

# Scotland Women's Under-19 squad announced



Gareth Evans has confirmed his Scotland Women's Under-19 squad for a training camp at the beginning of February.

Six Hibernian Ladies players are represented in the squad, namely Amy Lynch, Rachel McLauchlan, Chelsea Cornet, Cailin Michie, Abigail Harrison, and Liz Tweedie along with Simone McMahon of Spartans.

The squad are currently in preparation for their UEFA Women's Under-19 European Championship Elite Round qualifiers later this year.

## Scotland Women's Under-19 Training Camp Squad

### Goalkeepers

Rebecca Flaherty (Aberdeen LFC)

Laura Hamilton (Rangers LFC)

### Defenders

Chantelle Brown (Rangers LFC)

Sarah Clelland (Glasgow City FC)

Cassie Cowper (Aberdeen LFC)

Amy Lynch (Hibernian LFC)

Rachel McLauchlan (Hibernian LFC)

Simone McMahon (Spartans FC)

Georgie Rafferty (Celtic FC)

Courtney Whyte (Celtic FC)

Alex Middleton (Celtic FC)

### Midfielders

Chelsea Cornet (Hibernian LFC)  
Erin Cuthbert (Glasgow City FC)  
Amy Gallacher (Forfar Farmington LFC)  
Cailin Michie (Hibernian LFC)  
Claire Adams Mullen (Rangers LFC)  
Donna Paterson (Aberdeen LFC)  
Hayley Sinclair (Rangers LFC)

#### Forwards

Brogan Anderson (Hearts LFC)  
Carla Boyce (Glasgow City FC)  
Kirsty Hanson (Liverpool LFC)  
Abigail Harrison (Hibernian LFC)  
Kodie Hay (Glasgow City FC)  
Kirsty Howat (Celtic FC)  
Lia Tweedie (Hibernian LFC)

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## Hearts Game Called Off

Hearts Ladbrokes SPFL Premiership game at Inverness today has been postponed. Inverness Caledonian Thistle carried out a pitch inspection at 7.30am and with the playing surface already waterlogged and the forecast of more bad weather it was decided to postpone the game.

A date for the re-arranged fixture will be announced in due course.

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# Five things you need to know today



- Tennis – Australian Open finals
- Pup Idol – take your dog along to St Stephen's Church today
- Holyrood Talk
- Book Festival's Booked! programme at The Assembly Rooms
- #GrantaGrand

Scots Andy and Jamie Murray are both in the finals of their respective sections at the Australian Open and Gordon Reid (probably not a name you are familiar with but you soon will be!) is in the finals of the Men's Wheelchair Singles Final and the Men's Doubles Wheelchair Final with partner Shingo Kunieda.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said:

"Andy, Jamie and Gordon all making the finals is a magnificent and historic achievement and they should all be so proud of their efforts.

"I know that everyone will be willing them onto victory – it would be absolutely brilliant to see all four trophies being re-homed in Scotland for a year!"

You can follow the finals live on [BBC Sport](#) from 8:00am this morning with the Ladies Final and tomorrow at 08:30 with the Men's Final.

If anyone knows how to watch the tennis live then no doubt they will let us know in the Comments section below!

Sign up here for a daily email from The Edinburgh Reporter!

[mc4wp\_form id="169103"]



Does your puppy have star quality? Could it be on stage?

The Bohemians Lyric Opera Company launched a competition last weekend to find two dogs to star alongside its cast of the Legally Blonde the musical in March in the King's Theatre in Edinburgh.

The competition, Pup Idol, is searching for Bruiser and Rufus who play an integral part of the story in which Elle Woods swaps her designer handbag and sorority lifestyle for a place at Harvard Law School.

The dogs will be expected to take part in a short audition with members of the cast and production team where they will need to display the necessary discipline, obedience and star quality to claim the roles.

*The company, based in Edinburgh, is holding open auditions TODAY!*

**When:** 30<sup>th</sup> January between 2pm-5pm

**Where:** St Stephen's Church, Edinburgh

Anyone can register to bring their dog along to the auditions by emailing [pupidol@bohemians.org.uk](mailto:pupidol@bohemians.org.uk)

Speaking about the competition, the show Director, Jon Cuthbertson said:

"There is often a perception that music theatre is a closed shop, and not something that is accessible to everyone. This is absolutely not the case. Amateur music theatre is right at the heart of local communities here in Edinburgh with members of our cast working as teachers, shop assistants, nurses,

students and many others during the day.”

“When thinking about how we would find our Bruiser and Rufus to join our cast in Legally Blonde, we thought it would be a fantastic opportunity to open it up to any enthusiastic dog owner and their pooch who was willing to give it a go. “

“I can promise that performing in this dynamic and fun show will be a really wonderful and rich musical experience for the owner and their dog, and I’d really encourage all those dog lovers out there to dip their feet in the world of music theatre.”



The only western woman to go into battle as an enlisted soldier in the First World War, Flora Sandes from Suffolk became a heroine and a media sensation after she was wounded fighting in the Serbian Army. She rose rapidly through the ranks, was mentioned twice in despatches and was awarded the Star of Karadorde for bravery under fire, eventually becoming a Captain.

On Saturday 6 February there is a talk to be given by Louise Miller at The Scottish Parliament at Holyrood at 14:00pm about the work carried out by Flora Sandes.

[More details here.](#)



We met up with Nick Barley Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival at the People’s Postcode Lottery on Thursday night. At the time he was clutching a large cheque for £250,000 which is the lottery’s contribution to the Edinburgh-based charity.

Mr Barley explained to us that this money will be used for the Festival’s reading based programme outwith Charlotte Square which is called Booked!

*The Crocodiamond* is a story written by award-winning children's author Anthony Horowitz and set to music by innovative composer Jonathan Dove.

As part of the Booked! programme pupils from Sandaig Primary School in Glasgow, who have no music provision at their school, have been working with musicians from the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, together with much-loved illustrator and *Alfie*-creator, Debi Gliori, and storyteller Caroline McCluskey, to create imagery in response to both the story and the music.

Go along and hear a special performance of *The Crocodiamond* with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, and see the incredible work produced by the children of Sandaig Primary. There are also exciting pre-concert activities for all the family: play instruments from the Instrument Armoury, take an illustration workshop with Debi Gliori, meet *The Crocodiamond* musicians, and get stuck into some art and craft activities.

### **Booking information**

#### **Edinburgh:**

Sat 13 February, pre-concert activities 10.30am-12pm. Concert begins 12pm at the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh

Sat 13 February, pre-concert activities 1pm-2.30pm. Concert begins 2.30pm at the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh

Tickets £12.50 (family ticket £31). Recommended for families and children aged 4–10.

[Book your tickets through the Scottish Chamber Orchestra's website here.](#)



A new initiative in the south west of the city will mean that young people can vote on how to use 10 prizes of £10,000 each in their local communities to benefit themselves and others in

the same age group.

During Autumn 2015 young people were given the opportunity of making suggestions for the 'Grant a Grand' scheme and 16 applications were received. All 10-19 year olds in South West Edinburgh are now being invited to vote on which projects they would most like to get the money.

Voting in Balgreen, Fountainbridge, Sighthill and Wester Hailes libraries will be open from Monday 1 to Wednesday 24 February and the results will be announced at a community event on Friday 26 February at Carrickvale Community Centre.

The event will include stalls from local community groups, sports tasters and refreshments. It's free to come along and everyone in South West Edinburgh is welcome.

This year's applicants include Gorgie City Farm, Wester Hailes Health Agency, Hutchison Vale Community Sports Club and two local Scouts groups.

Councillor Maureen Child, Convener of the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee at the City of Edinburgh Council, said: "Participatory budget schemes have proven to be extremely popular, and it's great to see so many applicants covering so many different projects.

"I would now urge everyone who is eligible to take to part in the vote to have your say in who should be granted a grand. Neighbourhood Partnership events like this are valued by people who welcome the opportunity to make decisions about the area in which they live."

For up-to-date information about Grant a Grand follow [@southwest\\_team](#) on Twitter, watch out for #GrantaGrand, or visit [South West Neighbourhood website](#).



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## Edinburgh Councillor blogs – Councillor Maureen Child

✖ by Councillor Maureen Child

Dear All

Castlebrae Community High School's **Red Cafe** will cook you a fabulous lunch every term-time Tuesday and you'd all be welcome. Please book in advance by contacting [castlebraered@gmail.com](mailto:castlebraered@gmail.com). The menu for Red on Tuesday 2 February is: V Gratin of Rigatoni with Roasted Vegetables Chilli con Carne with Rice. Yummy! *One day* I'll be able to plan lunch on Tuesdays. Red Cafe look forward to hearing from you! More here: <http://chronicleonline.net/2016/01/29/menu-for-red/>

On **recycling**, some of us reported that when we put small electrical things for recycling in the Blue Box, as directed here

[http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20001/bins\\_and\\_recycling/412/find\\_out\\_what\\_goes\\_in\\_each\\_bin](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20001/bins_and_recycling/412/find_out_what_goes_in_each_bin)

the people doing the collection remove them from the box and



leave them on the pavement. I have made enquiries about why this part of the service isn't working and I'll let you know when I get to the bottom of it. We still have some problems with recycling collections and provision of enough bins, although there are signs of improvement. Do keep reporting them to [waste@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:waste@edinburgh.gov.uk) and copy me in. There are 18 streets in Portobello/Craigmillar Ward due to get more bins for recycling as more and more people are taking part since the new system was introduced and collection capacity has to be increased.

The lone mandarin drake is causing quite a stir among the ducks and visitors at **Figgate Park Pond**. Here he is among the mallards, looking quite exotic. <https://www.polaroidblipfoto.com/entry/2137274040887282977> More photos thanks to Anthony Robson on the Friends of Figgate Park Facebook page.

**The Thistle** charity in Craigmillar subsidise their gym memberships so we can keep the price as low as possible. Annual membership to their gym in Craigmillar is only £25. I keep meaning to join! The Thistle's new **Tudsbery Centre** building was given a construction trade award recently for Practical Completion. It's certainly coming on nicely, with the internal fit out happening now and the new building due to be ready around Easter: [pic.twitter.com/n0hv5ZXecW](https://pic.twitter.com/n0hv5ZXecW) We had a great meeting of **local community growing projects** and volunteers in the Thistle Garden – or more accurately indoors. It was absolutely pelting down rain. I am a huge fan of community gardening and all the benefits it can bring for individuals involved but also its capacity to create and sustain neighbourhoods and communities; bringing individuals and families together. We have at least ten such spaces in Greater Craigmillar with the prospect of more. And there are at least that number in and around Portobello and Brunstane. There's huge potential there for working together!

It was a real pleasure to be at the second **Cyrenians**

**Breakfast** on Thursday morning, hearing more first-hand stories about the work they do and discussing what we need all need to do together to tackle food poverty. Conclusion – Everybody needs something to eat and someone to eat with. So how do we help make it happen?

As I said last week, I wanted confirmation of the Committee decision about **Brighton Place** – which option and the cost was decided upon at Transport and Environment Committee – carriageway reconstruction or covering in asphalt leaving the setts in place? I also asked what process would be used to decide what projects will come forward within the budget saved. Will the setts at the junctions of the side streets like East and West Brighton Place and Lee Crescent be retained and might they be re-laid as part of the project to retain at least *some* of the historic fabric in Portobello Conservation Area? I got the attached reply on this and a couple of other related issues constituents have raised with me about Brighton Place.

If you live in Portobello, it's well worth keeping up through the excellent **Portobello Community Council** website and/or getting on their mailing list. <http://www.portobellocc.org/>

The Council's East Neighbourhood roads team have given us Councillors advance notice that **Newcraighall Road will be closed for nearly a month**, from Monday 8 February to Sunday 6 March for carriageway resurfacing and reconstructing the footway on Newcraighall Road between Newcraighall Primary School and the City boundary. During this time local access will be maintained to a limited extent. Pedestrian access will be maintained for the duration of the works. I have map and more details if you want it.

**Young Musician Competition** sponsored by Portobello Rotary Club took place on Tuesday 26 January in School Hall. Sadly, I couldn't go. I wonder how it went?

A Portobello young person has been hugely successful in winning a UK Song Writing Competition: Portobello's 'Mamac' scooped Under 18 award. More here: [http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/uk-songwriting-competition-portobello-s-mamac-scoops-u18-award-1-4010520?utm\\_content=bufferd9019&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/uk-songwriting-competition-portobello-s-mamac-scoops-u18-award-1-4010520?utm_content=bufferd9019&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

This **Kim Kjaerside** photo is stunning – a beautiful start to last weekend in Portobello: [pic.twitter.com/aPxkBx5ttt](http://pic.twitter.com/aPxkBx5ttt)

Another great a local photographer **John Davey** took photos at the recent **Wassailing** event at the Community Orchard at Brunstane. This one is of the dominant mode of transport the Portobello Community Choir took to get there!: [pic.twitter.com/o6M4skcr4T](http://pic.twitter.com/o6M4skcr4T)

Another great photo from the archives of **Portobello Pool (September 1960)** Edinburgh's biggest bathing pool until the Commonwealth Pool was built in 1970: [pic.twitter.com/QZsQMUYGmU](http://pic.twitter.com/QZsQMUYGmU)

Tribe Porty is holding another **TEDXPorty** this year and is looking for nominations for speakers for their theme '**Find Us Here**': <http://tedxportobello.com/>

Another reminder that **World Community Arts Day** will be celebrated on Wednesday 17 February 2016 at Craigmillar Library. Get creating! <http://chronicleonline.net/2016/01/26/world-community-arts-day-craigmillar-library/>

Need advice on reducing the cost of **energy bills**? The CAB's energy adviser can help. Info here: [citizensadviceedinburgh.org.uk/fuel-poverty/](http://citizensadviceedinburgh.org.uk/fuel-poverty/)

Lastly, I sometimes get addressed as 'MP' or 'MSP' – which I do not see as a 'step-up', a 'promotion' or a compliment! Here's a guide to what each of us do at various levels of

representative democracy. Click the link: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/visitandlearn/24331.aspx> The very best job is local Councillor for Portobello/Craigmillar, by the way.

Have a great weekend!

Best wishes

Maureen

Councillor Maureen Child | Labour Elected Member | Portobello/Craigmillar (Ward 17) | City of Edinburgh Council | City Chambers | High Street | Edinburgh | EH1 1YJ | Tel 0131 529 3268 | Mobile 07718 666 481| Twitter @MaureenChild1

p.s. My face-to-face Councillor Advice Sessions, or 'Surgeries', are usually every **Monday at 5.30 pm** in **Castleview Community Centre**, 76 Craigmillar Castle Avenue (Phone 661 4064) and then **at 7 pm** in **Portobello Library**, 14 Rosefield Avenue (Phone 529 5558). Now also at Craigmillar Library, 101 Niddrie Mains Road, EH16 4DT, 1st Wednesday of the month, drop-in session 5pm-5.30pm, thereafter by appointment only up until 7.30pm. Please phone me on Direct Line 0131 529 3268 or Mobile 07718 666 481, or email [maureen.child@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:maureen.child@edinburgh.gov.uk) to check availability, make an appointment or request a home visit.

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# John McGinn believes Hibs squad are a match for anyone in the country.



Hibs' midfielder John McGinn says that he and his teammates are looking forward to Saturday's Scottish League Cup semi-final at Tynecastle and he believes that the squad are a match for anyone in the country.

McGinn signed for Hibs after becoming a free agent in the summer following the expiry of his contract at St Mirren where he previously won the trophy, and his skilful play and never say die attitude have won the hearts of the supporters.

Last week he scored Hibs' second goal in a 3-1 win over his former team but he is not getting carried away and insists that the players and management are concentrating on one game at a time.

Saturday's game is followed by an away fixture against Morton on Tuesday where three points are vital in the race for automatic promotion then next Sunday they return to Tynecastle to face Hearts in the Scottish cup fifth round.

Speaking to Hibs TV the Scotland Under-21-captain said: "All the boys are looking forward to it. it's a national cup semi-final which is a game that everybody wants to be involved in and thankfully we are intending to make the most of it.

"We know that if we play to the best of our ability we can match anyone in the country and we need to make sure that we

do that.

“St Johnstone have really good home form and have experienced players and we need to be aware of them. I’m sure the gaffer and the coaching staff will be highlighting their strengths and weaknesses.

“Everyone will have their opinions. It is a cup game and anything can happen. Hopefully it will be an exciting game and end-to-end.

“We just need to forget about the league positions that both sides are in and get the victory that gets us through to the final.

“They are all big games for us now and we are taking each game one by one and it’s good that we have experience in high pressured games. We know that in the dressing room we can handle it and hopefully it can work in our favour on Saturday.”

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## Three arrested following disturbance ahead of Hearts game



Police have arrested and charged three football fans in connection with a disturbance ahead of a match between Hearts and Motherwell earlier this month.

On Saturday, January 16, police were called to McLeod Street following a report of a fight involving around 20 rival

supporters.

In the ensuing clash rival fans were involved in a large-scale disturbance potentially endangering the safety of many innocent supporters attending the game.

As part of Operation Rebound, local officers today traced and arrested three males, aged 16, 16 and 53, from the Baberton, Newhaven and Gorgie areas of the city

They have been released from police custody and are expected to appear in court at a later date. They have, however, been ordered not to attend any forthcoming football matches as part of their release bail conditions.

Inspector Emma Croft who is based at St Leonards said: "As part of our ongoing commitment to tackle fan disorder Police Scotland has been working closely with Hearts FC to identify and address a group of individuals who bring disorder and criminality to the doors of what is a family friendly club.

"These arrests clearly send out the message that such behaviour will not be tolerated and we will work tirelessly to trace those involved in such criminality.

"All three males are now unable to attend a football match for the foreseeable future, which is particularly relevant given next weekend's Edinburgh derby.

"Operation Rebound will continue and we will work alongside Hearts FC to ensure those responsible for fan disorder are held to account."

A Hearts spokesman said: "We have a very good and close working relationship with Police Scotland and will continue to do our best with them to eradicate the type of behaviour which is unacceptable to the majority of Hearts supporters."

Anyone with information that might assist officers with their ongoing inquiries can contact police on 101 or anonymously

through the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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# Man charged in connection with death of Martin Hamilton



A man has been charged in connection with the death of Martin Hamilton.

Mr Hamilton's remains were found in a wooded area near West Calder on 17 December and a murder inquiry was launched before Christmas.

The 51 year old man has been arrested and charged and is due before Livingston Sheriff Court on Monday 1 February.

Detective Superintendent Kenny Graham from the Major Investigation Team is leading the inquiry, and said that officers will be continuing their work in Blackburn and West Calder.

"Our enquiries are ongoing and following this arrest we will be revisiting a number of people we have spoken to. We are also keen to hear from anyone else who may have information which may assist but who have not felt able to come forward before.

"We still have searches to conduct near the Five Sisters Business Park, as well as forensic work and other local enquiries in Blackburn, and this will be in conjunction with local officers who remain on high-visibility patrol in the area.



"I'm pleased with the support we have received from the local community in Blackburn – as well as information which has assisted my investigation, we have seen great engagement on a range of matters.

"We are committed to a thorough investigation of the murder of Martin Hamilton, and to supporting the people of Blackburn whilst we do this, and would urge any member of the community with information or concerns to get in touch."

Contact the Major Investigation Team at Livingston on 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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## **Pitch Inspection Due For Hearts Game – But Too Late For Some?**

Hearts Ladbrokes SPFL Premiership fixture at Inverness Caledonian Thistle on Saturday lunchtime is subject to a pitch inspection at 7.30am. A statement from the Highland club said:

*As a result of the extreme weather conditions currently hitting the Highlands, early discussions took place this morning with Hearts FC and Police Scotland.*

*With fan travel high on our list of priorities and paramount in our thoughts we spoke to the SPFL to request as early a pitch inspection as possible with regard to our home game versus Hearts FC scheduled for 12:30pm tomorrow.*

*Further to these discussions the SPFL decided that, in order to give the game the best opportunity to go ahead, a 7:30am inspection be called tomorrow morning.*

*Fans of both clubs can be assured our ground staff will do their utmost in the face of the prevailing weather conditions to ensure the game goes ahead if at all possible.*

*If there are any further developments we will alert fans of both clubs as soon as possible.*

The timing of the pitch inspection is unfortunate for those Hearts supporters travelling to Inverness by train on Saturday morning. The first train leaves Edinburgh Waverley at 5.30am with the next departure due at 7.28am – two minutes before the scheduled pitch inspection. And this train doesn't arrive in Inverness until 12.22pm. Given the 12.30pm kick-off (for the benefits of satellite television) surely if there was any doubt about the game going ahead, a decision should have been made the night before?

Yet again, the needs of the supporters have been disregarded. It hasn't been a good week for the football authorities in Scotland. Then again, is it ever?

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## **Matthew E. White – Monday 25th January, Electric Circus**



Photo by Shawn  
Brackbill

Pure Beauty, the support band from London, was enough to make the trek to Electric Circus worthwhile, even on a Monday night in January in Edinburgh. Despite the cold and lethargy this jazz and funk band, put just enough energetic spring in anyone's step to prepare them for the soulful talent and

headliner, Matthew E.White.

Whilst the sound is not renowned for being of a high standard in this venue, situated next to Waverley Train Station and The Fruitmarket Gallery, there was no doubting that it was perfect for Virginia's artist, and one of Domino's acclaimed.

Despite being only a handful of people present for Pure Beauty the talented exhibition of musicians put on a great show. Influenced by funk, with psych and jazz clearly also prevalent, Pure Beauty are as much about displaying an artist freedom on stage. Not concealing their ability to move as well as groove, there is a plentiful supply of solo guitar riffs, almost inaudible vocals and snake-shuffling hips.

Having just received radio-play for new track with Natalie Prass, *Cool Out*, it is pleasing but unsurprising that the gig venue filled up quickly. Looking around the room, as the clincher was fast-approaching it was clear that the demographic was high on those wearing thick-rimmed glasses and sporting colossal facial hair. Approximately three-quarters full, Edinburgh, as an audience, was not too reserved for a Winter's Monday sundown; White complimented them on their dedication and went straight into *Tranquility* from 2015 album, *Fresh Blood*.

A late beginning, worth it for that unique, refined sultry sound White fills the Electric Circus with a soulful sound, tranquil and intimate; ideal for a Monday night. With visual nods towards that famous Jack Black High Fidelity scene when he surprises the audience with his rendition of *Let's Get It On* and, personally, Blues Brother scenes, particularly where they are playing venues of the dark, dubious and individual sort . Intimately whispering his sweet nothings to the audience, they are seduced by him and his bass-heavy band.

The performance as a whole had a more soulful sound than the record, with the temptation to sway towards improvisation and

jazz fusions; we are indulged with many solos by both White and guitarist Alan Parker. However, successful tracks like *Vision* and *Rock and Roll is Cold* don't quite work the same. Hardworking, enigmatic, pouty band, with no shortage of a shimmy and a side-step appearing, there was a tongue-in-cheek fight for showmanship on stage from both White and Parker. Toe-tapping his hip brown boots, White performed *Fruit Trees* infallibly, with a build that made it worth seeing live.

Incorporating emotive guitar riffs that nostalgically reminded me of films like *Crossroads*, with the talent of Ry Cooder, the crowd could not get enough of Parker's guitar solos, which see him using up the entirety of the stage.

Whilst playing *Take Care* Matt nods in the direction of Ray Charles with his swagger, and *Steady Pace* takes the pace of the gig from exactly that to a more climatic level. Bassist, Cameron Ralston, Parker and White, all throw some side-steps into this formula; evidently men of rhythm, talent and soul. Peaking at *Steady Pace*, the remainder of the gig switched from the build, pivoting to a calmer sound, which then builds again with *Feeling Good Is Good Enough*. With audience contribution, it climaxed before the encore started, and the crowd were shrieking for more; Matt typically produced his peace sign before following the band off stage.

The encore felt more intimate, if that was possible, White appearing solely with guitar and a promise to play some requested tracks. Edinburgh made the most of this, as they threw suggestions such as *Hot Toddies* and *Will You Love Me*, during which the band appear back on stage for a blow out in time for Randy Newman's track *Sail Away*.

Alan Parker yet again treated us to heightened, southern bluesy instrumental guitar, making this a show of several peaks, builds and pinnacles, seductively pleasing this audience. It's safe to say that this audience will be back for more, if those applauds and shrieks were anything to go by;

top-notch Monday night entertainment!

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# Advice for fans attending the semi final of the Scottish League Cup



Hibs have provided advice for fans travelling to Saturday's Semi Final of the Scottish League Cup presented by Utilita.

Kick off at Tynecastle is at 3pm, and Hibernian fans will occupy the Main Stand, Gorgie Stand and Wheatfield Stand at Tynecastle Stadium (McLeod St, Edinburgh EH11 2NL).

All match tickets have been sold in advance, so if you do not have a match ticket please do not travel.

Supporters should use the row and seat number as shown on their ticket. As the match is sold out it is not permissible to use a seat other than the one you have a ticket for.

Supporters found in the wrong area of the ground (i.e. amongst opposition support) will be ejected from the stadium.

The Hibernian Ticket Office will be open from 10am-3pm for supporters who haven't already collected their tickets.

The SPFL have issued the following message:

"All fans attending the Scottish League Cup Semi-Finals, presented by Utilita this weekend should note that enhanced search arrangements will be in place at these fixtures. This additional safety measure has the potential to delay entry

into the ground so fans are strongly encouraged to get to the Stadium as early as possible. Turnstiles will be open 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours before kick-off i.e. 1.30pm.”

Alcohol and pyrotechnics are strictly prohibited in the ground and supporters may be turned away if they are deemed to be drunk on arrival. Hibernian FC will be charged in full for any damage caused to the infrastructure of the stadium, so please respect the property of the host club.

The Police Authorities will be extremely vigilant in the policing of The Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act, 1995.

If the score is level at the end of normal play, 30 minutes extra-time will be played and thereafter, if required, Kicks from the Penalty Mark in accordance with the Rules laid down by the International Football Association Board will be taken.

Chief Executive Leeann Dempster said: “The build up to a semi-final or final is always an exciting time, and I’m sure all Hibernian supporters have the same feeling of anticipation as I do.

“We’ll have a great backing at Tynecastle on Saturday and it will be a great sight to have a sea of green and white for the players to come out to.

“Between Saturday’s semi-final, next weekend’s derby match and the promotion run in we have a lot to look forward to, and I hope all our efforts will be concentrated on events on the park.”

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# Hardies have a busy year ahead

*With exciting new capital projects now underway in 2016, Hardies are looking at a busy year ahead.*

✖ Edinburgh based Hardies is celebrating the start of the year with exciting new projects all over the Lothians, Fife and Tayside. The firm, which is one of Scotland's largest multi-discipline surveying firm with fourteen offices across the country, including its Head Office in Edinburgh, has also announced that its plan to develop new markets in Glasgow and Aberdeen is well on track.

Hardies is involved with several projects in the Capital, the first of which is a high profile, £1.5 million project to create a new youth club for Fet-Lor Youth Club on Telford Road. Hardies is advising the Youth Club, which is a registered charity, on the materials needed to create the new club building.

Having worked on the £500k refurbishment of the ground floor bars, restaurants and kitchens at the prestigious Tigerlily before Christmas, Hardies is once again working with the firm behind the brand, Montpeliers (Edinburgh ) Ltd. This time they are assisting on another of its popular venues, Rick's Bar in Frederick Street, which is to be refurbished later this year.



Derek Ferrier, Managing Partner of Hardies said: "We have a very strong working relationship with Montpeliers, and are delighted to be working with them again in 2016 on another of their iconic venues."

"We managed to work to an extremely tight on-site construction

period of only ten days for the Tigerlily refurbishment last September, fulfilling the roles of Project Manager, Quantity Surveyor, Architectural Technicians and Health & Safety Advisors. “

“Montpeliers know and trust us to deliver for them as we are aware that their venues are extremely busy and popular. Work has to be well managed and completed with efficiency and superb time planning,” he added.

“Once again Edinburgh residents are waiting to see what the new look will be like.”

Elsewhere in the City, Hardies will also be working on the new Headquarters for the iconic Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. The building, at Cockburn Street, used to be the offices for The City of Edinburgh Council. Hardies are providing Project Management, Cost Consultancy and Health & Safety Services along with administering the contract for the external fabric repairs that has a conservation focus.

In addition to work on the REMT building, Hardies are expanding their specialist conservation service led by RICS accredited conservation surveyor Keith Dyer who is based in the Edinburgh building surveying team. Keith has an established track record on high profile conservation projects including those for The National Trust for Scotland, The Landmark Trust and a number of private clients.

Derek Ferrier explained : “2015 was a very busy and eventful year, and there is no sign of things slowing down for 2016, which is excellent news all round. As an Edinburgh based firm, we delighted to be winning so much work in the Capital and throughout the Lothians. This area of Scotland remains key to our growth and development as we continue with a five year growth plan.”

As well as building on its well established name in the east of Scotland, Hardies took the decision in 2012 to move North



and West, with new offices in Aberdeen, Glasgow, Helensburgh, Paisley, Hamilton and Kilmarnock.

Success over the past few years in these new geographic areas, has meant that Hardies is on track to achieve a million pound turnover between its Aberdeen and Glasgow offices for 2015-16, with plans to double this again the following year.

Now employing 10 people, the Glasgow office operates out of Hillington Innovation Centre, a location which has given the firm the opportunity to double its floor space. A new Senior Building Surveyor, Mark McCabe, was appointed earlier in the year, to head up this aspect of the business in the Glasgow area. Turnover for this office is currently £440-£450k, with the office on track to easily double this next year.

The Aberdeen office at Spademill Lane, has been bolstered by the recent news that the firm has been appointed to Aberdeenshire Council's framework for Building Surveyor services, a contract which should see the Aberdeen office turnover increase to over £1 million in the next year. It too has appointed additional Building Surveying staff with Gareth Cordiner joining the firm as their Senior Associate for Aberdeen.

Derek Ferrier commented: "We are delighted with the way these two important offices are performing for us. Through offering residential surveying we have significantly increased our overall turnover. Now by offering both building and valuation work, and by becoming a framework supplier for Aberdeenshire Council, we are on target to increase our turnover in 2016."

"With Glasgow and the West of Scotland, we had a set plan to expand here," said Derek. "It started with our acquisition of Barr Brady – who had a strong foothold in Glasgow; it was a good move for us. We did set a five year plan to achieve our full potential in both the West and the North East of Scotland as it takes time to grow and find the right staff. We are

strong on valuation surveying services so tend to start with this as a core business and then widen out to dedicated services like Project Management, Building Surveying, Quantity Surveying and Health & Safety services.”

The firm has a new team in place at its Stirling office, and has combined this office along with the Perth and Dundee offices into a new Northern Division, headed up by Darron McKay.



Local Tayside projects include the extension to Abertay University and a £10 million project to extend Carnoustie Links, ready for the Open coming back there in three years time.

Hardies now offers many new services such as its Dispute Resolution Support Service, designed to provide clients in both the public and private sectors with an opportunity to resolve problems without adopting formal Dispute Resolution procedures.

The firm has embraced new technology too such as BIM, (Building Information Modelling) with quantity surveying staff currently having a Level 2 working knowledge of the discipline before the Government requirement of 2016. All four of the new Midlothian Schools the company is working on have been designed with BIM.



“The construction industry is indeed undergoing a digital revolution at the moment,” said Derek. “BIM is a new way of working, it is information modelling and information management in a team environment. BIM creates value for the combined efforts of people, process and technology. All our team members should be working to the same standards as one another – this is essential.”

*Hardies, which celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013, serves clients in both the private and public sectors with a complete operation in property and construction development, including property valuation, building and quantity surveying and project management. The firm also handles the leasing and sale of commercial and industrial buildings; H&S Principal Designer and the provision of Energy Performance Certificates. Altogether, Hardies employ over 100 members of staff, professionally qualified in various disciplines.*

*Further details [www.hardies.co.uk](http://www.hardies.co.uk).*

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## **Burns Night – MacDonald Holyrood Hotel, 26th January**

✖ One of the UK's largest independent hotel groups, Macdonald Hotels & Resorts, just hosted one of the most prestigious and lively Burns Suppers across the UK, and we went along to the Holyrood Hotel in Edinburgh to witness exactly what was on offer.

Loyal to the Ayrshire-born poet the traditional fare of haggis, neeps and tatties will naturally be on the menu, alongside Highland venison and a rich, aromatic game stew. This is one evening for Macdonald Hotels & Resorts to revel in being a traditional Scottish host, so there will of course also be the chance to enjoy a dram or two along the way. In fact they encouraged you to have a different malt from the Glenmorangie brand with near enough every course.

With several courses, all locally supplied, starting with scallops and Stornoway black pudding, followed by the

anticipated haggis, then Venison, loganberry sauce, game stew and red cabbage, a cheeseboard, with a fine selection and a light cloodie dumpling, this tasting menu was certainly not lacking.



John Maltby, chef at MacDonald Holyrood Hotel, discusses the locally supplied dishes for this spruced-up Burns menu.

Take the taste home – Macdonald Hotels & Resorts' Haggis, Neeps and Tatties

Ingredients:

300 grams of haggis;

300 grams of mash potato;

300 grams of bashed turnips;

150 grams of butter unsalted;

25 ml of whisky;

100 ml of double cream;

100 ml of beef gravy;

50 ml of milk.

Method:

Peel and quarter the potatoes. Rinse in cold water. Bring to a gentle boil in salted water. Simmer until fully cooked. Drain into a colander and allow to steam dry. Pass the potato

Through a potato ricer or potato masher, add the butter and a splash of milk. Season to taste – then keep warm.

Now, peel the turnip and cut into 2cm dice. Bring to a gentle simmer until fully cooked. Drain into a colander and allow to steam dry. Pass the turnip through a potato ricer or potato masher, add the butter and milled black pepper to taste.

Next, bring the cream and gravy to the boil, then reduce to a pouring sauce consistency. Take care while you flame the whisky by pouring into a hot pan and exposing to open flame. Take off the heat and allow the alcohol to burn off then pour into the cream sauce. Mix well and check for seasoning.

Finally, steam the haggis until piping hot. Cut open and release from the skin. Shape into a large rugby ball form with two wet dessert spoons. Shape the mash potato & turnip in the same way.

Add the finishing touch by serving with the whisky sauce.

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## Review – New album by Kirsten Adamson

✖ When I decided to review this new album from Kirsten Adamson, (daughter of Scotland's much missed legend, Stuart Adamson, founder member of the Skids and a true Rock Star in his own right) I really had no idea what to expect.

(Read to the end for news of a special live appearance by Kirsten in Edinburgh on 30 January!)

Now I'd met Kirsten on many occasions buying new strings and blagging shots of guitars that I really couldn't afford, (but really fancied a shot of) as a very busy member (partner) of Red Dog Music, in the Grassmarket, here in Edinburgh.

I'd heard her perform an age ago at a small stage again here in Edinburgh, but either the sound was poor or I wasn't paying enough attention, because I just couldn't remember what she was capable of.

So the CD was played with a genuine anticipation and a genuine open mind.

And.....

And I couldn't believe what I heard, I really couldn't. I do get quite nervous when asked to listen to a new singer-song writer, earnest new work, because generally it can be hard. Hard to listen to and hard to say much positive about.....

But on this occasion.....

From the first pulsing beats of the first track: 'Like This' to the last track's dance-inspired, 'Big Red Bus', I was happily surprised, no I really was.

Now, as far as I can find in my research this is Kirsten's first album but there's no sense of nervousness or the way too obvious 'nods' to their heroes.

No, here was just a great album that, yes, full of Tori Amos vocals and yes, sounds that Kate Bush should take a small pat on the back for, but Kirsten has taken this group of quirky, personally inspired songs polished them up and made them her own.

No its starts with the dark, pulsing and ominous 'Like This', bursts into the great pop song that is 'New York Girl' and just keeps on going, producing great pop, dance inspired, but truly played brilliantly by a group of great musicians. Phil Hopwood's dashing guitar always complementing the keys and programming of David Jamieson. A driving bass that sits beautifully, yes I said beautifully with Ru Stewarts drums and percussion.

Stand-outs have to be: 'Robot Girlfriend', I just love the line *"I see whatever you show me, whatever you turn me on to that will catch my eye, I wanna be a Robot Girlfriend..."*

'Valentine', what a great rock song, where Kirsten's influences fall away and her vocals take centre stage to some pure raunch. Love its attitude. In fact, there's nothing not to love about this album. Oh yes, go on and try and not get lost in 'Mountains', another hurting song where Kirsten is herself and lovely for it.

So there you have it. This debut is a beautifully put together, inspired piece of heartfelt songs that will really make you listen.

Thanks Kirsten.

If you would like to hear Kirsten Adamson play songs from her new album then get yourselves along to Elvis Shakespeare tomorrow 30 January 2016 at 14:00pm. [More details here.](#)



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## Neu! Reekie! 's Burns Belter



Photo by Kat  
Gollock

More sedate and quieter than any other Neu Reekie I have attended before now, the stage was graced with Craig Lithgow, a youthful local lad from Kinnesswood. Known for his talents with previous band, Emelle, his acoustic lyrical

offering did not quite hit the mood of this crowd. t

They listen to him sing about “drinking on my own.” With some strong nods in the direction of Ivor Cutler and fantastic vocal control, he stood on stage adorned in typical skinny jeans and cardigan. The patient crowd had high expectations for this gig, as there was much anticipation for the so-called “Queen of Scotland,” last year’s Scottish Album of the Year winner, Kathryn Joseph.

With a reputation for alternative Burns nights and Kevin Williamson recognised for his knowledge and performance of Burns poetry, it is hardly surprising that their Burns Belter was a sell out.

Focusing on a banned book of Burns poetry he came across with prose a little too risqué to repeat! It was insightful to hear poetry of Burns that is not widely available. Sporting a kilt and a football shirt with “Burns 25” displayed on the back, Williamson recited the poetry as a superlative Burns’ specialist.

Generously handing out shots of whisky with every drink bought and tablet widely available in the true sense of most Burns nights, Pederson and Williamson’s night had a warm, personal vibe attached. There was certainly not the same atmosphere or vibe as that of their previous gigs, well not at least until Boots for Dancing got up on stage and pulled out their harp.

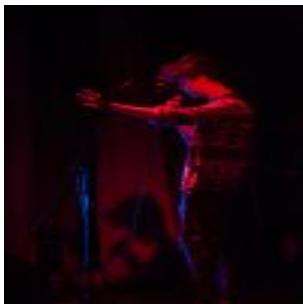






Photo by Kat Gollock





Perhaps because it is January, perhaps because of the

performers themselves, there was an air of tranquillity at this event. With music from New Zealand, Neul Reekie! yet again provided us with a flavour of the universal, interlinking culture.

Claire Askew, “deranged poetess” gained the respect of this audience particularly with her poem about Wakefield, which reeks of scorn with descriptions of “Shakey Wakey” as the “flag-decked capital of chavs”. Another poem of Askew’s parodied the conventional description of the moon in poetry, with a severe component of tongue-in-cheek, occasioning an eruptive applause.



Photo by Kat Gollock

Kathryn Joseph, intimately placed with her piano on the floor, begins with the anticipated, yet stunning, *Bird*. Occupied off stage, reminiscent of Nina Nastasia and Regina Spektor, red light squinting as she harmoniously gargles her way through the set, she plays to a respectful audience.

The final entertainment for the evening was so far removed from the rest on the bill, a floor-filling percussion band, Boots for Dancing, who, according to the crowd were last back on stage thirty-three years ago. Punk-funk band that used to be vibrant on Edinburgh’s music scene are back with a new album and with music liable to persuading the audience to the dancefloor, certainly change the pace in Pilrig St Paul’s Church. Covering LCD Soundsystem’s *Losing My Edge* and at times playing maracas and harps, it is clear what their live performance objective is, and there was no denying that they achieved this.

Let’s hope we hear more from this outfit.

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# Where to eat in Edinburgh – The Magnum Bar and Restaurant

After a brisk walk in the freezing cold it was a relief to be warmly welcomed into the cosy bustle of the Magnum, where I had been kindly invited to review the menu. It was jam-packed when we arrived which we took as a good sign.

A quick look at the menu told me I'd be ordering red meat for my main course so I ordered the Cabernet Sauvignon whilst my colleague opted for the Pinot Grigio. We chose the smoked chicken, leek and mushroom terrine with a black truffle and lemon vinaigrette which was well presented, though unfortunately neither of us was too impressed.

The texture of the food was rather gelatinous and we were having trouble tasting the smoked chicken – of which there could have been more. The herb salad didn't do much to enhance the flavour. I expect a bit more texture from a terrine and this one sadly lacked punch.

For my main dish I ordered the slow braised daube of beef accompanied by butternut squash puree, creamed potatoes and courgette noodles with a red wine jus. The presentation was pleasing, although the combination of courgette noodles with creamed potatoes was a little disconcerting as I had to keep reminding myself I wasn't doubling up on carbs but in fact eating my greens! That said, the noodles were a lovely texture and very light against the stodge of the creamed potatoes. The beef was tender and flavourful, if a little on the dry side. The jus provided the moisture and salty kick needed to balance the dish and the wine accompanied this dish very well.

My dining partner plumped for the classic rib-eye steak with

chips which looked very appetising indeed on its large, rectangular platter. Slightly pink, the meat was well cooked although the steak was a bit too fatty though the flavour was good. The chips were large, fluffy on the inside and crisp on the outside which made for enjoyable munching.

Being a wheat-free eater, I would have usually had the ice-cream trio which I didn't really fancy, so I asked what they could do for me with the desserts. The waitress kindly went to speak who rustled up something from the following week's menu – a salted caramel mousse with a chocolate crumble – which was delicious.

My other half ordered the banoffee pie and was sorely disappointed. It came beautifully presented, with a trio of 'pie' ice-cream and caramelised banana. Having taken a mouthful of delicious, home-made banana ice-cream and caramelised banana he had high hopes for the pie part of the dessert but sadly thought that it lacked identity.



Overall the atmosphere was great and the bistro-pub environment was very welcoming. Ultimately though the prices are restaurant prices, and whilst the food was presented with restaurant style, the quality was stuck in the pub category.

Service 4/5

Quality 3/5

Venue 3.5/5

Price 2.5/5

Score 13 out of 20

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# James Keatings looking forward to Tynecastle return



James Keatings saw at first hand the support the fans gave Hibs in the Edinburgh Derbies at Tynecastle last season and he hopes it will be similar on Saturday in the Scottish League Cup presented by Utilita Semi Final against St Johnstone.

Keatings is no stranger to the Gorgie stadium having spent a year with Hearts before crossing the great divide in the summer.

He started last week's game against St Mirren on the bench although he made a major impact late in the game showing some delicate skills before setting up new boy Anthony Stokes with a tap-in to secure the three points.

The competition for places in the team eased earlier this week however with the news that Dominique Malonga had left the club.

Speaking to Hibs TV, Keatings said: "It will be good to pack out the stadium and see it in green and white and hopefully they will get right behind us.

"Last season in the derbies the Hibs support made a lot of noise in the away end and got right behind the team. Hopefully they can do it again and help push the team forward.

"It's a semi-final with the chance of getting to a final and all the boys are buzzing.

"Both teams will be right up for it and St Johnstone are in

the SPL but we are not taking that into consideration. We have already played SPL teams and shown how good we are.

“We are going into this game believing in ourselves and hopefully we can get the job done.”

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## **Antonio Reguero leaves Hibs by mutual consent.**



As expected Hibs' second choice goalkeeper Antonio Reguero has left the Club by mutual consent.

The 33-year-old, appeared for Hibs three times in pre-season against Berwick Rangers, Dunfermline Athletic and Ayr United.

The announcement comes after Finnish under-21 international Otso Virtanen signed from IFK Marieham.

A Hibernian spokesman said: “Everyone at Hibernian FC would like to thank Antonio for his contribution to the Club, and we wish him all the best for the future.”

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## **Firefighters respond to Storm**

# Gertrude incidents throughout Scotland



The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) have been responding to incidents across Scotland as strong winds and rain wreak havoc

Firefighters are working flat out this morning to protect families, motorists and homes as Storm Gertrude pummels the country.

At 8.30am firefighters in Edinburgh secured a roof in the city's Northfield Farm Avenue – after half of it was blown off in the heavy gusts.

Assistant Chief Officer, Lewis Ramsay, Director of Response and Resilience said SFRS would continue to help wherever needed.

He said: “Our crews are here to respond to the needs of our local communities and provide the highest level of emergency response.

“Firefighters are working with partner agencies to resolve incidents as quickly as possible and are fully committed to protect our communities and work to ensure their safety during this period of difficult weather. We will continue to respond wherever we are needed.

“In this type of weather I would urge people to follow advice issued by Floodline Scotland, our Police Scotland colleagues and by Transport Scotland, which will help them stay safe and also avoid running into difficulty on the roads.”



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# Letter from Scotland



## A hundred days to Waterloo

All this talk of “100 days” has alarmed me. It’s referring, of course, to the run-up to the Scottish elections on 5 May but somehow it sounds more cataclysmic....like a great flood or the end of an era or a regime !

I first heard the phrase at school when studying Napoleon’s 100 days, between his escape from Elba and his defeat at Waterloo. But I heard it more recently when I attended a performance of Waterloo battle songs staged in Kirkton Village Hall in Dumfriesshire. And then again last weekend, when I played in my local orchestra’s workshop on Beethoven’s 3<sup>rd</sup> symphony, the Eroica.

Beethoven at first dedicated it to Napoleon as the citizen-hero fighting for “liberty, equality and fraternity.” But the dedication was withdrawn when Beethoven learned that Napoleon had crowned himself Emperor and become a tyrant.

A lot can happen in 100 days. But as things stand now, the SNP will be the conquerors and the opposition parties are riding towards their Waterloos. The opinion polls put the SNP support at over 50 per cent, while Labour are struggling to get above 20 per cent. The Conservatives come a surprising third at about 17 per cent support and the Greens and the Liberal

Democrats are trailing at less than 10 per cent. It seems the SNP have hung on to the support they gathered during the independence referendum in 2014, 45 per cent of the vote, and they are still adding to it. Over the past few weeks there's been an unseemly scramble among opposition politicians for "list seats", the second-vote regional seats where voting is by proportional representation.

Already the battle lines are becoming clear. The first is a debate over hope versus despair. The SNP continue to offer hope...hope that the Westminster austerity programme can be overturned, that the price of oil will rise again, that public services can be preserved by "reforms". The other parties despair at this Panglossian approach to politics.

The second battle line is over spending versus taxation. This week the Liberal Democrats became the first to put their heads above the parapet on taxation. They are calling for an extra 1p on income tax to pay for £475m of new spending on education. The Conservatives have almost gone the other way, hinting at a 10 per cent cut in the income tax rate for middle income earners "if possible" and a cut in local business rates. This is all to be paid for by that happy policy of "growing the economy". The SNP have chickened out of tampering with either income tax or council tax.

Hardly a day goes by, of course, without one party or another promising to spend more on public services...without saying where the money is coming from. A suspicious accountant would tell you they are often spending it twice over. But what is refreshing about the election this time is that the Holyrood Parliament now has the realistic power to raise or lower taxes. In theory it's always had the power to alter income tax but it has never had the guts to use it. Now the "Calman" reforms are putting the politicians on the spot and there are more devolved powers to come next year.

On Thursday the Prime Minister noticed we were into the last

100 days and broke off from his European travels to go to Aberdeen to help launch the "[City Deal](#)". £250m of public money will be pumped into the city and shire to compensate for the downturn in the oil industry. It will pay for diversification projects in alternative energy, food production, bio-science and tourism. The Scottish Government is adding another £250m to fund better road, rail and broadband connections for the North East.

To add to the sense of catastrophe which, as I say, comes with talk of 100 days, another mighty storm is about to hit Scotland. As I write storm "Gertrude" is blowing in, just days after another deluge struck us – the leftovers from a storm which buried parts of the east coast of the USA in record snowfalls. Here, it brought renewed flooding to Hawick and Jedburgh in the Borders. [Lorries](#) were blown over on the A1, rail and ferry services along the west coast were cancelled, and in Edinburgh a [chimney pot](#) fell onto a bus, injuring one of the passengers, just up the road from where I live.

Gertrude has already caused the cancellation of rail and ferry services in the North West and schools are closed in the Islands. We are battening down for 70mph winds and yet more rain.

This is indeed an exciting 100 days.

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## Five things you need to know

# today



**People's Postcode Lottery Gala Dinner**

**Professorial lecture at Queen Margaret University**

**Scottish Charity Awards 2016**

**Free entry to the races for students**

**Fundraising for Corstorphine Public Hall**

The Edinburgh Reporter was one of the 400 or so guests at the People's Postcode Lottery Gala Dinner at the Assembly Rooms. It was a fabulous affair not because of the venue (although it is beautiful) or the speeches (which were inspiring) or the money handed out on the evening (only £5 million was handed out to the charities last night) but because of the stories.

Everyone had a story to tell about their charity, their application to the Dream Fund (some charities won £500,000 last night simply because they asked for it), but none was more inspiring than the story of Baruani Ndume Winner of the Children's Peace Prize in 2009.

Here in Edinburgh there are several organisations who benefit from funding provided by the People's Postcode Lottery, but significant funding has been provided to The Royal Botanic Gardens which was awarded £200,0000 to begin a new project saving Tanzanian forests.

The award will offer an opportunity for scientists from RBGE to collaborate with Tanzanian experts to identify vulnerable forests and empower local communities in Tanzania with the knowledge and resources to safeguard forests for the future.

Head of Genetics and Conservation at the Royal Botanic Garden

Edinburgh, Dr Antje Ahrends, said: "This special award from players of People's Postcode Lottery will help save Tanzania's forests. Illegal timber logging costs Tanzania an estimated \$60 million every year. But thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery plant scientists and botanists from Scotland can now work with local experts and communities to tackle forest degradation, delivering a lasting impact on conserving biodiversity and alleviating poverty."

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Queen Margaret's Professor Brendan McCormack is a global authority on person-centred healthcare, quality improvement and care of the elderly.

He is to deliver his professorial lecture next month on the opportunities for change in the health sector.

The event will appeal to professionals working in nursing and healthcare, as well as members of the public who are interested in the future of health services in the UK.

'Achieving Excellence in Care: Dancing with Beauty Rather than Fighting Ugliness' takes place on Tuesday 9th February 2016, 5.30pm for a 6pm start at Queen Margaret University, Queen Margaret University Drive, Musselburgh, EH21 6UU.

The lecture is free but booking is essential. Places can be reserved

at: <http://www.qmu.ac.uk/conferencesEvents/publicEvents.htm>, T: 0131 474 0000, 'Events'.

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Charities and their supporters' right across Scotland are being encouraged to apply for the 2016 Scottish Charity Awards by Wednesday 18 March 2016.

The awards, which are free to enter, are organised by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) and


celebrate the work of charities, community groups and individuals who are dedicated to making Scotland a better and fairer place for everyone to live.

John Downie, Director of Public Affairs at the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations, said:

“Charities and other third sector organisations are committed to changing the lives of people across the country and to raising awareness of important causes. The Scottish Charity Awards are a great opportunity to shine a light on the huge difference charities make to life in Scotland.

““We’d like to hear from organisations large and small, and staff and volunteers in all parts of Scotland who have done amazing work this year and are really dedicated to their cause.”

\*\*\*

 Musselburgh Racecourse have told us that they will throw open their doors at the Cheltenham Trials Raceday on 7 February 2016, but will especially welcome any students who are being offered free places.

This is one of the biggest events in the racing calendar at Musselburgh as it is a trials day for Cheltenham and Aintree later this spring.

Sarah Montgomery, Senior Operations and Commercial Manager at Musselburgh Racecourse, said: “This is one of the most exciting events in the Scottish jumps racing calendar, so we believe students will be delighted to take up free places.

“In November we had more than 150 students turn out for a meeting after we put on a special offer – and that was a record for a Scottish racecourse. For most it was the first time they’d enjoyed a full day at the races and the feedback was that they absolutely loved it.

"We are just six miles from the centre of Edinburgh so we are easily accessible to the huge numbers of students based in Edinburgh as well as those in East Lothian. It makes sense for us to start reaching out to a new generation of racegoers and letting a new audience find out what a brilliant day out it is.

For racegoers travelling by train, Musselburgh Racecourse provides a free bus shuttle service to and from Wallyford Station and for people using the Borders Railway line, a new shuttle service will operate from Newcraighall Station.

For further information and to book tickets visit [www.musselburgh-racecourse.co.uk](http://www.musselburgh-racecourse.co.uk)

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Corstorphine Public Hall will have to be rebuilt after a fire caused widespread damage in 2013.

The fundraising is now underway following a launch at Corstorphine Bowling Club yesterday attended by the Lord Provost and led by the Rev Moira MacDonald who is the local minister.

Read more [here](#).

[The Edinburgh Reporter News](#) from [Phyllis Stephen](#) on [Vimeo](#).

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# Storm Gertrude will affect trains on Friday morning



Scotrail advise that due to the approaching storm some train services will not run at all on Friday morning, and others will operate on a restricted basis.

The Edinburgh to Glasgow via Falkirk High service will operate half hourly and the Edinburgh to Dunblane service will run every hour.

These routes are likely to bear the brunt of the winds of up to 90mph – high tides forecast to hit the north and west of Scotland over the next 48 hours.

Due to the extreme weather, bus replacements are expected to be extremely limited.

For safety reasons it will be necessary to inspect the above rail lines for damage before reintroducing train travel.

While this work will be done as quickly as possible, it will not commence until after the peak of the storm has passed.

Phil Verster, ScotRail Alliance managing director, said: “We will be withdrawing some services until the worst of the storm



has passed.

“The safety of our passengers and workforce is our top priority and we cannot run services on these lines until our engineers have thoroughly inspected the network for any damage.

“In order to get the most up to date information about their journey, customers should check our website or app before setting out to travel. Leaving more time for travel is also advised.

“We will be monitoring the weather conditions closely throughout the day and have specialist teams ready to deploy quickly to deal with any issues caused by the storm.

“We are also working closely with our industry partners to limit disruption while maintaining a safe network for passengers.”

Other lines and services are scheduled to operate normally tomorrow, but the extreme conditions may cause damage elsewhere and passengers should allow extra travel time, or consider postponing any non-essential trips.

The ScotRail Alliance will have hundreds of engineers out across the country ready to react quickly to any problems identified on the lines – removing trees and fixing damaged equipment such as overhead electric power lines and signals.

Customers who have purchased a ticket for 29 January, can travel on relevant ScotRail services from today (28 Jan) up to and including Friday 5 February.

For those with weekly or longer season tickets who cannot complete their journey on 29 January as a result of cancelled or part-cancelled services, ScotRail will add an extra day onto season tickets. More details will be confirmed in due course.

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## People's Postcode Lottery awards funding to Street League

✖ This evening at People's Postcode Lottery Charity Gala at the Assembly Rooms, First Minister the Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon presented Street League Chief Executive Matt Stevenson-Dodd with a cheque for £200,000.

✖ These funds will allow the charity to engage 2,000 unemployed 16-24 year olds and help them move into work, training or education by 2017.

✖ During the course of the evening, over £5.1 million was awarded to charities and good causes supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery.

✖

Photos Greg Macvean Photography

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# Billy King Joins Rangers On Loan

 Hearts have announced that young winger Billy King has joined SPFL Championship leaders Rangers on loan until the end of this season.

The 21-year-old was a key member of Hearts championship winning team last season and his move will surprise – and disappoint – many Hearts supporters. King has featured in the first team in recent weeks covering for the injured Sam Nicholson but with Nicholson and Jamie Walker poised for first team comebacks, Hearts Head Coach Robbie Neilson thought it best for King if he got regular games, albeit in a lower division where he'll be looking to thwart Hibernian's promotion bid for the second season running.

Meanwhile, Hearts have been linked with moves for Dundee United's talented midfielder/defender John Souttar and Dundee's teenage striker Gary Wighton.

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# Green laser light directed at cockpit of a commercial flight over Musselburgh



Police in East Lothian are appealing for information following a laser being directed at a plane.

Shortly after 9pm on Wednesday 27 January, a green laser light was directed at the cockpit of a commercial flight to Edinburgh Airport.

The source of the laser was near to the north side of the racetrack in Musselburgh.

Sergeant Laura White said: "Thankfully, the laser didn't affect the Captain's vision but this was an extremely reckless act which could have had very serious consequences.

"We're conducting enquiries in the local area in an effort to trace the perpetrator and would ask anyone who saw any suspicious behaviour, or has information which can assist with the ongoing enquiry, to get in touch."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101 or contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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## Former Hibs' full back Kevin

# McCann signs for Falkirk



Former Hibs' full back Kevin McCann has signed for Falkirk on a deal until the end of the season.

McCann has been in as a trialist at the Falkirk Stadium for a couple of weeks and after impressing in two Development League matches he has been offered a deal by Bairns boss, Peter Houston.

The 28-year old spent the first 5 years of his career at Hibs including a loan period at Inverness CT. He played almost 70 league games, scoring five goals and was capped four times by Scotland Under 21s.

After leaving Hibs, the tough tackling defender went on to enjoy spells at Morton, Livingston and Raith Rovers, before most recently playing for Singaporean side, Warriors FC.

Speaking after confirming the signing, Peter Houston said: "Kevin has done well since coming in on trial. He has worked hard and has a decent bit of experience at this level. I've spoken about looking to strengthen in the full back area and I'm pleased to be able to confirm the signing of Kevin to add more depth to the squad."

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## Corstorphine Public Hall raising funds for rebuilding



When Corstorphine Public Hall was burned to the ground in 2013 it was a disaster for all the local groups who used it.

An appeal was formally launched earlier today to raise £1 million to rebuild the hall first erected in 1892 with even more room than before. It is also planned to make the building accessible.

✖ Even though insurance monies will be claimed, the steering committee want to raise more funds so that they can make an even better building behind the red sandstone facade.

✖  
Lord Provost the Rt Hon Donald Wilson with members of the Corstorphine Public Hall steering committee.

[The Edinburgh Reporter News](#) from [Phyllis Stephen](#) on [Vimeo](#).

The Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh The Rt Hon Donald Wilson launched the campaign at the Corstorphine Bowling Club right next to the damaged building this morning.

The Lord Provost said: "This was a devastating fire in 2013 and a great disaster for the local area as it was the hub of the whole community with around 25 groups meeting there.

"It really caused absolute chaos at the time for the groups who had to relocate to other premises.

✖  
The local Rotary Club started off the formal fundraising with a cheque for just over £500

The Lord Provost has suggested that the One City Trust which comes under his direction might be persuaded to make a contribution to the funds needed. He said: "This is the kind of thing that the One City Trust does. Of course they will have to put in an application form and it has to be agreed but this sits well with the objectives of the One City Trust.

Councillor Frank Ross is the local councillor and is also a

member of the Public Hall committee.

He said: "In terms of fundraising we have raised £40,000 over the last year in 'unofficial' fundraising. Now we are going for substantial expansion on that as we need more funds."

There are a variety of ways to raise funds and you can get details of all the activities including a Race Night at Maybury Casino on 6 February, on the [Corstorphine Public Hall website](#).

Follow the campaign on Twitter [@CPH Rebuild](#) or on [Facebook](#).

At the Hub 191 St John's Road you can buy a brick for £5 or complete one of their standing order forms to make a contribution.

Fox Covert Primary School choir provided some uplifting entertainment at the launch of the fundraising campaign, and a piper led the campaign group from the door of the empty building round to the Bowling Club for a much needed cup of tea.

Yesterday the [Edinburgh Evening News](#) published the story about the owner of the other part of the building, built as a 'Carnegie Library' in 1903.

According to the News Gordon Murdie, who was vocal about the statutory repairs scandal which engulfed the council for a number of years, is the sole shareholder of Murdie Properties.

The company did not pay an £8,000 bill to the council following fire safety work carried out by council teams. The company may now be liquidated in terms of the decree handed down by the court.

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# 16,000 affordable homes for Edinburgh



Representatives from housing associations and senior Council officials signed an agreement this morning to build 16,000 affordable homes in Edinburgh over the next decade.

Six not-for-profit housing associations will match The City of Edinburgh Council's plan to build 8,000 affordable homes.

There were representatives from Castle Rock Edinvar, Dunedin Canmore, Hillcrest, Home Group, the Link Group, and Port of Leith Housing Association.

They met with Council Leader Councillor Andrew Burns, Depute Leader Sandy Howat, Chief Executive Andrew Kerr, Health, Social Care and Housing Convener Councillor Ricky Henderson, and Housing Leader, Councillor Cammy Day.

Councillor Day said: "We all know about the acute shortage of affordable homes in the capital; a shortage that's pushing house prices out of the reach of those on low to middle incomes, increasing rents in the private sector and creating a cost of living crisis that's putting real pressure on people across Edinburgh.

"This fantastic joint commitment will see the Council and its partners build on their current successes and accelerate house building to provide the increase in affordable homes that Edinburgh so desperately needs.

"This joint commitment won't just deliver 16,000 homes – we expect it to generate benefits to the local and national economy of around £4bn, create over 3,000 jobs and bring in additional council tax revenue to help fund the delivery of



essential services for the people of Edinburgh.

“Reducing the cost of living for tenants and building more affordable homes are key priorities for the Council.”

Alister Steele, from Castle Rock Edinvar, said: “Housing associations operating in Edinburgh are pleased to match the Council’s pledge and commit to delivering 8,000 much needed affordable homes in Edinburgh.

“As part of Places for People, Castle Rock Edinvar is already committed to developing 1,000 New Homes for Edinburgh. Extending our contribution in collaboration with fellow housing associations and The City of Edinburgh Council allows us all to make a significant contribution to the housing supply, wellbeing and economic growth in the city.”

Ewan Fraser, Chief Executive of Dunedin Canmore, which is part of Scotland’s largest housing care and property management organisation, Wheatley Group, said: “We are absolutely determined to play our part, working with the City Council and other housing associations, in tackling the acute shortage of affordable housing in Edinburgh.

“The plans unveiled today represent an outstanding example of partnership working and we are delighted to announce that as part of our commitment to maintaining and improving communities across the city, we will build at least 1,000 good-quality, energy-efficient homes in the capital over the next decade.”

After the signing meeting we went with Councillor Day and Richard Jennings Head of Property at Castle Rock Edinvar to have a look at the kind of property which will be built. On Calton Road Castle Rock Edinvar has already constructed three buildings there which they now let out.



Richard Jennings Head of Property at Castle

Rock Edinvar and Councillor Cammy Day Housing  
Convener outside a Castle Rock Edinvar  
property on Calton Road

We have a short video interview and this will be added here  
soon!

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## Police release CCTV following city centre attack



Police have released images of a man they wish to trace in connection with a serious assault in Edinburgh's city centre in October.

A 51 year old male was headbutted to the face during the attack which happened outside the Jamhouse on Queen Street, Edinburgh at around 2.50am on Sunday 11th October 2015.

Detectives are keen to trace the male pictured within the CCTV footage and anyone who recognises the male in the images is asked to contact police immediately.

Detective Constable Carole Sneddon said: "The victim suffered a painful injury which required stitches and is likely to result in a permanent scar.

"The man pictured is believed to be of significance to our investigation and anyone who can assist in tracing him is asked to come forward. Similarly we would ask this man to get in touch with police themselves and help with our

investigation.”

Those with information can contact Gayfield CID on 101 or the charity Crimestoppers in complete anonymity on 0800 555 111.

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## Canonmills Bridge – demolition permission granted



Following the apparently successful campaign to stop the demolition of the Earthy building at Canonmills Bridge, an appeal by the developer has been allowed and the building will be demolished.

We reported late last year on the campaign to Save 1-6 Canonmills Bridge, and from their Facebook page it would appear that they hope to take further action.

*GRIM NEWS. This has just arrived by email. The appeal has been allowed. The Reporter has concurred with the owners and...*

*Posted by [Save 1 – 6 Canonmills Bridge](#) on [Thursday, 28 January 2016](#)*

The Reporter who considered the appeal said: “Against these key elements which distinguish the area, I consider the building is atypical.

“It is essentially a simple and functional mid 19th Century small scale mainly brick built industrial building, which appears to have served the area as shops throughout most of its existence. It has been the subject of various ad hoc adaptations throughout its life and is now built of mixed materials.

“At present it is particularly well presented at street level by its current occupiers as an organic food grocers and restaurant and is clearly valued by the local community. However, I do not consider that its current occupation and use is relevant to the question of the intrinsic value of the building itself to the special interest of the conservation area.”

Commenting on the news, Deidre Brock MP said:

“This is a very disappointing decision. The fantastic local campaign to save 1-6 Canonmills Bridge demonstrated the strength of feeling against demolition.

“The planned development is an inappropriate size for the site, and will close down the sense of space in this central hub area of Canonmills. It’s very sad that a building with such character will be bulldozed for a bland housing block.

“I’ll continue to support the campaign as they consider whether there are any further avenues to halt this decision.”

This is the appeal decision in full:



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# TV campaign focused on child sexual exploitation launched in capital



Police Scotland is supporting the first TV campaign in the UK focused on child sexual exploitation which launched in Edinburgh today (Thursday 28 January 2016).

New research shows 93 per cent of parents have heard of child sexual exploitation, but almost a third (29 per cent) know little about it and more than a third (36 per cent) believe it won't affect their family.

A new TV advert and website – [www.csethesigns.scot](http://www.csethesigns.scot) – shows how conversations online can potentially lead to a young person placing themselves in danger and highlight how to spot the warning signs.

Education Secretary Angela Constance launched the campaign during a visit to ParentLine in Edinburgh today.

She said: “Child sexual exploitation is happening to boys and girls in Scotland. By its very nature this form of child abuse is often hidden and many young people who are affected don't realise they are a victim and will not ask for help.

“The first step in tackling this abhorrent crime is understanding it can happen to anyone. It can take many forms – online, through social media or on phones, as well as in

person on a one to one or group basis.

“Barnardo’s Scotland directly supported 266 young people who have been victims or were at risk last year, but these figures may be the tip of the iceberg.

“New research shows that most parents don’t know a lot about it and don’t believe that their family is at risk. This campaign aims to change that and help parents and young people understand the warning signs and prevent the abuse before it takes place.”



She was joined by Assistant Chief Constable Malcolm Graham (Major Crime and Public Protection), who said:

“Tackling abuse in all its forms, including child sexual exploitation (CSE), is a priority for Police Scotland. Child sexual exploitation is an evolving issue, as is our understanding of it and how it can affect young people. CSE takes place across all communities and it affects girls and boys.

“Young people are exposed to exploitation in a myriad of ways from online grooming to contact offending. They may not recognise or understand what’s happening until it’s too late.

“We fully support the Government’s campaign. We are committed to working with the Government and with other partners to prevent young people’s lives being blighted by CSE. Raising public awareness, and particularly parental awareness of what to look for if their child is being exploited, is an important part of tackling this crime.

“If anyone suspects a child may be a victim of any form child abuse including sexual exploitation then contact the Police or one of our partner agencies. In the same vein I would like to emphasise that if anyone suspects individuals of committing

acts of child abuse then contact us and we will investigate thoroughly and robustly in order to keep children safe.”

The TV advert will run alongside outdoor advertising, partnership work with local authorities and social media. The campaign is aimed at parents and young people aged 11-17, with the message that child sexual exploitation can happen to any young person, regardless of their gender or background.

A range of partners are supporting the campaign, including Barnardo’s Scotland, NSPCC Scotland, ChildLine, Police Scotland and Children 1st .

Jill Cook, Service Manager at ParentLine Scotland, said: “I am delighted that ParentLine has been chosen to launch the CSE campaign. It is very important to raise greater awareness on the issues of child sexual exploitation and to equip parents and carers with better understanding and advice of the signs to look out for.

“The safety and wellbeing of young people is of paramount importance. For young people the internet is a place, not a thing, and just like when they are going out, parents would want to know where their child is going and with whom. I’d encourage any parent concerned that their child may be involved in sexual exploitation to call ParentLine for advice and support.”

Martin Crewe, Director of Barnardo’s Scotland, said: “It is vital that we raise awareness of the risks of child sexual exploitation. Although there is widespread concern about the issue, many parents believe their children are not at risk. We want to ensure that parents know the signs of child sexual exploitation and can take appropriate action to minimise the risks.”