

# Official 'Route 57' electric car passes through Edinburgh



The official 'Route 57' electric car was in Edinburgh last weekend as part of its journey through 57 must-see destinations across England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. The road trip runs from 6th – 26th April, starting in Plymouth and ending in Galway, visiting villages, towns, and cities along the way.

As well as promoting local tourism, the campaign's use of an electric vehicle seeks to challenge common myths around electric cars.

A recent survey shows that the 'range' of an EV is one of the top reasons why people are not buying electric cars.

[The Route 57 campaign](#) shows that these perceptions do not match reality with today's green car technology, and that an electric car can drive more than 2,580 miles across four countries.

Driver and motoring journalist Jess Shanahan is doing the road trip in a Kia Soul EV supplied by electric car leasing company DriveElectric, and stopping at charging stations along the route, mapped out by ZapMap.

Jess' commented from Edinburgh: "Edinburgh was cool! We had to leave early as the roads were closing for the Great Edinburgh Run though. So much going on in one city."

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# Hibs win action packed Cup Final dress rehearsal at Easter Road



Hibs emerged victorious in an action packed ill tempered Scottish Cup Final dress rehearsal at Easter Road tonight.

As anticipated, Hibs did not provide a guard of honour for the champions and Head Coach Alan Stubbs made two changes to the starting XI that qualified for the William Hill Scottish Cup Final on Saturday by beating Dundee United on penalties.

As expected Mark Oxley returned in place of Hampden hero Conrad Logan who took his place on the bench, and Niklas Gunnarsson replaced Liam Henderson as Stubbs elected to play a 5-3-2 formation.

Rangers manager Mark Warburton made one change with cup-tied Michael O'Halloran taking over from former Hibs' midfielder Dean Shiels. 18-year old Robbie McCrorie won a seat on the bench ahead of Cammy Bell.

Rangers started brightly playing some nice possession football but it was the home side who took an early lead when Jason Cummings pounced on a slack Rangers throw in and ran between two defenders before firing an unstoppable shot past Mark Foderingham.

Rangers had a penalty appeal denied moments later when the ball appeared to strike Paul Hanlon's hand then Kenny Miller

lifted the ball over the back four into the path of James Tavernier but Mark Oxley produced a fine save to deny the full back.

Hibs added a second in the 18th minute when David Gray sent Anthony Stokes clear down the right wing. The on-loan striker sent a cross into the danger area and Foderingham misjudged the flight of the ball and palmed it into his own net to the delight of the Hibs' fans in the stadium.

Miller was booked for bringing down John McGinn who was breaking clear then moments later he committed an identical infringement on Marvin Bartley and should have been sent off however referee Kevin Clancy decided a talking to was sufficient.

In the 37th minute Cummings won possession of the ball in midfield and slid the ball into the path of Stokes. The ball was returned to Cummings who went down under the challenge of a Ranger's defender and was immediately booked for diving.

In the next passage of play Cummings was lucky to avoid a second yellow card after a flare up with Dominic Ball but again the referee decided a telling off was enough.

Rangers pulled one back just before the break when Tavernier broke down the right and sent a speculative floated cross which was misjudged by Oxley. The ball rebounded off the bar into the path of Jason Holt who prodded the ball into the net from close range.

The second half started as the first had finished with play raging from end to end at 100 miles per hour.

McGinn then Cummings both had long range efforts which went over the bar as Hibs looked to regain their two goal advantage but at that stage Rangers looked the more likely to score.

In the 57th minute however Hibs added a third. Fraser Fyvie

found Cummings who in turn sent a diagonal ball to Stokes but his shot as deflected past the post. McGinn sent the resultant corner high to the back post and Hanlon rose above the Rangers defenders to head the ball back across the face of the goal. Stokes and Tavernier both challenged for the ball and it fell into the path of Gunnarsson who fired a powerful drive high into the roof of the net.

Hibs then sat back although the fans had something to cheer when Logan warmed up to a rapturous reception from the supporters.

With 20 minutes remaining Cummings was brought down just outside the area and Foderingham produced a good save to prevent Stokes adding to Hibs' lead.

James Keatings replaced Cummings and Dean Shiels replaced Miller who left the field to a chorus of boos from the home supporters.

With six minutes remaining Rangers made it 3-2 with a superb 30 yard strike from Barrie McKay and from then on it was all Rangers as Hibs struggled to get possession of the ball.

The fourth official indicated four minutes of additional time and Oxley produced a great save to deny Holt then in the last minute Rangers were awarded a controversial corner. The Hibs fans held their breath, remembering that their side threw away a two goal lead against Falkirk last week but Oxley came off his line to catch the ball under pressure and the referee blew his whistle sparking wild celebrations from the Hibs' fans.

After the game Stokes was asked whether he was claiming the goal and said: "I'm not bothered who scored, the most important thing was to in the game. I'll take any sort of goal in a game like this. we are fully focussed on finishing second and we have given ourselves a chance now"

Hibs: Oxley, Gray, Hanlon, McGregor, Gunnarsson, Stevenson,

Bartley, McGinn, Fyvie, Stokes, Cummings. subs Logan, Henderson, Boyle, Dagnall, Thomson

Rangers: Foderingham, Tavernier, Kiernan, Wilson, Wallace, Ball, Halliday, Holt, O'Halloran, Miller, McKay. Subs: McCrorie, King, Shiels, Law, Zelalem, Clark, Burt

Referee Kevin Clancy

Attendance 12,231

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## FLASH COMPETITION – Win tickets to Quo Vado? this weekend!

✖ The Edinburgh Reporter has teamed up with Vue in the Omni Centre to offer readers the chance to **win one of five pairs of tickets to see the Italian sensation *Quo Vado?***

Vue will be exclusively screening *Quo Vado?* across UK cinemas from Saturday 23 April until Monday 25 April, following its astounding box office success in Italy.



The film stars Italian comedian Checco Zalone who is faced with a difficult decision to either leave his job or be transferred far away from home; a topic that has touched a nerve with the Italian public.


The film brings the essence of modern day Italy to the UK in the form of a funny political satire, taking the audience from the small town of Puglia up to Africa, passing through the

North Pole and Norway.

Italian and non-Italian film fans in the UK can enjoy the opportunity to see this now infamous title at Vue Omni Centre.

***For your chance to win, simply answer the question below by 4:00pm on Friday 22 April 2016 :***

**Error:** Contact form not found.

 Vue UK, is part of the largest cinema group in the world outside of the US, Vue International, providing cinema fans with an unbeatable screen, seat and sound experience for the ultimate evening of big screen entertainment.

Secure your tickets now by visiting [www.myvue.com](http://www.myvue.com).

***Terms and conditions:***

- *Five winners will receive a pair of tickets for any showing of Quo Vado? at Vue Omni Centre.*
- *Subject to seat availability and confers no preferential rights.*
- *The cinema manager's decision is final. Normal cinema rules apply.*
- *No cash alternative.*

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**Deliberate fire setting in**

# West Lothian still a concern



Deliberate fire setting in West Lothian is still a concern according to the latest figures released by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Local Senior Officer (LSO) of West Lothian, Gary Laing, presented the third quarter performance report to members of the local Services For The Community Policy And Development Scrutiny Panel today (Tuesday 19 April).

The figures relate to the period between 1 October 2015 and 31 December 2015.

Urging the public to do what they can to prevent fire, LSO Laing said: "West Lothian has seen a 32 per cent increase in deliberate fires from the same period last year.

"Deliberately set fires are dangerous; they waste time and money, and keep SFRS crews away from real emergencies. Such incidents place an unnecessary burden on SFRS resources, in what is already a busy time of year for firefighters.

As well as potentially delaying attendance at a more serious incident, fire setting can result in injury, property damage and environmental pollution.

SFRS work together with partner agencies Police Scotland and Crimestoppers Scotland to prevent fires and support Police Scotland in highlighting the need to report fire offending.

LSO Laing said: "We shall continue to work with our Police Scotland colleagues and other community planning partners to reduce deliberate fire setting.

"We ask local residents and businesses to ensure that rubbish does not accumulate outside their property and that wheelie

bins are stored in a safe and secure area until collection. Bin and rubbish fires can quickly take hold and spread to buildings and vehicles, posing a major risk to life and property.

“Anyone with information on deliberate fires can contact Police Scotland on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 55 111.”

The largest type of this incident is small outdoor fires including scrubland/grass and refuse/bin which accounts for 80 per cent of these incidents.

LSO Laing added: “Intelligence is shared regularly as part of the multi-agency tasking and co-ordinating meetings and also the fire related anti-social behaviour group where discussions have led to a number of actions being taken to address this issue. In conjunction with the social work department we continue to work with a number of youths in our ‘Cool down’ and ‘Pheonix’ intervention programmes which aim to educate youths against the dangers of fire setting.”

“Early indications are that this group has already delivered improved outcomes and a full evaluation will be undertaken in due course.”

The number of accidental dwelling fires dropped to 103 for this period compared to 127 for the same period the previous year.

LSO Laing said: “The biggest cause of these fires are cooking related. Our Home Safety Visit (HSV) programme is aimed at increasing the safety of our communities by preventing fires as well as improving the level of smoke detector ownership and maintenance which promotes early detection of fire and reduces the likelihood of occupiers suffering injury and limits any damage caused to property.

“We continue to work with partner agencies to identify those



most vulnerable to the effects of fire in order that we can properly target our initiatives and HSV's. The intention being to ensure improved targeting of prevention activities to those deemed most at risk."

Crews regularly visit houses and provide free Home Fire Safety Visits which helps to reduce the number of casualties and fatalities through early intervention which is instrumental in contributing to safer communities.

LS0 Laing added: "Partnership working and the delivery of Home Fire Safety Visits are both crucial in reducing the number of accidental dwelling fires. SFRS continues to improve its performance with 1356 visits delivered this year to date, which 500 of these were classed as high risk.

"We continue to develop our partnerships to ensure those who are most vulnerable or at risk from fire or harm in the home are identified and that appropriate risk reduction measures are put in place."

To register for a FREE Home Fire Safety Visit call the SFRS freephone number: 0800 0731 999, or visit the website at [www.firescotland.gov.uk](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk)

There were also fewer false alarm calls with unwanted fire alarm signals (UFAS) down 44 this year to date when compared with the same period last year.

LS0 Laing said: "Although UFAS has fallen from the previous year, false alarms continue to make up 50% of all calls. We continue to work closely with duty holders and, where appropriate, improving management arrangements within premises to reduce the number of UFAS events."

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# Alan Stubbs happy to see improvement in performances



Hibs' Head Coach Alan Stubbs is happy with the improvement in performances from his players and he insists that everyone is focussed on tonight's game against champions Rangers at Easter Road, then all thoughts will turn to Morton on Saturday.

Speaking to Hibs TV, he said: "Since the Alloa game, performances have been better. The Falkirk game, no matter what anyone else says, for 85 minutes it was a considerable improvement. we lost concentration for two set pieces.

"At the weekend, the players' concentration was better.

"The players have recovered and they know how important recovery is with the nutrition and the fluids and getting everything into their bodies to prepare for the game.

"I don't expect tiredness to be a reason why we can't win a game of football.

"The Rangers' game is important. we obviously want to finish as high as we can. In order to do that getting three points would significantly enhance our chances of finishing second, but I still believe that there will be a few twists and turns before the end of the season.

"We have to focus our attention to the Rangers game, get three points then look toward Morton on Saturday.

"Our home form has been very good but we know it will be a difficult game. Rangers have a good team.

Most Hibs' fans would have chosen to play Rangers in the Scottish Cup final, rather than Celtic however Stubbs insists

that before the game he had no preference although in hindsight things have worked out well. He continued: "I went to the other semi-final on Sunday to enjoy the game and I didn't have a preference but now, looking at the fact that we will be playing Rangers has helped in the fact that we can call upon Stokesy (Anthony Stokes) and Hendo (Liam Henderson) so from that point of view I'm pleased, but I didn't have a preference."

The Head Coach also confirmed that Mark Oxley will be between the sticks tonight, despite the heroic performance of Conrad Logan on Saturday and he explained his reasons for coming to that decision. "Conrad (Logan) came on a short term deal and he is working his way back to full fitness. He came in on Saturday and did really well and no-one can argue with that but Mark (Oxley) is my number one. what Conrad has done is that he has certainly provided real competition with places with Otso (Virtanen) for that number one place.

"That should spur Mark on. If his performances drop Conrad and Otso are waiting in the wings.

Meanwhile Stubbs updated the supporters on the status of the injury victims in the squad. "Farid (El Alagui) is waiting on a scan on his injury but it looks like he has a grade one hamstring tear so we are looking at three weeks.

"Dylan (McGeouch) is doing really well. he has stepped up his fitness programme each day this week and we are hoping that he is going to be maybe back for the Queen of the South game but if not certainly for the play off games.

"Fonts (Liam Fontaine) is also doing well. He's running now and stepping up his fitness work and we are hoping that will join in training some time next week.

"Dan Carmichael is the same. He is doing well and is progressing along nicely and he potentially will be back before the last game of the season."

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# SNP launch a fighting manifesto to get them back to government



It had all the air of a boxing match – the stage set in the middle of the main hall in the EICC. The single podium. Lights, music and an array of press all eagerly awaiting the production of the SNP manifesto. And that was after queuing round the block to get in to the EICC in the first place.

We already knew some of what was in the manifesto magazine (huge it is – bigger than A4!) that was eventually handed out, but if we wanted to know more then all we had to do was download the SNP app.

You can download the manifesto [here](#).

This is a party well used to the razzmatazz of campaign launches, manifesto launches and winning. The applause when first, John Swinney, second, Stewart Hosie MP and finally, Nicola Sturgeon, strode to the central lectern was exuberant and deafening from the estimated 1400 strong audience.

The party is almost sure to win the election, although the First Minister said once again that she was taking nothing for granted, and urged everyone to get back on the doorsteps this afternoon.



## **So what are the main points of SNP's blueprint?**

The manifesto is split into sections such as making this a Healthier Scotland, a Fairer Scotland and an International Scotland. These are some of the main points although there are

others dealing with policing, international matters and rural sustainability. It promises a new land register to make land ownership more transparent and 'end the scandal of anonymous – and therefore unaccountable – land ownership'.

## **HEALTH**

For a Healthier Scotland Sturgeon was adamant that the additional £500 million would make all the difference as announced before the manifesto launch. This 'bold, ambitious and reforming' manifesto aims to protect free personal care for the elderly, and although the NHS has already had record levels of investment and 'is delivering some of the best and fastest care anywhere in the UK' , it apparently still merits more spent on it.

Some of the additional spend (part of an estimated further £2 billion for health) will be directed to the local integrated health and social care bodies. These are run by local authorities in conjunction with the NHS. At present there are 31 integrated health and social care bodies and 22 health boards and the SNP want to review the number of organisations actually delivering this care across Scotland.

## **EDUCATION**

There will be money sent directly to headteachers with an additional £750 million to 'close the gap in educational attainment'.

When the First Minister was asked if that meant academy schools in Scotland there was a loud guffaw around the room! She explained: "It will be the aim of a re-elected SNP government, under my leadership, to restore Scotland's education system to pride of place as one of the very best in the world.

"We will develop a new, fair and transparent funding formula for schools, to ensure that resources go where they are needed

most.”

A Jobs Grant will be introduced to support young people into work.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

The plan is to spend £20 billion on modernising and updating infrastructure in Scotland, delivering broadband to all of the country and building 50,000 new affordable homes and continually improving transport links.

## **TAX**

Basic rate income tax will remain the same for the duration of the next parliament and the tax threshold will rise to £12,750 by 2021/22. The SNP plan to retain the upper 40p tax threshold at the same level of £43,000 rather than raising it to £50,000 as the UK Government plans to do. All of this will mean a further £1.2 billion in the Holyrood coffers for the next parliamentary session.

## **FAIRER SCOTLAND**

The party plans to publish a Fairer Scotland Action Plan which will include recommendations from the Independent Poverty Adviser (and there are plans to reappoint someone to that position).

Gender and disability barriers will be overcome and there will be an Advisory Council on Women and Girls appointed to ‘ensure every young woman is able to achieve her potential.

The new welfare powers afforded to Holyrood will be used fairly and with ‘dignity at its core’. The First Minister was clear however that this is not to say that shirkers and scroungers will be encouraged!

Housing support for 18-21 year olds will be reintroduced to thwart the Tory cuts.

## **ENERGY**

The proclamation on this was clear: “We will bring forward a new Climate Change Bill with a new target to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2020.

“We will ensure that, by 2020, at least half of all new renewable projects have an element of shared ownership and we will look to establish a government owned energy company to support local and community energy.”

## **DEVOLUTION FROM HOLYROOD**

In a nod to how things might change for local authorities Ms Sturgeon announced: “We will work with local authorities to review their roles and responsibilities and get more powers into the hands of communities; we will look again at the structures of our NHS and at the relationships between local government and the NHS.

“We will extend participatory budgeting and encourage communities to make use of the new community empowerment legislation.”

So does this mean a review of how the local authorities are funded? Well there is no mention of that that we can see.

## **INDEPENDENCE**

While admitting that this would be something she would like, the First Minister was clear that the SNP would have to earn the right to propose a second referendum. She explained that work will be done in the summer to investigate this possibility (after the EU referendum of course) : “If there is to be a second referendum – whether that is in the next parliament or in a future parliament – we first have to earn the right to propose it.

“Setting the date for a referendum before a majority of the



Scottish people have been persuaded that independence – and therefore another referendum – is the best future for our country is the wrong way round.

“So this summer, we will start new work to persuade a majority in Scotland of the case for independence.

“If we don’t succeed, we will have no right to propose another referendum.

“But if we do succeed – if in the future there is clear and sustained evidence that independence has become the preferred option of a majority of the Scottish people – then no politician will have the right to stand in the way.

“The future of our country must always be in the hands of the people of our country.”

Sturgeon finished her lengthy address interspersed by loud cheers when Trident was mentioned by saying: “Let us win this election for Scotland!”

So the manifesto launch had the air of a boxing match but where is the opposition to the SNP machine? Here is what the main opposition parties said after the manifesto launch:

The Conservatives belittled the First Minister’s comments about the possibility of a referendum as making the whole SNP government an ‘uncertainty’.

*The SNP’s manifesto has been branded a “recipe for uncertainty” after Nicola Sturgeon said it would be “when”, not if, there was a repeat referendum.*

*The First Minister unveiled the document in Glasgow, and said again that she’d launch another drive to break up Britain in the summer.*

*This is despite previously promising a vote on independence would be a “once in a generation” occurrence.*

*The SNP leader made it clear she wanted to secure a referendum re-run in the next five years.*

*Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson said the statement would merely put Scotland through the uncertainty it previously experienced during 2014's referendum.*

*It also highlighted why it was so crucial for the SNP to have a capable opposition, she said, and reinforced the fact that the SNP has breaking up Britain at the top of its agenda.*

*Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson said:*

*"Nicola Sturgeon had the chance today to set a course that leaves the division of the referendum behind us.*

*"Instead she has made it clear she wants to put Scotland through five more years of rancour over the constitution.*

*"She promised the last referendum would be 'once in a generation'.*

*"Today, she has broken her word to the Scottish people.*

*"Just as bad, rather than seek a mandate in her manifesto, she says she wants the right to call a referendum on independence just as soon as she thinks she can win one.*

*"It is a recipe for more uncertainty which will damage jobs and weaken the economy.*

*"As a strong opposition, we will fight every day to demand that a future SNP government focuses on the job in hand.*

*"We deserve a better government, not a re-run of the referendum."*

The Green Party had this to say:

*“This election is about what kind of parliament we want for the next five years. Do we want a parliament dominated by a cautious government and its unquestioning cheerleaders? Of course we don’t. Governments are at their best when they are under constructive pressure, and the Scottish Greens have shown we can bring that pressure to bear where it counts, on everything from fracking and land reform to rent controls and fan ownership of football.*

*“The SNP manifesto keeps them on the same cautious path, when this is a time for boldness. Standardised testing and a tax break for aviation aren’t in any way justified, and the ambiguous position on fracking will cause real concern in communities at risk. A Warm Homes Bill follows years of Green pressure, but comes at a time when the SNP have cut fuel poverty funding. And on tax it is clear that only the Scottish Greens’ plans will close the inequality gap, protect public services and give local councils real control.*

*“The only way to ensure we have a bolder Holyrood with high ambitions for jobs in lasting industries, for investment in social care, housing and young people, is by voting Green. As Labour continue their decline there is an urgent need for principled, progressive voices in parliament and a strong group of Green MSPs would make a huge difference to our parliament and the direction it takes.”*

Willie Rennie leader of the Scottish LibDems said:

“The whole manifesto is timid. Timid on tax and timid on ambition. It is a complacent offer from a party who think they have already won the election.

“Scotland can’t wait on the SNP. We need an immediate transformational investment in education that can only come from the Liberal Democrats’ penny for education.

“The SNP will continue to cut the share of spend on mental

health. People with mental health problems can't wait on the SNP."

Scottish Labour have yet to comment on the manifesto for government, but their leader is in Dumfries today, so perhaps that explains it.

All in all a very accomplished performance from the First Minister and the party machine behind it, no matter whether you support her politics or not.

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## Police release CCTV images following Niddrie robbery



Police have released CCTV images of two men they wish to trace in connection with the robbery of a 49-year-old man last year which happened between 8.30 a.m. and 9 a.m. on Friday, 18th December at a property in Niddrie Marischal Drive.

Detectives believe that the men pictured may be able to assist with their inquiries.



The men are described as white, in their late teens to early twenties and are both about 5ft 7ins and 5ft 9ins tall. One was wearing a grey coloured tracksuit and the other was wearing a grey coloured hooded top and black tracksuit bottoms.

Detective Constable Sam Gillies said: "We would like to identify the men pictured in the CCTV images and would urge

anyone who recognises them, or who has any other information which can assist with the investigation, to contact the police as soon as possible”.

Those with information can contact the Police Service of Scotland on 101 or contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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## **A92 closed in both directions at the Lochgelly Interchange.**



Motorists are advised that the A92 is currently closed in both directions at the Lochgelly Interchange.

This follows a collision between a van pulling a trailer and a car stopped in standing traffic just before the turn off to the B9149 at around 9.35 a.m.

As a result the van has caught fire and the East and Westbound carriageways are closed.

No one has been injured, however the public are advised to use alternative routes while emergency services are in attendance.

The road is expected to be closed for at least three hours and local diversions have been put in place.

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# Marvin Bartley believes home advantage will be crucial tonight



Marvin Bartley believes the Hibs' fans can be the 12th man against Rangers tonight in the Scottish Cup Final dress rehearsal at Easter Road.

The Hibs' players won't be thinking of the final however as the club need to win the game to keep up pressure on second placed Falkirk.

Hibs are currently third in the table, six points behind the Bairns with two games in hand albeit with an inferior goal difference.

The popular midfielder told Hibs TV: "Home advantage is obviously massive in this game. The fans were like the 12th man for us when we beat Rangers at Easter Road earlier in the season and I'm hoping they can be like that again in this game. it's a game I'm very much looking forward to.

"It will be a physical game but it's eleven v eleven so we will all be as physical as we need to be to win the game.

"We won't compare this game to the one on 21st May because that's way down the road. If we win we get three point and we need to win then it's one game at a time.

"It's a massive game. We need to put the pressure on Falkirk if we want to knock them off the second place perch. I don't care about the performance I just want three points."

Hibs go into the game having beaten Dundee United in the William Hill Scottish Cup semi-final on Saturday which Bartley

insists will help the team's confidence.

"It was brilliant. To win the game on penalties is the best to win it. If you can guarantee to win it then penalties is the best way to do it.

He continued: "It was fantastic, the guys were very buoyant after the game.

"When you play as well as we did in parts against a Premier League team you can take confidence from that especially when you win the game. we will be confident going into the Rangers game and hopefully that will show in our performance.

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## Two men charged with Gullane and Peebles break ins



Two men have been charged in connection with housebreakings in East Lothian and the Scottish Borders.

On Wednesday 13th April a home in Gullane was broken into during which two vehicles were stolen.

The following day a second housebreaking occurred at a property in Peebles where another vehicle was taken.

Two vehicles have been recovered and inquiries are ongoing to trace the third.

However, the men aged 17 and 23 have now been arrested.

The pair has also been charged with an attempted housebreaking at another address in Peebles on Thursday 14th April and will

appear in court at a later date

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## **#SP16 SNP launch their 'most ambitious' manifesto yet**

The SNP manifesto will be launched at the EICC this morning by the party leader and First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.

In it the SNP are to pledge what they say is their most ambitious programme for government yet.

✖ Laying out the SNP's detailed prospectus for government for the next five years, Ms Sturgeon is expected to say:

"We have achieved a huge amount since taking office in 2007, and Scotland is a better country today as a result.

"But there is so much more still to achieve, and the SNP will never stand still in seeking to make Scotland an even better nation.

"Our manifesto is a document brimming with ideas and policies to move the country forward and use new powers to create a fairer, more equal society – it is the most ambitious programme for government that we have ever published ahead of a Scottish election.

"This election is our opportunity to focus on the kind of country Scotland can be and who can provide the leadership to make it a reality.



“The decision voters will take in just 14 days time is a simple one – who should form the next government of Scotland and who should be the next First Minister.

“That is what this election is about. It is not a phoney battle for second place or a game of chance with the electoral system – it is about choosing a government and a First Minister to lead the country forward for the next five years and into a new decade.

“The job of the government and First Minister elected on May 5 will be to stand up for Scotland at every turn, make our public services fit for the future, grow our economy and create opportunity for every child regardless of their background

“The manifesto we are publishing today is bold, ambitious and reforming. It sets out a clear plan for government and a clear path to a better future. It is, above all else, a manifesto for the next generation.”

If the SNP are re-elected to form a government as is widely expected then they will increase funding for the NHS by £500 million more than inflation – and then the important words are – by the end of the next parliament. So £100 million over and above inflation each year will be handed down to the NHS as part of a package.

The First Minister is expected to say: “We had already pledged – and planned – to protect the NHS budget in real terms in every year of the next parliament. However, by making the decision not to give higher rate taxpayers the tax cut proposed by the Tories, we are able to go further.

“I am confirming today that over the next parliament, a re-elected SNP government will increase investment in the NHS by £500m more than inflation.

“This pledge of above inflation investment is a clear sign of our commitment to our most cherished public service. But we all know that more investment in the NHS is not enough – to make our NHS truly fit for the future, we also need to change the way it delivers services.

“That is why we will also use the opportunity of record NHS funding to shift more resources into social care – just as we have done this year, we will transfer funding each year from the NHS to **integrated health and social care partnerships** to help keep people out of hospital.

“We will also ensure that more of the NHS budget is spent on primary and community care and on mental health. And we will invest in new elective treatment centres to deal with the growing demand for routine operations that comes with an ageing population.

“Investment and reform will ensure that Scotland has a health and social care service truly fit for the future – and it is just one example of the transformation at the heart of our manifesto.”

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## Five things you need to know today



- CALA to consult on 450 homes for Leith
- South West Neighbourhood Partnership Parks and Greenspaces
- Do you need a TV licence for your caravan?
- Queen Margaret University Food and Drink Park
- Dalkeith Country Park

A major house builder will meet with the public to discuss plans for around 450 much needed homes on a former industrial dockland site in Leith.

CALA Homes' plans for its proposed 'Waterfront Plaza' development on currently disused land opposite Ocean Terminal, will be presented to the public on April 21st within the shopping centre.

The new development would see the creation of one to three bedroom apartments, townhouses and colonies to include 25% on site provision of affordable homes.

The public event follows the submission of a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) earlier this month, with CALA announcing its intentions to Councillors as well as Leith Harbour and Newhaven Community Council.

The Edinburgh firm is now keen to understand the views and opinions of the local community and key stakeholders early in the design process.

Craig Lynes, Land Director with CALA Homes (East), said: "We are looking forward to engaging with the local community, businesses and key stakeholders to help shape this exciting development.

"Leith has been transformed over the past 30 years, however progress has slowed. It is clear from our nearby Albert Dock development, that there is a demand for a range of high quality properties to include apartments and family homes in the area.

“The benefits of the Waterfront Plaza go beyond the creation of much needed new homes. Our proposals are centred around a pedestrianised high quality Public Realm through the development linking the Shore area to Ocean Terminal.

“The plans will positively regenerate the area and relate to the proposed Tram Route along Ocean Drive whilst addressing a strong and unmet demand for high quality new housing in Leith.”

Following a period of Public Consultation and Stakeholder engagement in the coming months, the firm plans to lodge a Detailed Planning Application in the summer. With a positive planning decision towards the end of the year, work on site could start in the early part of 2017.

The development, on land owned by Forth Ports, would see the regeneration of what is currently a vacant brownfield site while providing a substantial economic boost to the local area, as well as further contribution to encourage the expansion of the Edinburgh trams project.

The development has already gained support from the shopping centre owners, Resolution Property. Dennis Jones, Centre Manager at Ocean Terminal welcomes the residential led proposal which he believes would support the Shopping Centre through the regeneration of the immediate surrounding area.

Dennis said: “The proposed development will have a positive effect for the local region and will directly support jobs, not just in Ocean Terminal, but in the wider local area.”

Commenting on the development, Stuart Paterson, Chief Financial Officer at Forth Ports, said: “Forth Ports welcomes CALA’s housing development plans for Waterfront Plaza.

“This is great news for the local area and will help address Edinburgh’s current housing shortage and support the Ocean Terminal retail development.”

The exhibitions will take place at the main entrance foyer in Ocean Terminal, on April 21<sup>st</sup> between 12-7pm

## ***Sign up here for a daily email from The Edinburgh Reporter***

[mc4wp\_form id="169103"]

The South West Neighbourhood Partnership is holding a Parks and Greenspace workshop on 28 April 2016 from 6.00pm – 7.30pm at Stenhouse Church Hall.

If you are interested in getting involved please [sign up to come along](#).

It will focus on community involvement in local parks and is open to all ages.

Large parks in this area include Harrison Park, Saughton Park, Murieston Park, Sighthill Park, Redhall Park and Hailes Quarry Park, but there are also a number of smaller parks and green spaces. A number of parks have established groups of friends and social networks – where these exist the NP can help you get involved and where they don't then they will discuss what type of setup would work in your area.

The main topics for the workshop will be:

- Formal and informal friends of parks groups
- Community growing
- Grass cutting and meadow planting
- Plus funding opportunities for those who're interested in getting involved.



Do you need a TV licence for your caravan?

Fergus Reid, spokesperson for TV Licensing Scotland, said it was important people understood the differences in licensing requirements between static and touring caravans.

“Being caught watching TV without a licence could put a real dampener on your holidays – we want people to ensure that they stay on the right side of the law,” he said.

“The law is very clear. Anyone who watches or records live programmes on any device, on any channel, or live online, must be covered by a TV Licence. **You don't need a separate TV Licence for** static caravans, mobile homes or moveable chalets, provided you provided you don't watch TV in both homes at the same time.

“It's quick and easy to check the requirements online, simply go to <http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/info>.”

Martin Spencer, technical manager, The Caravan Club added: “As caravanners across the UK look forward to a spring getaway, it's wise to check that you are correctly covered by a TV Licence if you plan to watch TV while you are away. The good news is that you may already be covered by your home licence if holidaying in a touring caravan or motorhome so it's worth taking the time to brush up on the licensing requirements.”

***No licence is needed for a touring caravan so long as a valid TV licence is held for the main home address. A TV Licence can be bought in minutes and costs £145.50 for the year. There are a range of ways to pay including weekly, monthly and quarterly payments.***

You can find out if you need a licence, buy one or tell TV Licensing if your details have changed on their [website](#)



Queen Margaret University has published a new website

outlining its plans for a food and drink innovation park on a 50 acre site next to the university. The proposals, which were the subject of a PAN consultation last year, along with a slideshow of architect's drawings, can be viewed at [www.edinburghinnovationpark.co.uk](http://www.edinburghinnovationpark.co.uk) . Further information is attached in the latest newsletter.

Phase one of the Innovation Park would include a National Food and Drink Enterprise Centre, providing specialist facilities to support food sciences, research and development. A second facility would provide facilities for the wide range of SME sectors innovating across all services required by the food and drink sector. Further development would include additional enterprise centres and other buildings, developed both speculatively and in response to market demand.

Read more in the newsletter below:



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Dalkeith Country Park's multimillion pound redevelopment has announced that 50 new jobs are being created.

A new retail, food, drink and wellbeing space, named the Restoration Yard, will take pride of place in the park's previous stableyard area alongside the magical new Fort Douglas playground. Overall the new development brings more than £4million of investment to the popular park.



 If you are reading this article in print and would like to visit The Edinburgh Reporter website then simply scan the QR code here with a smartphone or tablet.

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## Handwritten note reporting threats found at Edinburgh College



A police investigation is underway after handwritten note reporting threats from an unnamed group of individuals against several schools, colleges and the Ocean Terminal shopping centre over the next few weeks was found on a bathroom door of the Telford campus of Edinburgh college on Monday.

A spokesman for Police Scotland said: "Police in Edinburgh are



investigating reports of a threatening communication found on a bathroom door in an education building in north Edinburgh on Monday.

“Enquiries are at an early stage and police are working closely with partners to provide reassurance to the public.”

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## Mark Oxley to replace Conrad Logan for Rangers game



Hibs' Head Coach Alan Stubbs has confirmed that first choice goalkeeper Mark Oxley will replace Conrad Logan in the Hibernian team for tomorrow's Championship clash with Rangers.

The Irishman won 'Man of the Match' in Saturday's Scottish Cup semi-final win over Dundee United, keeping a clean sheet and saving two penalties in the shootout, but despite his heroics he will not make his home debut.

Stubbs did however indicate that the former Leicester City keeper has done himself no harm for future selections.

Stubbs told BBC Scotland: "Ox (Mark Oxley) is my number one. Conrad has come in and done magnificently and was rightly named man-of-the-match.

"He's done himself no harm whatsoever, pushing for a place. Every manager wants competition for places and he has raised the bar.

"We're delighted to have him. He's been great since he's come here and he needs to keep putting Mark under pressure."

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# #SP16 Lee Chalmers Lothians List candidate for the Women's Equality Party

Lee Chalmers is the Lothians List candidate for the Women's Equality Party. She is engaging and bright, and is delighted to have been the first candidate chosen for this sparkly new political party : that is, the first candidate who has ever stood for the party in any election – anywhere!



She explained how the party came into being: “The Women's Equality Party started a year ago around the time of the UK General Election when a bunch of women realised that all the parties speak about gender equality but they are not able to do enough.

“They had all these other competing commitments. Also when a party is mainly made up of men they don't necessarily have it at the top of their agenda.

“So women just got to the point where they were so fed up with this that they said ‘We need to start a party that focuses on gender equality, that focuses on women's equality so that the parties can't ignore us’.

“There are two things we want to do – we want to get elected or we want other parties to take on our policies in our six key areas: equal pay, equal representation, equal parenting and caregiving, equal education, equal media treatment and an end to violence against women and girls.

“Women don’t have it easy. We are attacked on the street, online, we don’t get paid the same as men, we bear the brunt of childcaring which doesn’t pay much. The economy is skewed towards men to work. We are not in equal numbers in politics, in parliament, in local government.

“Everywhere you look we don’t have equal treatment, so that is what we’re calling for. If we have to take seats off political parties to achieve this then that is what we will do, but if they want to take on our policies then we are happy with that too.

“We raise money for our campaign purely from donations from the general public. We ran a crowdsourcing campaign and raised £50,000 before 14 February this year.

“Not all of our supporters are women. We have men on our committee, many men donate and many are members. My husband is a member. After all gender policy is not just for women. The reason that this party is called the Women’s Equality Party rather than the Gender Equality Party is that there is a gendered hierarchy with women at the bottom. But equality is not just better for women, it is better for everybody.

The Edinburgh Reporter asked Lee how she came to be involved in politics:

“I’m 44, I originally come from Ayr and I recently moved to Edinburgh. I’m self-employed and have run my own business for 12 years. I’ve been involved in politics for a while. I was a member of the LibDems for a while. I ended up leaving them as I did not see them doing anything to help with gender equality. I’m also doing a part-time PhD at the University of Edinburgh on online abuse, particularly on the sexist abuse that women get online. I believe that feeds into why we don’t necessarily put ourselves forward for election, why women don’t necessarily work on TV or become active in the media.

“I think that if women put their head above the parapet they

feel more open to online attack and there is research to back that up. There are a lot of sexualised violent attacks.

“My good friend Caroline Criado-Perez ran a campaign to get a woman onto banknotes in London. She ended up with about 50 nasty rape and death threats a minute. I don’t have the answers yet as I’m only at the beginning of a five year study into this – so ask me in five years!

“We did a survey of our members in Edinburgh and the thing that came to the top was equal pay and violence against women and our Youth Wing is looking at the violence question. They are focusing on things like street harassment and harassment at gigs.

“We are out now speaking to voters to help them understand what kind of things we will focus on if and when we get elected.

“I get asked a lot about whether Scotland doesn’t have more gender equality than other parts of the UK. We have three female party political leaders for example. People ask if that means there is no need for the Women’s Equality Party.

“I think the high level of gender equality in politics and the environment in Scotland after the Independence referendum all mean that there is a greater demand for gender equality.

[tweet\_box design="default"]“Lots of people spoke about the Scandinavian model that they wanted in Scotland and gender equality is a core part of that.[/tweet\_box]

“It is time now to say the Referendum is over, the No campaign won but that does not mean that we have to give up on our dreams of gender equality. That is where the Women’s Equality Party comes in.”

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# Hibernian Ladies beat Forfar Farmington at Station Park



Hibs' Ladies returned from the international break, with a 3-1 win over Forfar Farmington 3-1 at Station Park.

Goals from Scotland international Lizzie Arnot, Caroline Heron and Lucy Graham secured the victory.

The result makes it four games unbeaten at the start of the Scottish Women's Premier League season.

With Hibs leading comfortably, Farmington pulled a consolation goal back 20 minutes from time.

Manager Chris Roberts later told the club website: "We're happy with the win today against a much improved Forfar team.

"They pressed well and were dangerous on the counter. We now look forward to Celtic next week which is always an exciting game."

Hibernian Ladies XI: Fife, Williamson, Robertson, Arnot, Heron, Smith, Graham, Grant, Murray, Richards, Brownlie

Subs: Tweedie, McLauchan, Cornet, Harrison, Jefferies, Notley, Ewens.

Elsewhere in the SWPL 1

Stirling 2-1 Celtic

Glasgow City 1-0 Aberdeen

# Anima Mundi coming to Voodoo Rooms



The Cuban progressive five-piece Rock Band Anima Mundi will be appearing at the Voodoo Rooms on Wednesday 25th May.

The Band will begin the tour in their home town of Havana before heading east to Europe and then setting up in Edinburgh for the first of five UK dates supported by Beardfish's Rikard Sjöblom. Sjöblom will be promoting his new solo album, The Unbendable Sleep, released next month on Gungfly Productions.

Anima Mundi is lyrical, solemn and dramatic, containing plentiful and constant melodies but also with slow changes of breathing and unexpected soundscapes. It's not a secret that the enthusiastic band has walked step by step to successfully introducing itself among the varied and abundant present day progressive rock scene worldwide. In 2011 and 2012 the band toured in Europe with shows in France, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and Italy. Anima Mundi's first performance in The Netherlands in 2011 was hugely successful. "Some people already called it the best live performance of 2011. Well, maybe they're right because they came and conquered the hearts of the people who stayed 'til two o'clock in the morning". Henri Strik, Background Magazine.

Anima Mundi are a unique band in its homeland of Cuba, it is impossible to understand the evolution of the band without having an understanding of the Cuban situation. It is

a known fact that the phenomenon of migration is suffered by nearly every family on the Island. Nine musicians from Anima Mundi have left and live in other countries, leaving holes in the line-up which are difficult to fill with talented performers. Also acquiring instruments and equipment isn't straight forwards, with the lack of freedom of information. The indifference of the Cuban media to rock music, which has foreign influences, is thought of as having a lack of national identity.

The Band is being supported by Breadfish's Rikard Sjöblom who is promoting his new album "The Unbendable Sleep". Rikard says "the inspiration was actually because someone had posted one of my older songs ("Rumbling Boxes") on facebook and it hit me that I really missed recording on my own. So I was inspired to write some new songs". "I noticed that some of the songs work really well in an acoustic setting" and he continues to say that he will be touring in the spring, where he will mix music from his Beardfish and Gungfly Catalogues and his solo work.

Doors open 7pm. Tickets £18.50


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## Review – LIIMA – Summerhall

✖ Liima, a new band formed by Finnish percussionist Tatu Rönkkö plus Mads Brauer, Casper Clausen and Rasmus Stolberg of Danish act Efterklang, took to the stage for their live Scottish debut in Edinburgh's Summerhall.

With debut album, ii, featuring songs written in Finland,

Berlin, Istanbul and Madeira during four week- long residencies, it was a culturally varied sound, however consistently retaining Scandinavian elements. Their wonderfully synthesised sound with more knob twiddling, laptop surfing, beards and woollen beanies than you could care to envisage were obvious to the eye.

Kicking off the gig with Song by Toad's project, DigitalAnalogue, who was assisted by the likes of  Supermoon, or known better to some as Neil from Meursault, the audience were indulged with amplified discordant synth. Playing tracks such as *Café Royal*, *No. 99* and *Wapping Road*, it was the perfect ambience, paving the way for the Finnish boys to follow. Concluding their set with a cover of Thee Silver Mt. Zion's Memorial Orchestra's *The Triumph of Our Tired Eyes*, they set the tone nicely for the headliners, finishing off their delicately dissonant performance.

Noting the diverse crowd as Liima hit the stage, it is clear that their style and influences are enjoyed across a broad spectrum, witnessing mothers and fathers hitting the dissection room with their teenagers and young twenty-somethings. Pleasing multi-generations of gig-goers, Liima, translated from Finnish means 'glue.'

From a simple live set-up, synthesizers, drum samplers, vocals, effects pedals and a bass guitar the four were able to draw upon their creative dynamic, playing by intuition like a collective conscience, to shape improvised sketches and ideas into songs. Marginally late on stage as the crowd chattered and the room filled, as the lights dimmed and the audience muted with immediacy. Playing glass jars as percussion, electronic synths and samplers, this Summerhall crowd were treated to their first ever Scottish live concert, they proclaimed.

Wearing their own merchandise which includes a t-shirt with the words, "the water makes you sick," it is obvious they are



really looking to use this as a marketing exercise, as much as they are an enjoyable live gig.

Reminding Efterklang fans that Liima is the new project, there are some of the same idiosyncrasies in the amount of long luscious locks on stage.

Repetitive eighties electro oft fills the room, as intensity levels fired up with the tempo and light choreography. The crowd blatantly immersed, some even raised their hands. It's not a far cry to utter that this lot would be overjoyed to see a live performance from these Scandinavian lads yet again.

They would be massively welcomed.

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## Hibs 'tight lipped' on Rangers 'Guard of Honour'



Hibs' Head Coach Alan Stubbs has declined to confirm whether Hibs will provide a guard of honour for champions Rangers ahead of tomorrow's game at Easter Road.

Rangers won the title over two weeks ago and since then they have played Peterhead and Celtic, both in cup competition.

Traditionally players are awarded a 'guard of honour' on the next league game that they play, however there are no specific rules on the subject. The fact that both teams will meet next month in the Scottish Cup final only adds to the intrigue.

When asked about the possibility of the Hibs' players doing this, Stubbs told Sky Sports: "What I have certainly done is

to have wrung Mark (Warburton) personally as soon as they won the title but we are very concentrated on the game itself and what we need to do tomorrow and I think that is the most important thing.

“We all want to see the game. It’s not about other issues. The most important thing is that you will see two good teams tomorrow night.

Midfielder Marvin Bartley however insisted that he did not want to participate.

He said: “It’s not something I think about. I am not a professional guard of honour guy. I’m a professional footballer and I am out to win games and not clap people. If I wanted to clap people I would be a fan.”

The majority of supporters on social media are firmly against Hibs applauding Rangers onto the field.

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## **Increased concern for missing woman Margaret Young**



Police are appealing for information to help trace a woman reported missing from the Leith area.

Margaret Young was last seen in Dock Place on Monday 18 April.

Since then, the 49-year-old has not been in contact with friends or family and concern is now growing for her welfare.

Margaret’s car was last seen on the A1 southbound at

Thorntonloch around 6.10pm on Monday.

She was driving a silver Vauxhall Antara with the registration BD11 UCF.

Margaret is described as around 5ft 6in with a slim build. She was last seen wearing a dark blue fleece, dark top, black trousers with black high heeled shoes.

Inspector Scott Richardson, of Howdenhall Police Station, said: "Given the passage of time and the fact we haven't heard from Margaret, we're increasingly concerned for her.

"It's possible she may go to the Morpeth area of England, but I'd ask anyone who has any information or has seen Margaret to call us."

Those with any information can contact Police Scotland on 101.

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## Teenage boy due in court following robbery in Broxburn



Police have arrested and charged a teenage boy following an assault and robbery in Broxburn.

The incident took place on Wednesday 13 April around 3.40pm in Loaninghill Road.

A 15-year-old was later taken to St Johns Hospital in Livingston with minor injuries.

The 14-year-old is due to appear at Livingston Sheriff Court today.

Inspector Scott Robertson of Broxburn said: "I want to reassure the local community that behaviour of this kind will absolutely not be tolerated, and a suspect was quickly traced and charged in connection with this. Our inquiries continue and anyone with information about this is urged to come forward." Anyone with information is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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## Edinburgh International Festival comes to Craigmillar

The Edinburgh International Festival hosted a special programme launch for staff and pupils from Castlebrae Community High School this morning, as part of the International Festival's three year residency programme with the School.

✖ Castlebrae Community High School pupils are learning about all aspects of the International Festival's work, so they can eventually do it themselves. In 2017 the school will become an official International Festival venue run by pupils.

[The Edinburgh Reporter News – Castlebrae Loves The Festival](#) from [Phyllis Stephen](#) on [Vimeo](#).

Fergus took pupils through the programme of music, opera, theatre and dance coming to the city this August, alongside plans for using the school as a venue in 2017.

One of the most amusing things for the pupils was that the Festival is staging an opera called [Norma](#) this year with

Cecilia Bartoli in the central role. Their headteacher is called Norma, and so they will definitely remember this production!

Linehan was very deft at retuning his Festival programme launch from last week so that it was much more relevant and interesting to pupils at the school. He mentioned the light show to be projected onto Castle Rock, Mogwai and Young Fathers. Some of the audience had heard of them!

He said: "We want to get everyone fired up and excited because pupils are going to be in the thick of the action as critics, venue managers, chefs – you name it."

The partnership will culminate in 2017 when the school will become an International Festival venue run by pupils. Working towards that, activity for 2016 includes:

- A group of senior pupils will form an official International Festival Jury. They will see 19 performances by artists including Sigur Rós, ANOHNI, Natalia Osipova, James Thierrée, Magdalena Kožená and Barry Humphries. Working with Canadian research and performance group Mammalian Diving Reflex they will create and run the International Festival Young People's Awards Ceremony.
- Acclaimed Scottish actor **Alan Cumming** will visit Castlebrae in August to talk to staff and pupils about his life as a performer.
- Local photographer Aly Wight will continue taking portraits documenting the young people through the three years of the partnership.
- The school's senior prom will be held at the International Festival's Hub headquarters for a second year. Pupils will co-create this prom with staff at the Hub.
- In addition to school based workshops an extensive mentoring and work experience programme for senior students started in February. Chef Jai Parson (17)

designed the canapes for International Festival programme launch, working with catering partners Appetite Direct and their team of event specialists led by Nigel Kennedy. Further information about Jai is attached to this email.

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## Edinburgh Councillor blogs – Councillor Jim Orr



by Councillor Jim Orr who is the Independent councillor for Southside Newington Ward

One of the most interesting areas of the Southside Newington Ward is Dumbiedykes. Historically a council estate, it now seems to have at least as many private properties as council ones. The area has its challenges too, so much so that one of the four priorities of the current Local Community Plan for the whole south Central Neighbourhood is to “[Improve the quality of life in Dumbiedykes](#)”.

But engaging with the local community as a whole has always been a challenge in itself. We, the council, set up a quarterly Quality of Life Group and we regularly get the police, community safety officers and many other stakeholders along to it. But publicising it has been difficult and very few locals come along, even though it's open to all.

Partly in response to this I started councillor surgeries at the Braidwood Centre, but in all the many months that it ran not one person came along.

Thankfully, it looks like that disconnect is going to change. At the Braidwood Centre last night there were about fifty residents present for the third meeting of the new residents association – the biggest yet. The felling of trees in February for the planned bike park was the catalyst for the creation of the association.

There are many differing opinions about the bike park (for, against and unsure), but everyone at the meeting want to make sure that the voice of the community will be heard loud and clear from now on. A delegate was also elected to represent the association at the (also new) Community Council.

Parking is probably the biggest problem on the estate. Smart Parking Ltd gave the council 30 days notice last April that they were pulling out of managing parking in the area meaning that the estate would have no controlled parking. This has gradually escalated into a massive problem as Joe Public became aware of the giant free car park just off the Old Town that is Dumbiedykes.

Solving this will not be easy – any parking solution will need a long and complex consultation and there will likely be a cost to residents– but at least we can start the process. Some might say that it shouldn't need such a loud expression of community anger to get things started, but I'm just glad that we have such a voice to respond to at last, so that we know what the priorities are and the difference between what's desirable and what's essential.

Bus provision is another big problem. The number 60 was brought in on a subsidised basis a couple of years ago mainly as there was no direct link to the amenities of the Southside such as the shops and the doctors surgery, but that one will stop running in June and the next step will be to look at diverting existing services to Holyrood Road and the Southside. We're meeting Lothian Buses soon and we'll just have to see how we get on with them on that one.

Dog dirt is another issue on the estate. Residents reported that it's often members of the local community themselves who are guilty of failing to pick up after their own dog. In this respect there are similar problems elsewhere in the city.

Although last night there were even reports of people leaving dog mess on the stairs of the blocks of flats. There are measures that can be taken to improve behaviour and hopefully community pride and spirit will prevail and the miscreants will stop leaving dog dirt for others to deal with.

The Southside is definitely on the up with the old Odeon currently under refurbishment and new many features such as the mural and cycleway at Gifford Park. I'd say Dumbiedykes is on the up too.

There is money to spend on valuable community projects via the "Spirit of Dumbiedykes" fund, and more money for the area from the councils HRA (Housing Revenue Account) pot will be up for grabs at the South Central Decides meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April at the Methodist Hall in Nicholson Square.

Given the community spirit now on show at the residents association, there is bound to be a good turnout from the estate.

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## **Attempted robbery at Bryson**



# Road convenience store



Police are appealing for witnesses following an attempted robbery at a convenience store which happened around 8.25 p.m. on Monday on Bryson Road.

Two members of staff were working within Shop 'n' Safe when a man entered and presented a knife before demanding they hand over various items of property.

Both of the employees refused and the man ran off westwards along Bryson Road.

Officers are now conducting local inquiries to trace the suspect and anyone who can help identify him is asked to come forward.

He is described as white, late teens to early twenties, 5ft 10ins tall with a slim build and wearing a black hooded jacket with a white base ball cap underneath, a dark scarf over his face, light grey cotton Adidas jogging bottoms with three dark stripes on the legs, black trainers and black gloves.

Detective Constable Joyce Gunderson from Corstorphine CID said: "The shop staff were not injured and thankfully the suspect was unable to rob the store of any goods.

"Nevertheless we are keen to trace this individual as soon as possible and anyone who can help us locate him should contact police immediately.

"In addition, anyone who saw any suspicious activity on Bryson Road on Monday evening is also urged to get in touch."

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

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# Police urge fans attending Cup Final precursor to act responsibly



Police are urging both sets of fans to enjoy this week's Scottish Cup Final precursor between Hibs and Rangers and act responsibly.

The teams kick off their SPFL Championship match at 7.45 p.m. on Wednesday 20th April, with the match at Easter Road expected to be a sell-out.

To ensure the safety of all those in attendance, police will have a high visibility presence in and around the ground and will assist stewarding staff to conduct searches of those entering the stadium.

Fans travelling from outside Edinburgh are also reminded that officers will be enforcing the city's drinking by-laws and so antisocial street drinking or consumption of alcohol in the street will not be permitted.

Chief Inspector Mark Rennie said: "Following the results of this weekend's Scottish Cup semi-finals, we now know that this match is a precursor to next month's final and we anticipate a significant support from both teams to turn up.

"With so many people making their way to Easter Road it is essential that spectators behave in a manner that does not put themselves at risk and we will have an appropriate presence in place to deter criminality and address any issues, which

arise.

“I would like to remind fans that flares, alcohol and items which could cause harm if thrown are strictly forbidden from being brought inside the ground and if you are found in possession of any of these items you will not get to see the match and are likely to face arrest and prosecution.

“This has the potential to be a great match with an exciting atmosphere and we want both sets of fans to enjoy the game in the proper spirit without becoming involved in, or falling victim to, any form of criminal activity.”

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## **Police release identity of woman who died in Morningside collision**



Police have confirmed the identity of an elderly woman who died following a road collision in Morningside as Moira McKeeman from Edinburgh.

The 86-year-old sustained fatal injuries after she was involved in a collision with a bin lorry on Morningside Road on Sunday 17th April.

Inquiries are continuing to speak with anyone who witnessed this incident and in particular, officers are keen to trace a man standing outside Stafanos chip shop who was left visibly upset and a man who crossed the same stretch of road just prior to the incident.

In addition, police now believe an elderly couple were standing outside the Brother Barbers around the time of the collision and these individuals are also asked to come forward. The woman was wearing a fur hat.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police immediately.

The family of Moira McKeeman have now requested that their privacy is respected while they grieve.

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## **Big Country to appear at Howden Centre Livingston next month**



Big Country will be appearing in Livingston on Sunday 15th May at Howden Park Centre EH54 6AE 01506 777666 [www.howdenparkcentre.co.uk/](http://www.howdenparkcentre.co.uk/) 7.30pm £23 £21Conc

The popular band will perform classic hits and live favourites including Harvest Home – Fields of Fire – In A Big Country – Chance – Wonderland – Look Away – The Teacher plus many more...

Steeped in a stunning catalogue of proud and stirring hit songs such as 'Fields of Fire', 'Chance', 'In A Big Country' (which sold 2 million), 'East Of Eden' and their biggest UK hit 'Look Away', along with massive albums such 'The Seer', 'Steeltown', 'Peace In Our Time' and the triple Grammy-nominated, 'The Crossing', Big Country continue to look beyond the next horizon.

The band – Bruce Watson (guitars/vocals); Mark Brzezicki,(drums, vocals); Jamie Watson, (guitars/vocals) will be augmented on stage by singer/guitarist Simon Hough and bassist Scott Whitley.

Formed in 1981 by guitar playing founder members *Stuart Adamson* and Bruce Watson, both native of the band's hometown Dunfermline in Scotland. Initially driven by a shared vision of widescreen guitar melody, harmony and lyric, the classic Big Country sound was further enhanced later that summer by the arrival of drummer Mark Brzezicki and bass player Tony Butler. This is the Big Country that (with Producer Steve Lillywhite), recorded the classic debut album 'The Crossing' in 1983.

The band broke massively worldwide with the release of the album's classic singles 'Fields Of Fire', 'Chance' and signature song 'In A Big Country', which went on to become massive worldwide hits, selling over 2 million copies and driving 'The Crossing' to 3 prestigious Grammy nominations in the USA.

The run of success continued throughout the 1980's with the release of the anthemic single 'Wonderland' and the second album 'Steeltown' (1984), which debuted at Number 1 in the UK and contained the hit singles 'East Of Eden', 'Just a Shadow' and 'Where The Rose Is Sown'.

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# New Tesco Express for the New Town



The former And So to Bed shop on Dundas Street has been converted into a convenience store and now Tesco Express will open next week with 21 staff from the local area.

Store manager Karen Marshall was keen to ensure that all vacancies were filled by local people to enhance the community feeling.

Karen, who has worked at Tesco for 15 years said: "I was thrilled by the response we received to our recruitment drive. There were so many great applicants which made the decision very tough when it came to selecting the successful 21."

The store will be launched on 26 April with much celebration including a cheque handover to Hannah Mitchell who is Fundraising Officer for The Yard. The £500 will be a great boost to the adventure playground for children and young people with disabilities.

Karen added: "We are delighted to be able to support the The Yard, as they do such wonderful work for the local community. We are really pleased that Hannah Mitchell is coming to launch the new store and join in the celebrations with us. My new team and I are looking forward to offering shoppers a clean bright and spacious new store with fast and friendly service."

The store opens at 9:00am on Tuesday 26 April with the official opening ceremony at 10.30.

The usual store opening hours will be from 6:00am till 11:00pm.

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# #SP16 Six things you need to know about the Scottish election



[Paul Cairney](#), [University of Stirling](#)

You might be wondering if it is worth paying attention to the Scottish election, which will be held [on May 5](#). The result certainly looks a foregone conclusion: the ruling SNP will form a majority government for another five years. But look more closely and there's plenty to say – both about the broad sweep of Scottish politics and the current campaign:

## 1. SNP arc is almost complete

Don't miss the [monumental nature](#) of what is about to happen. Nicola Sturgeon's victory will represent the peak of a transformation in Scottish politics since 1999 that almost no one predicted – consolidation of the [SNP majority](#) of 2011. The Blair government [designed](#) a system that it was thought would prevent anyone from securing a majority. Instead of Westminster's first-past-the-post system, the Scottish system included 56 seats from [regional lists](#) to offset some of the distribution of the 73 constituency seats. This was intended to make it more proportional, but only up to a point.

In the [2015 UK general election](#) the SNP's 50% share of the

vote secured 56 of 59 MPs (95%). If the polls for the current election are right [to indicate](#) that the party can maintain that level of support in constituency votes, it could even secure a majority before the regional votes are counted. ([One forecast](#) predicts the SNP to get 56% or 72 of the seats, compared to Labour's 32 and the Conservatives' 18. [Others](#) are a bit more upbeat about the Conservatives' hopes, while also playing up the Greens.)

The likelihood of an SNP majority has produced a weird game of chicken in which we all know what will happen regardless of [the campaign](#) but the party leaders still dare each other to declare the result. Everyone knows that admitting defeat opens you to claims of defeatism – as Conservative leader Ruth Davidson [discovered](#) – while hinting at victory [wins you](#) the “most arrogant” prize.

## 2. The indyref stick

Clearly the [Scottish independence referendum](#) did [not settle](#) the constitutional debate. The main opposition parties, particularly Scottish Labour, are repeating last year's UK election claim that the SNP will use any victory to push for a second referendum. Yet the only plausible trigger, at least in the short term, is the EU referendum: if most voters in Scotland vote to stay in, and most voters in the UK vote to leave, the first minister [has said](#) it would “almost certainly” prompt the SNP to demand a second vote.

## 3. Tax matters

[Greater devolution](#) has prompted much debate on how to use the so-called “Scottish rate of income tax” that became feasible on April 1 for the first time. You might have expected this campaign to have sparked a lively discussion about the benefits and costs of raising income tax to fund services, or about who should win and lose from tax changes. So far we've



mainly seen a pedantic and (perhaps deliberately) confusing [debate about](#) whether it would be progressive to raise income tax by 1p as [proposed by](#) Scottish Labour; the [likely income](#) from each 1p rise; and the [unintended consequences](#) of greater higher-rate taxation.



So, we won't win.

[PA/Danny Lawson](#)

Knowing the SNP will win the election makes it is relatively hard to take seriously the tax plans of the other parties, including Scottish Labour's planned 1p rise and the Scottish Conservatives' [abandoned hope](#) to reduce it (ditto their [proposal to](#) reintroduce tuition fees). Similarly, gone are the days when the Scottish Greens' [more radical](#) income and land tax plans had any chance of success.

## 4. The SNP's record

The opposition parties [have been trying](#) to maximise concerns about the performance of the NHS and Police Scotland, and the SNP's failure to reduce the "attainment gap", but there is little evidence to suggest that such criticism is sticking. Indeed, crises like the [Edinburgh PFI schools closures](#) have called into question Labour's record on capital finance up to 2007, even though the SNP has maintained a [similar financing model](#) in office.

This failure to score many hits on the SNP's time in government is weird when you consider that one of the key factors in its 2007 and 2011 successes was the perception of the party's competence. The SNP [did well](#) to maintain that perception in 2011, but despite so long in government it is tempting to think that the [popularity of Nicola Sturgeon](#) and the party's post-referendum bump has made this less of an issue in 2016.

## 4. Fracking silence

One issue which could have hurt the SNP is fracking. There is some [internal division](#) in the party about the Scottish government maintaining a [moratorium](#) rather than complete ban on all shale oil and gas development. Scottish Labour [now supports](#) a ban. Yet the moratorium, along with Sturgeon's [recent description](#) of her position as "highly sceptical about fracking" and the SNP decision not to debate the issue at its annual conference, means it will probably remain a non-talking point until after the election.

## 5. The rest

The smaller parties mattered [in 2003](#), garnering 14 out of 129 seats (or 34 if you include the three independents and 17 Scottish Lib Dems). Now they have become a sideshow. The Scottish Greens, who currently have two seats, [may end up](#) with four. That could be the same as the Lib Dems, who currently have five. The [increasingly comical](#) UKIP are likely to receive none.



Anything for a photo opportunity: Scottish Lib Dem leader Willie Rennie

[PA](#)

## 6. Progress

Perhaps the most welcome non-talking point was Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale's [decision to](#) "share with the world that I'm in love with a woman". She [generally received](#) praise, establishing the Scottish parliament as home to an [unusually large number](#) of LGB party leaders.

There is also [some evidence](#) to suggest that after a few false dawns, gender-based equality of selection is catching on

again. This seems to have been reinforced by the three biggest parties all being led by women.

[Paul Cairney](#), Professor of Politics and Public Policy,  
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Read the [original article](#).

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# Five things you need to know today



- Sofa Workshop have a photography competition for you!
- Annual Boys Brigade Band Contest
- Fife Talking Tandems will be at Pedal on Parliament 2016
- Edinburgh Leisure offering class for new parents (with buggies!)
- Action Earth launch at Bridgend Farmhouse

The team at Sofa Workshop in Edinburgh are looking to add some local flavour to their store and need the community to help them do it.

To bring some of the picturesque scenery from around the capital city indoors, the Sofa Workshop store at Ocean Terminal Shopping Centre is calling on locals to take a photograph or draw a piece of art, of their favourite Edinburgh landmark, to win the chance to see it framed and displayed in store.

Potential landmarks for the budding photographers and artists

could include Edinburgh Castle, one of the most photographed and beautiful attractions in Edinburgh, or perhaps the Scott Monument or Arthur's Seat.

Sofa Workshop is encouraging local creative talent, ranging from professional artists and photographers to ordinary folk with a passion for painting to send in their entries for the chance to have their work exhibited in store.

Store manager, Angela Lockhart, said: "We've been getting to know the local community and customers across Edinburgh over the past few years and we really wanted to find out what it was that inspired people, what building or landmark really summed the city up and made them proud."

"We're looking for that shot that captures Edinburgh, its heritage and unique personality. The winning shot will take pride of place in the store for everyone to view and I'm really excited to see the entries."

Deadline for entries is **Friday 29 April** and you can enter by sending your photograph via email to [prsofaworkshop@havasww.com](mailto:prsofaworkshop@havasww.com) or sending a CD in the post to Sofa Workshop, A View From A Sofa, Havas PR UK, 26 Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, EH12 5AL

#### **Ts & Cs**

- ***Entrants must be 18 or over***
- ***Entrants must be willing to take part in any PR related to the competition***
- ***By entering the competition you give permission to Sofa Workshop to use the photo in any marketing, advertising, PR and in-store promotion for 12 months***
- ***Images submitted will not be returned***
- ***Images submitted after the deadline will not be considered***



More than 250 young musicians aged from nine to 18 are fine tuning their talents ahead of The Boys' Brigade's 37<sup>th</sup> Scottish

Bands Contest, set to take place at The Brunton in Musselburgh next weekend.

Nearly 500 people are expected to head along to see the best and upcoming talent across The Boys' Brigade with brass, woodwind and pipe musicians competing at the competition on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016. The event will begin at 10.30am and will finish at 4.30 pm, following the awards presentation.

Bands from Companies in Ayrshire, Dundee & Angus, Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Dunfermline, South Lanarkshire and Edinburgh, are all expected to attend the competition over the course of the day.

The bands will be performing for Councillor Jim Gillies, Depute Provost of East Lothian Council, Major General Mark Strudwick CBE, retired British Army officer and Bill Stevenson, Director for The Boys' Brigade in Scotland.



Thousands of cyclists – including at least two party leaders and a Scottish government minister – are expected to converge on the streets of Edinburgh and simultaneously in Aberdeen this weekend for Scotland's biggest demonstration for safer streets. Led by a tandem club which pairs visually-impaired stokers with sighted captains, the protest will gather at the Meadows in Edinburgh at 12 noon before cycling down to the Scottish Parliament to call for greater investment in active travel.

The Fife Talking Tandems cycling club – whose members will have ridden a round trip of 40 miles to attend the event – are leading out Pedal on Parliament to show that cycling can benefit everyone, if the conditions are right. With active travel increasingly high on the political agenda in Scotland in this election campaign, they will be joined by transport minister Derek Mackay, the leader of the Liberal Democrats,

Willie Rennie – who will also cycle from Fife – and Green Party leader Patrick Harvie. Kezia Dugdale, leader of the Labour party has also tweeted the organisers that she is hoping to attend. Thousands of cyclists and marchers will join them for the ride down to Holyrood, having come from across Scotland with feeder rides coming from Cumbernauld, Kirkcaldy, Glasgow and Peebles, while riders will simultaneously gather in Aberdeen's Hazlehead Park to ride to Marischal College in a satellite event organised by the Aberdeen Cycle Forum.

The mass ride, which is now in its fifth year, has grown to the point where riders are still leaving the Meadows long after the leaders have reached the Parliament building 1.5 miles away. Since its inception in 2012 the campaign has been successful in putting active travel on Scotland's political agenda and encouraging the Scottish government to reverse planned cuts in and increase investment in infrastructure for safe cycling.

Mike Young, secretary of the Talking Tandems, and himself a visually impaired stoker, said "Talking Tandems is both delighted and proud to be leading out this year's PoP procession. Our presence on Saturday amongst so many other likeminded people will demonstrate that visually impaired cyclists – and those who suffer from other disabilities – love getting out on their bikes for all the reasons that sighted and able bodied cyclists do; but like them, we need a safe environment in which to cycle, and sometimes this requires different approaches and additional investment. We would therefore take this opportunity to remind the Scottish Government that cycling comes in many forms besides 'mainstream' and ask them to keep in mind the needs of disabled cyclists"

Denise Marshall, on behalf of Pedal on Parliament, said: "PoP is a fun, family-friendly event but with a serious purpose. When PoP started, cycling and active travel were barely on the agenda, with regular cuts to funding. Now, the

Scottish Government likes to boast that it's spending record amounts on active travel – whilst cutting funding for local authorities to spend on cycling and walking. Without proper investment, cycling will never reach the levels set by The Scottish Government's own Cycling Action Plan of 10% of journeys by bike.

"We hope that, with the election looming, our politicians will realise that now is the time to do what the majority of Scots have said they support and invest in proper cycle tracks that suit not just young fit cyclists, but groups like the Talking Tandems."



Edinburgh Leisure is offering free taster sessions for a new exercise programme, 'Mums on the Run', designed specifically for new mums (and dads) with buggies.

The free taster sessions will run from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May inclusive at several Edinburgh Leisure venues across the city and any mums (or dads) with a baby in a buggy can join in. All the sessions will be outside.

Based on the latest research, the class will offer guidance, advice and solutions to help mums across the city enjoy the social and psychological benefits of getting out and being active.

Ally Flannigan, Fitness Class Manager, said: "Getting back into exercise after having a baby can be an uphill struggle. With reduced sleep and trying to get into a new routine, exercise may seem like the last thing on a new mother's mind.

"However our new class, which will take place outdoors, is designed to be fun, and will be a great opportunity to meet new mums (and dads) and workout at the same time. We'll be gaining feedback from the new parents trying to get back in to

exercise to help shape the programme before it goes live.”

To book, contact the relevant Edinburgh Leisure venue. The free taster sessions are available to both members and non-members.

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Bridgend Farmhouse © John Knox

The Action Earth campaign, run by national charity Volunteering Matters, launched its 2016 grant giving scheme at Bridgend Farmhouse in South Edinburgh.

Bridgend Inspiring Growth (BIG) will use their [Action Earth](#) grant to carry out a range of improvements, including a disability audit of Craigmillar Castle Park.

Hazel Flett, Committee Member with BIG says; “Thanks to our Action Earth grant, adults with a range of disabilities will be able to identify accessibility concerns which we can act upon to assist others using the park and local woodlands.

“This will be followed up by biodiversity improvements, habitat creation and community bench-building workshops. All of this will ensure greater accessibility and engagement in the park and the farmhouse. The farmhouse is a place of true social integration. From the socially isolated person with learning disabilities to a Chief Executive Officer, there’s always a new friend to meet and work alongside.”


Bridgend Inspiring Growth (BIG) exists to renovate Bridgend Farmhouse into a community-owned centre for learning, eating and exercise. They will provide educational, training and



employment opportunities with a focus on the environment, sustainability and outdoor learning, as well as providing a training kitchen, cafe, events space and four new external workshop spaces (DIY, Arts & Crafts, bikes and storage) for community use.

The Action Earth campaign is supported by Scottish Natural Heritage and offers easy to access grants of up to £500. These are available for any group of volunteers in Scotland carrying out practical environmental improvements and wildlife habitat creation in their local green spaces.

Ian Ross, Chairman of Scottish Natural Heritage, and a former volunteer himself, said: "Taking part in environmental volunteering is a great way to grow confidence and learn new skills and at the same time enjoy the outdoors with like-minded people who want to help their local wildlife. Any volunteer can apply for an Action Earth grant, and we are very pleased to continue supporting this excellent programme."

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