology is always the blank canvas that lies ahead. In a music industry built on nostalgia, past glories and diminishing returns, this is one artist with his eye on the future and a hunger for new horizons. A quarter-century later, Ian Siegal is only just getting started.

UK SHOWS IN THE "2WENTY5IVE" TOUR

08/11 Southampton, Talking Heads

09/11 Stockton on Tees, ARC

10/11 Southport, The Atkinson

11/11 Stroud, The Convent (*with simulcast*)

12/11 Bury, The Met

13/11 Tenby Blues Festival

15/11 London, Under The Bridge

16/11 Nottingham, Rescue Rooms

17/11 Newcastle, The Cluny

18/11 Edinburgh, La Belle Angele

19/11 Lichfield, The Guildhall_

For more information and the latest news dates, please visit

<http://iansiegal.com/> <http://www.nugenerecords.com/>

Local gift boutique wins Shop of the Month



Local independent gift boutique, Pippin, is announced as 'October Shop of the Month' for leading British childrenswear brand, Frugi.

Pippin, who specialise in gifts from British designers, used inspiration from their own childhoods and favourite books to bring to life Frugi's Autumn Winter theme "The Magic of Stories".

Their window display celebrates the magic that happens when you let your imagination carry you away, featuring balloons from Winnie the Pooh, framed book prints and the rooftops of Edinburgh.

The highlight of the display are the magic flying keys from Harry Potter which have been brought to life.

Owner, Erica Stahl said : "I'm so excited that Pippin has been chosen as Shop of the Month! The shop will be five years old on 21 October and we've stocked Frugi since day one, so it's really rewarding to have gained this recognition just in time for our birthday – looks like we've got a lot to celebrate this month!"

Pippin stock a wide range of products including jewellery, stationery, home accessories, toys, babywear and skincare. Erica searches high and low to find the most beautiful original products from independent designers and companies across the UK to ensure they offer unique, high quality gifts for locals and tourists alike.

Frugi is a leading organic and ethical children swear brand based in Cornwall. Caroline Flood, Commercial Director said : "With over 500 stockists across the globe, competition to be our Shop of the Month is quite large. Pippin is an extremely beautiful shop. They have an eye for creating a magical atmosphere in store and this has really helped them win. We are very proud to have them represent our brand."


Pippin can be found in the bustling West End of the city beside Haymarket station and are open Monday- Saturday.

Pippin, 30 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5JZ,
Tel: 0131 347 8657

Opening times: Mon-Fri 10.30-6, 11-5 Saturday

Further information www.pippingifts.com

Go along and be thrilled by Botanic Lights 13 October to 6 November 2016

 Tonight the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh begins Botanic Lights 2016. This is a series of nightly events over the course of the next month which will transform our beautiful but familiar city garden with vibrant light displays, holograms and musical soundscapes.

Last night The Edinburgh Reporter went along to a preview event to see what you can expect to see this year.

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Autumnal Colours

Although the gardens are lit up in every colour imaginable by the award-winning team at Unique Events, nature still finds a way of outshining. We are well into autumn now which means all the trees, shrubbery and other exotic plant-life are taking on their end of year hues, which is perhaps the only placatory feature of this time of year, as we slide into the darker months.

The golden, purple, reddish and amber coloured leaves which lie under your feet or cling on desperately to the ever-thinning canopy above, make a dynamic backdrop for the lightshow. It is as though the Botanics have stepped up their game especially for the occasion.

This slideshow requires JavaScript.

The Lights (of course)

[tweet_box design="default"]This year's Botanic Lights is billed as their most ambitious yet, and we are inclined to agree.[/tweet_box]

But it is not just the lights that are stunning, the music and soundscaping are too. The original music by Scottish composer and Royal Conservatoire graduate Claire McKenzie mixes with the ambient sounds of animals and insects native to continents the world over.

This year's theme is "Exploration". A map leads you through from the astounding display at the Chinese garden (more on that later) through to the Himalayas, where colourful Lung Ta prayer flags blow around in the wind, to exciting water displays in the ponds and documentary footage projected onto the face of Inverleith House.

By the end you have traversed every continent on earth as the horticulturalists and "plant-hunters" of history have. This is a nice reflection of the diversity of life to be found in Edinburgh's Botanic Gardens year round.

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Mulled Wine

A mug of mulled wine or warm Pimms may warm you on an October/November evening, and there is also tea and coffee.

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That Hologram

In the first few minutes of the tour, in the Chinese Garden section, you'll be greeted by a thirty-foot tall hologram of George Forrest, the so-called "Indiana Jones of Scotland". Instead of treasured artefacts, Forrest travelled the world,

China and the Himalayas in particular, collecting and cataloguing tens of thousands of plants and sending them back to the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh for safe-keeping.

The display is unlike any other you are likely to see. Using the mist and spray of the pond as a screen, huge and detailed animations play out in the air in front of your eyes, with Chinese warriors and a massive, fire-breathing dragon. It really has to be seen to be believed.

Our short video features some of the highlights:

https://twitter.com/denitsa_tsekova/status/786330007064879104

Botanic Lights 2016 opens tonight 13 October 2016 and runs for 22 nights through October and November.

Tickets [here](#).

Hearts Stadium Development Gets Go-Ahead



In a somewhat depressing week for Scottish football, there was some good news for Hearts supporters at least today when the City of Edinburgh Council approved plans by the Gorgie club to redevelop the old main stand at Tynecastle.

The ambitious project, two years in the making, will cost £11m and work on turning Tynecastle into a 20,000 capacity stadium fit for the 21st century will begin as early as next month – with completion expected in September 2017.


Hearts owner Ann Budge was delighted that approval had finally been granted. “It’s been a long hard road to get here” she told STV News, “so to get unanimous approval this morning was fantastic.”

She added “Inevitably there will be a bit of disruption because it is a big building programme but we absolutely keep that to a minimum and the supporters who still want to come and sit in the old stand will do so.”

Hearts have come a long way since the dark days of administration three years ago and it wasn’t that long ago that former Hearts chief executive Chris Robinson was prepared to sell Tynecastle Stadium for property development and move the club to Murrayfield.

Now, Hearts supporters can look forward to a brand new stand holding 7,000 people – and a bright future for a club that was on its knees not so long ago.

Botanic Lights 2016 opens tomorrow with a new theme- Exploration

 Edinburgh Royal Botanic Garden’s award-winning Botanic Lights opens to the public tomorrow night (Thursday 13th) promising their most ambitious and interactive shows to date.

The theme for this year’s 22-night run of events is “Exploration”. Visitors can expect to retrace the steps of exotic plant collectors throughout history “from the Arctic to the Himalayas”.

The event's programme boasts of new and interactive technologies including motion-tracking Kinect sensors which will allow visitors to influence the light display with their hand movements, as well as a hologram of pioneering plant-hunter George Forrest which will appear in the RBGE's Chinese garden section. The event also features original music by Scottish composer Claire McKenzie.

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Botanic Lights 2016 is produced by Unique Events, who have been in charge of organising the event for three years now.

Penny Dougherty, director of Unique Events said they were "privileged" to be staging the event once again and said that the event would be "an extraordinary display, offering visitors a rare opportunity to enjoy this wonderful Garden from a completely different perspective."

Grant Anderson, who is the light artist for this year's Botanic Lights said : "Visitors may find that the familiar becomes strangely unfamiliar at Botanic Lights this year. They will get a sense, through sight and sound, that they are on a journey of discovery from China to the US, the Himalaya and Nepal, and on to the tropics, and the wonder of the chilly Arctic. The power of light and nature will transform Edinburgh's Garden into an awesome adventure across the globe."

Heather Jackson, Director of Enterprise at RBGE described this year's events as "something magical" and reminds visitors that the money raised from ticket sales help the gardens protect and catalogue world plant life, saying: "Each ticket sold will help to fund our important science and conservation work and in return we are sharing a bit of that magic with each and every visitor."

The Botanic Lights 2016 runs for 22 nights through October and

November. Tickets and further information can be found at www.botaniclights.co.uk

Witness appeal after man attacked in Musselburgh alleyway



A 22-year-old was attacked by four people after he took a shortcut through an alleyway to the Nisa store near Pinkie Terrace, Musselburgh, on Monday night at around 8pm.

The victim struggled and managed to run off before contacting police.

The suspects are all believed to be between 30 and 40.

One of the men was around 6ft with a slim build and spoke with a local accent. He wore a dark blue cotton tracksuit with a hood, has short brown hair, is believed to have a scar under his right eye and has either stubble or a pockmarked face.

The second man is around 5ft 10in with a medium build and wore an Adidas style hooded top, grey Adidas cotton bottoms with white stripes and dark trainers.

One of the women had a medium build, while the victim could not provide a description of the other female suspect.

Constable Gemma Gill-Stafford said: "Fortunately the victim did not sustain any injury although he was left shaken by the incident."

“We are now carrying out various enquiries and are keen to trace the four individuals who were seen in the area.

“I would ask anyone who can help identify these individuals or if you saw this incident to please contact police immediately.”

Anyone with information should contact police on 101 or alternatively Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Rugby – 1872 Cup, Edinburgh v Glasgow



With 74 shopping days – 75 if you include the hours before the match! – to go, tickets for the first leg of the annual 1872 Scottish Cup at BT Murrayfield (Monday 26 December, kick-off 4.05pm) are now on general sale.

A record crowd of 23,642 fans watched Edinburgh Rugby and Glasgow Warriors face-off at BT Murrayfield last season in the first leg of the world’s oldest inter-city rugby derby, and this year we’re hoping to make it even bigger.

Changes to the 2016/17 fixture schedule means the Cup will not take on a double-header format as previous years. The second-leg will take place at Scotstoun on the last day of the regular season (Saturday 6 May).

As previously announced, Crabbie’s will sponsor the 1872 Scottish Cup trophy for the 2016/17 season.

The alcoholic ginger beer brand will capitalise on a marketing campaign, including naming, pouring, sampling and hospitality rights and will use

the partnership to support trade sales and brand visibility around key rugby occasions with consumers in the on and off trade.

Crabbie's was established in 1801, when Crabbie's Ginger Wine was originally produced in Leith, Edinburgh by John Crabbie & Co. Crabbie's Alcoholic Ginger Beer is the number one selling brand in the category and a keen supporter of rugby at all levels, from the elite level to grassroots. All of Crabbie's sponsorship activity includes outreach to grass roots clubs and the brand has launched a collector reward scheme for clubs at crabbiesrugby.co.uk, where clubs can earn equipment such as balls, tackle bags, contact bags, post protectors and more.

Edinburgh Rugby's Managing Director Jonny Petrie, said: "The 1872 Scottish Cup this year is going to be another great event; we want to continue the growth of the game and make it a tradition in the Christmas calendar.

"So, to be able to team up with a brand like Crabbie's – a company who, like us, have over a hundred years of heritage in this city – is fantastic.

"We're looking forward to working with them in further bringing the match to life for a bumper crowd."

Michelle Chadwick, Senior Marketing Controller for Crabbie's, says: "It's a terrific honour to sponsor the 1872 Scottish Cup, a trophy with a history like no other and contested between the two oldest rivals in the game. Scotland is the home of Crabbie's and we are proud to be a key part of the Scottish rugby support.

"Crabbie's involvement in rugby is all about growing the game, getting more people playing and enabling grassroots clubs to flourish at the heart of their communities.

"The 1872 Scottish Cup games are some of the biggest in the club rugby calendar and create such a massive buzz that they're perfect for Crabbie's involvement – we can't wait for the games to come around."

Scottish SPCA appeal after cat dumped in Holyrood Park



The Scottish SPCA is appealing for information a cat was abandoned in its carrier on a busy Edinburgh Street.

Scotland's animal welfare charity was alerted on Saturday (8 October) when the cat was discovered next to Holyrood Park in the city centre.

The feline is now in the care of the charity's animal rescue and rehoming centre in Balerno, where she has been named Holly.

Inspector Stephanie McCrossan said, "This sweet little cat was dumped in her carrier with a blanket and food bowl beside the loch in Holyrood Park.

"Although her owner left her with these items and left her in a public place where someone would have definitely found her, abandoning an animal is an offence.

"We think she could have been dumped late on Friday night or Saturday morning.

"She is in a reasonable condition, although she does have fleas and some hair loss.

"We'd ask anyone with information as to who may have abandoned Holly in this way to call us on 03000 999 999."

Abandoning an animal is an offence under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006. Anyone found guilty of doing so

can expect to be banned from keeping animals for a fixed period or life.

Photo by Scottish SPCA

Leith MP dismisses claims for Britannia revival



Deidre Brock MP yesterday dismissed calls by the Conservatives to bring the Royal Yacht Britannia back as a working ship as 'daft'.

You can see the Edinburgh MP in full flow here, and the moment when she was rapped over the knuckles by one Tory MP, James Gray MP for North Wiltshire, for calling the ship 'it'.

Inside Westminster: Tory gets upset, not at the daft idea of bringing back the Royal Yacht, but that [@DeidreBrock](#) called Britannia 'it'. pic.twitter.com/dkpA4q59RM

– Meanwhile In Scotia (@MeanwhileScotia) [October 11, 2016](#)

Before the parliamentary debate Ms Brock said:-

"The Royal Yacht Britannia is a beautifully kept museum piece. The plan to bring it back as a working ship is just daft.

"The ship is a floating curiosity from a bygone era and it is staying put in Leith – not just because one of the propellers

has been melted down into a statue of a Royal Yachtsman.

“By remaining at the Ocean Terminal, Britannia can actually give something back to society, bringing in money to help regenerate a poorer area, rather than leaching further from the public purse.

“Given the austerity being inflicted upon us, surely even the Tories would flinch at the idea of recommissioning a Royal Yacht.

“As benefit sanctions leave the most disadvantaged people to go hungry, as the working poor join claimants in the foodbank queues, how can anyone justify recommissioning a Royal Yacht? Which budget do they want to cut for that?

“Flashboat democracy has no place in the modern world – which has changed utterly from the day in 1997 that Britannia was decommissioned, never mind the world in which it was commissioned in the first place.

“If Tories want to see economic revival then they must act to ease austerity and properly invest in our people, our infrastructure and our public services, not throw money at baubles from a bygone era.”

The campaign to reintroduce the Royal Yacht Britannia to revive international trade was begun by Jake Berry MP for Rossendale and Darwen. He explained that it would be economic, patriotic and crucially would be at a low cost. He said that many members of the public have supported his cause, some even sending him a cheque to help. Mr Berry said during the debate : “There are several proposals for what type of ship we should build, as well as proposals to recommission the existing royal yacht Britannia, which stands proudly in Leith docks. They should all be explored, but I will talk about my personal preference, which is to build a new royal yacht along the lines of the proposals put to the Government in the 1990s.

“The future royal yacht project envisaged a new ship that would be slightly smaller than Britannia but similar in design. Crucially, it would have an increased range and a much-reduced crewing requirement and would be much cheaper to run. It has been estimated that the ship would cost about £100 million to construct and could be funded either through private donations—for example, by giving industry naming rights for certain decks and rooms—through a private finance initiative model or through public fundraising.”