

Robert Burns in Edinburgh

We celebrate our national Bard, Robert Burns each year across the world, but we set out to find out about Burns in Edinburgh today. He is not quite everywhere but is certainly noted!

✘ Burns was born on 25 January 1759, and although he was an Ayrshire farmer, he spent some time in the capital selling his poetry and meeting with the aristocracy of the day and other writers.

As well as being lauded inside and outside the Writers' Museum on Lady Stair's Close, there is a statue of Robert Burns on Bernard Street in Leith which was adorned with a tartan scarf at the time of our visit.





The Burns Monument on Calton Hill was designed by Thomas Hamilton who also designed the former Royal High School building at the foot of the hill. But the John Flaxman statue inside the monument was moved to the Scottish National Portrait Gallery on Queen Street as it was being affected by smoke from the gasworks below the monument.



There is a lovely piece of audio on the Scottish National Portrait Gallery [website](#) where Gallery attendant Christopher Wakeling and Duty Manager Willie Dickson talk about their favourite portraits – one of which is the painting of Burns by Nasmyth which hangs on the top floor of the gallery.



Mr Dickson said: “My favourite painting in the gallery is by Alexander Nasmyth of Robert Burns. The reason it’s one of my favourites is because I’m a Burns person myself and I’ve used it in the past when running Burns’ Suppers for invitations and of the initial programme. I always found it very striking and when it was put onto cardboard the actual invitations were very impressive.”

Any other mentions of Burns elsewhere in Edinburgh? Do tell us!

Five things you need to know today



- Robert Burns
- Government raising awareness of child sexual exploitation
- Online art auction
- Hume Lecture
- ***BUILD IT!***



Today is the day that our national Bard, Robert Burns is celebrated across the world. Burns was born on 25 January 1759, and although he was an Ayrshire farmer, he spent some time in the capital selling his poetry and meeting with the aristocracy of the day.

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on Lady Stair's Close, there is a statue of Robert Burns on Bernard Street in Leith which was adorned with a tartan scarf when we visited it at the weekend.





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The Scottish Government will launch a new multi media campaign

to raise awareness of and prevent child sexual exploitation on Thursday of this week.

The first of its kind in the UK, it will provide information for parents and young people about the risks of child sexual exploitation and action they can take to reduce the chances of it happening.

Education Secretary Angela Constance will visit Police Scotland's Public Protection Unit at the Scottish Crime Campus later today to see how they tackle the problem.

The unit leads the force's approach in tackling and preventing all aspects of child abuse including child sexual exploitation. It is responsible for developing policy and investigations into sensitive and complex areas, including rape and human trafficking.

The Scottish Government pledged to develop an awareness raising campaign in the National Action Plan to Tackle Child Sexual Exploitation, published in November 2014.

The former Commander of Police in Edinburgh Malcolm Graham, who is now Assistant Chief Constable, Major Crime and Public Protection, said:

"Tackling and preventing crimes such as human trafficking, rape and child abuse including Child Sexual Exploitation requires a multi-agency approach, working in partnership to identify people who may be vulnerable, gathering intelligence to support investigations and ensuring victims have access to appropriate support.

"The Scottish Crime Campus co-locates Police Scotland with key partners and supports this multi-agency approach.

"Young people increasingly live their lives using new technologies, and we are constantly improving our collective ability to keep young people safe whilst online, whilst

targeting those who wish to abuse through the internet.

“This visit gives the Cabinet Secretary a timely opportunity to meet the officers responsible for investigating these difficult and complex crimes, in advance of the launch of the Government’s CSE campaign which Police Scotland will be fully supporting.”

Ms Constance said: “Child sexual exploitation is a form of child abuse and some young people may not be aware that they are at risk of harm. It is happening to girls and boys in Scotland and can take many forms online and offline – through social media, chat rooms or mobile phones and in everyday life through inappropriate relationships or friendships.

“We want parents and young people to be aware of the risks and how they can get help or advice if they have concerns. It can happen to anyone, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity and sexuality and those from secure loving homes as well as those more vulnerable.



An online art auction with a real life purpose just began yesterday evening . The artist hopes the funds raised from the auction will enable her to sell some of her art before she and her son move home in March 2016. Carol Le Lievre has an amazing array of paintings at very reasonable prices in the auction which you will find [here](#).

From Sunday 24th January, you can bid on original pieces of art from the talented Edinburgh based artist Carol Le...

Posted by [Colony Life](#) on [Saturday, 23 January 2016](#)



Scottish Greens Co-Convener Patrick Harvie MSP will deliver

the Hume Lecture tomorrow evening.

Harvie will use the opportunity to seek a bolder parliament in Edinburgh giving Scotland a real chance of having a sustainable economy to tackle inequality.

The speech will be part of the David Hume Institute's *The Politicians and the Professionals* series featuring all five political leaders from Holyrood. [Ticket details here.](#)

Speaking ahead of the talk, Patrick said: "The two fundamental challenges Scotland faces are closely linked – the task of building a new, sustainable economy which can generate the jobs of the future and close the gap between the rich and the rest of us, is directly linked to the ecological challenge of limiting our carbon emissions and preparing for a post-carbon society. Scotland can meet these challenges and indeed Scottish Greens see huge opportunities for creating jobs and reducing inequality if we are bold in our choices. But those opportunities could be missed if government continues to pretend that business as usual will simply continue.

"We've heard recently from the Scottish Government's independent advisor on poverty and inequality that we need to improve housing affordability, reform local taxation and tackle fuel poverty. Greens will continue to push the Scottish Government to be bolder on rent controls, build more social housing, and properly funding energy efficiency measures, so we can address the scandal of fuel poverty and the housing crisis.

"On local tax, the Scottish Government's centralising agenda has put local authorities in an impossible position, resulting in job cuts and loss of services affecting the least well off in our communities. The Green agenda is a decentralising agenda. By unlocking the power in our communities we can generate revenue for warm, affordable homes and high quality public services.

“And we urgently need to pursue the agenda of Green Industrialisation. If we begin to plan the transition towards sustainable industries, Scotland can have a jobs-rich economy which respects the environment.

“We cannot be distracted by those who advocate extracting yet more fossil fuel that we simply cannot afford to burn. Instead we must invest in oil and gas decommissioning, renewables, quality food production, clean chemical sciences and the digital and creative sectors. It’s where the jobs of the future are and it’s a direction I strongly urge Scotland to take.”




Every Wednesday and Friday from 3 February onwards there will be a huge LEGO building exercise taking place in the National Museum of Scotland from 11:00 till 16:00. The plan is that a team led by Warren Elsmore will create a large model of the museum.

Elsmore has an enviable job as he gets to play with LEGO all the time. He writes books about it and speaks at major conferences.

This is part of the *BUILD IT!* programme at the Museum from now till April to celebrate Scotland’s year of Innovation, Architecture and Design, and there are other activities where you can get your hands on the bricks rather than just watching.

More information [here](#).



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code here with a smartphone or tablet.

87 Things To Do in Edinburgh This Week!

87? Yes it's a busy time in the capital this week- lots and lots of music, films, poetry, books and art, plus 'an extraordinary barbecue', a gluten-free Burns Supper, some Rock 'N' Roll Ping Pong – and if none of that appeals, how about some Men with Coconuts? Please check details with the organisers before setting out to all events – and have a great week!



MONDAY 25TH JANUARY 2016

✗ **Grassmarket Picture House: *The Wave* (15)** – in 1967 **Ron Jones**, a teacher at a high school near San Francisco, conducted an experiment with his pupils to give them an understanding of fascism by re-enacting within the class the conditions that brought the Nazis to power. Apparently it proved frighteningly effective, authoritarian attitudes rapidly spreading into the rest of the school until the project had to be quashed. *The Wave*, co-scripted by the German director **Dennis Gansel** and his producer **Christian Becker**, is a transposition of this incident to a prosperous town in present-day Germany. 'A compelling allegorical thriller made convincing as we watch through the ambiguity of Wenger (how much does he understand what he's doing with his pupils and what is happening to himself and his marriage?) and through the sharp characterisation of the students'. 7pm, [Grassmarket Community Project](#), 86 Candlemaker Row. All welcome, free

admission: donations very welcome! **The Grassmarket Community Project** is a charity providing mentoring, training and education to participants, many of whom are amongst the most vulnerable of Edinburgh's citizens, in a nurturing environment. It operates a **community cafe, woodwork and tartan social enterprises**, and **a range of social integration and educational activities** for members, aimed at enhancing life skills and developing confidence. To read about The Edinburgh Reporter's afternoon at the Project, click [here](#).



Meet the Edible Gardening Team: take a look around the productive garden with the **Edible Gardening Project** volunteers. Find out what jobs need doing in your own garden now and have your vegetable growing questions answered. 1-3pm, Demonstration Garden, [Royal Botanic Garden](#), Inverleith Row. Free, drop-in, no booking required. Also at same times on Tuesday 26th January.



Picturehouses Toddler Time: exclusive short screenings for pre-school children and their parents and carers. Today: **Messy Goes to Okido (U)** – lovable monster Messy magically transports us to the land of Okido, where he finds the answers to such questions as 'Why do things fall down and not up?' 'Where do echoes come from?' and 'Why does my stomach rumble?' The aim of the series is to bring science to life using stories, comedy and adventure; Messy's questions range from nature and biology to technology, from atoms to outer space, and everything in between. 11am, [Cameo](#), Home Street. Tickets cost £3 per child, accompanying adult free.



Muirhouse Library Garden Club: seed sowing, tree planting and art & craft activities for children aged 7+. 3.30pm today and

every Monday, [Muirhouse Library](#), Pennywell Court. All welcome – for more information ask in the library.



The Skylark Kids' Movie: this week ***My Neighbour Totoro (U)***. While their mother recovers from an illness, Satsuki and her little sister Mei (voiced in English by **Dakota Fanning** and **Elle Fanning**) get away from it all in an idyllic rural retreat. Far from the bustle of the city, they discover a mysterious place of spirits and magic, and the friendship of the Totoro woodland creatures. Conceived as a family film devoid of conflict and suffused with the carefree pleasures of the summertime, *My Neighbour Totoro* sees **Hayao Miyazaki** create a parable of friendship and imagination populated with unforgettable characters and shows Japanese animation's famous **Studio Ghibli** at its very best. 3.45pm, [The Skylark](#), 241/243 Portobello High Street.



Sketchy Beats Burns Night: Supper, Poetry and Music. A full Burns Supper of haggis, neeps and tatties, with the address to the haggis given by **Garry G Miller**. 7pm, [Sketchy Beats Cafe](#), 208 Great Junction Street. Tickets cost £6 in advance or £8 on the door and include unlimited corkage. Please book via [Sketchy Beats'](#) or [David Roberts'](#) Facebook pages.



For Crying Out Loud: screenings for parents and carers and their babies under the age of 12 months. (Maximum of two adults per baby). Babychanging, bottle-warming and buggy parking facilities are available. Today's film is ***Bolshoi Babylon (PG)***: on 17 January 2013, **Sergei Filin**, Ballet Director of the Bolshoi Theatre, was targeted in a brutal acid attack which left him with third-degree burns and the loss of sight in one eye. This documentary – for which backstage

access was granted to film crews for the first time in the company's history – covers the extraordinary season which followed, as Filin's interim replacement stepped in and as conspiracies, internal rivalries and tensions between performers and managers threatened the existence of a nearly 250-year-old national institution. 11am, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Tickets cost £4.50/£3.50 per adult.



Scottish Quiz Night! You don't need to form a team – just put your name down in the library or call 0131 529 5549 to take part – all welcome. 6.30pm, [Oxgangs Library](#), Oxgangs Road North.



'The World's First Gluten Free Burns Night Supper'! Organised by **Clan Gluten Free**, the evening includes a fabulous menu featuring (of course) gluten free haggis, neeps and tatties, Burns's *Ode to the Haggis*, Scottish music, and a dram of whisky on arrival. 7.30pm, [The Roamin' Nose](#), 14 Eyre Place. £32 per person. For more information and to book (essential), please call 0131 629 3135. Clan Gluten Free has members throughout the world; it brings together people who eat gluten free, from necessity or choice, together with suppliers and food manufacturers, to make life more pleasant and to increase awareness of the GF world.



LGBT Art Therapy Taster Workshop: Found and Reclaimed. An evening workshop facilitated by art therapists, using found objects and materials. All are invited to reclaim the meaning, value and aesthetic of an object by changing its context and revitalising something that has been discarded into something of significance. No prior experience of art making required. 6.30-7.30pm, [LGBT Health & Wellbeing](#), 9 Howe Street. For more

information and to book, please contact **Alison Wren** on 0131 652 3283 or email alison@lgbthealth.org.uk.



Raise Yer Glasses, Lads and Lassies – Burns Recital: come along and recite a poem or sing a song in honour of Rabbie – it doesn't have to be a Burns poem so get creative! A free dram and shortbread for anyone who takes to the stage. A special **Bloody Rabbie's Cocktail**, a Scottish twist on the Bloody Mary made with Jura whisky, green Tabasco and a splash of Buckie, will be on sale. From 3pm, [Victoria Bar](#), Leith Walk.

TUESDAY 26TH JANUARY 2016



Spanish Rhymetime – Sesiones de rimas en español! 'Hola chicas !!!, sólo un pequeño recordatorio de nuestra segunda Rhymetime española de este nuevo año . Será el próximo 26 de martes de enero en Portobello Biblioteca a las 10.30. Tengo muchas ganas de verte cantar rimas españolas y tendremos cuentacuentos también. ¡¡¡Hasta pronto!!!' 10.30am, [Portobello Library](#), Rosefield Avenue.



Usher Hall Emerging Artists Series: Robyn Stapleton and Claire Hastings. Both winners of BBC Radio Scotland's Young Traditional Musician of the Year, this duo of Scots singers met whilst studying Scots Song at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland; today they will sing Burns (and other) traditional songs. 11am, [Usher Hall](#), Lothian Road. Tickets cost £3 (students and schools free). Image courtesy of Live Music Now Scotland.



Get Online – free help with computing and tablets: how to use the internet, email, apps, Skype and lots more, with one-to-one support from volunteers. 2-4pm today and for the next four Wednesdays, [Craigmillar Library](#), Niddrie Mains Road. Booking is essential; please contact kenneth.sharkey@edinburgh.gov.uk.



Cafe Ceilidh: Celebrating Robert Burns. Join **Linten Adie** and friends from the **Scots Music Group** for a free afternoon of the songs and music of Robert Burns in the relaxed atmosphere of the Storytelling Court. All singers and musicians from SMG, and non-members who would like to perform or just come along to listen, are most welcome. 2-4pm, Storytelling Court, [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#), 43-45 High Street. No booking required.



Get Organised: today a programme of audience requests – *Get Organised* audience members are invited to submit suggestions, whether for old favourites or new ideas. 1.10pm, [Usher Hall](#), Lothian Road. Tickets cost £4. The next series of *Get Organised* will begin on 5th April 2016.



The Art of Portraiture: Artist's Talk and Demonstration. In response to this year's BP Portrait Award exhibition, artist **Damian Callan** will give a demonstration to illustrate the early stages of a portrait in oil paint – looking at questions of composition, likeness, character and emphasis. 12.45-1.30pm, [Scottish National Portrait Gallery](#), 1 Queen Street. Free, no booking required. Image: *Ricardo* by Edward Sutcliffe – © Edward Sutcliffe.



Lunchtime Concert: **Alec Frank-Gemmill** (*horn*) and **Alasdair**

Beatson (*piano*) play Beethoven *Horn Sonata*, John Casken *Serpents of Wisdom* and Schumann *Adagio and Allegro*. 1.10pm, [City of Edinburgh Methodist Church](#), 25 Nicolson Square. Admission free. Image: Alec Frank Gemmill by Jen Owens.



Edinburgh College of Art Chancellor's Fellows' Talks: Matt Brennan- *Doing Arts Research as if the World Depended on it*. Dr Brennan specialises in the interdisciplinary field of popular music studies, with a particular interest in live music; he is based in the **Reid School of Music**. Matt's talk will be followed by a drinks reception at which it will be possible to discuss the issues raised. 5.20pm, [Evolution House](#) (Boardroom, 5th floor), Edinburgh College of Art, 78 West Port, Edinburgh. Free and open to the public: no booking necessary.



German Culture Day: Wurstfest. An extraordinary barbecue with German sausages freshly grilled and traditional potato salad. German music, from hiphop to reggae to punk... and (rumour has it) traditional Bavarian clothes! 2pm, [Forest Café](#), Lauriston Place.



Blackwell's Edinburgh Presents Games Night: come and play some of the store's bestselling games. From popular board games like *Settlers of Catan* to new miniature games like *Star Wars X-Wing* and classics like *Backgammon*, there will be something for everyone. A chance to try out new games, with Blackwell's team of seasoned gamers on hand to help. Every game gets allocated a one hour slot, which can be booked in advance. Once your hour is up, you can move on to a new game or play again (unless someone else has already booked the game).

6-10pm, [Blackwell's, South Bridge](#). Free but booking is required and should be made via eventbrite [here](#).



Scottish Poetry Library Workshop: Jennifer L Williams, poet and SPL programme manager, facilitates this writing workshop in which the group will read, discuss and write poems. All levels of experience welcome. Please bring paper and a pen or pencil, or laptop/tablet of choice. 6pm, [Scottish Poetry Library](#), Crichton's Close. Tickets cost £5/£4 and may be purchased via eventbrite [here](#).

Screening Europe: a new season curated by **Film Studies** at the **University of Edinburgh**, introducing a varied selection of past and contemporary European films to celebrate and interrogate the history and aesthetics of cinema in Europe. Both members of the public and students are invited to an exciting series of introduced screenings that will chart the development of film across Europe. Tonight's film is ***The Tempest* (15)**: following his 1978 Elizabethan punk time travel analysis of the state of nation in *Jubilee*, **Derek Jarman** persuaded **Toyah Willcox** to play Miranda in his louche, carnivalesque adaptation of Shakespeare's play. **Duncan Petrie** describes the film as questioning 'old, essentialist traditions of colonialism' but its anarchic queer sensibility is perhaps more apparent today, especially in **Jack Birkett's** ultra-camp Caliban. Arch and sumptuous, the film's highlight is **Elisabeth Welch's** performance of her never more apt 1933 hit *Stormy Weather*. The screening will be introduced by **Dr David Sorfa**, Senior Lecturer in Film Studies (University of Edinburgh). 6pm, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Tickets may be purchased from the Box Office in person, by calling 0131 228 2688 or online. The next film in the series will be ***Macbeth* (15)** showing on Tuesday 2nd February.



LGBT Basketball: The Sonics is a friendly and informal group for beginners and regular players alike, with basic drills and friendly games to build skills and confidence. You are welcome along, whatever your fitness level. 7 (doors open 6.45)-8pm today and every Tuesday, [Leith Community Education Centre](#), 12a Newkirkgate. For more information and/or to let the organisers know you plan to attend (on rare occasions, they have had to cancel due to a leak/repair made to the sports hall), please contact **Jules Stapleton Barnes** on 0131 523 1104 or email jules@lgbthealth.org.uk. £2 per session.



French Cinema: *Le Petit Lieutenant* (15) (In French with English subtitles). After graduating from the Police Academy, Antoine (**Jalil Lespert**) heads to Paris to join one of the busiest precincts in the city. The newly sober alcoholic detective Caroline Vaudieu (**Nathalie Baye**) chooses the young lieutenant to become a member of her criminal unit. Quickly, Vaudieu gets attached to this young man, who is the same age as her deceased son... 6pm, [Institut Francais d'Ecosse](#), 13 Randolph Crescent. Free but **advance booking is highly recommended** and may be made by calling 0131 225 5366 or emailing info@ifecosse.org.uk. These Tuesday evening screenings are presented by **Martine Pierquin** from Short Courses at the University of Edinburgh. Also showing at 1pm on Wednesday 27th January 2016.



Leith Folk Club: The Gilly Hewitt Band. Featuring **Mike Slessor** on fiddle, **Murray McLeod** on guitar and **Ian Hewitt** on percussion, Gilly Hewitt returns to LFC for an evening celebrating the music of Robert Burns. Growing up in Ayrshire Gilly was steeped in Burns' songs and poetry from an early age; she recorded an album of 17 Burns' songs and has since gone on to produce two EPs, and a CD of songs for, from and about Ireland. Support: **Fozzie Sayers** and **Alistair**

Morrison. 7.30pm, [Victoria Park House Hotel](#), 221 Ferry Road. Tickets cost £8 and may be reserved by completing the online form [here](#) or texting the club's dedicated booking line on 07502 024 852. Reserved tickets must be collected by 7.30pm on the night.

WEDNESDAY 27TH JANUARY 2016



The Tycoon and The Bard: How can a poet influence a businessman? In his latest book actor and author **John Cairney** looks at the relationship between Scotland's Bard **Robert Burns** and the business tycoon-turned-philanthropist **Andrew Carnegie**. In this talk, Cairney examines how this relationship came about, and the effect it had on two of Scotland's most famous men. 2pm, [National Library of Scotland](#), George IV Bridge. Free but registration is required and may be made by calling 0131 623 3734 or via eventbrite [here](#).



Young Writers' Creative Writing Group: a new group for young people aged 10-14. A ten class block of fortnightly classes will run from today until Wednesday 18th June. 3.45-5pm, [South Queensferry Library](#), Shore Road. Please call the library on 0131 529 5576, or email shirley.bell@edinburgh.gov.uk, to book a place.



Never Again: The fight Against Racism and Fascism in Europe Today. Unite Against Fascism will mark **International Holocaust Memorial Day 2016**, with two meetings in Edinburgh and Glasgow. The aim of the meetings is to not only remember the victims of the Holocaust and why it happened, but also to draw attention to the modern day threat of fascism and racism which is on the rise across Europe. Fascist parties such as the *Front National* are seizing on the refugee crisis as well as

the climate of Islamophobia in mainstream politics; last month *Front National* secured its highest vote yet, topping the polls in the first round of regional elections in France. Now more than ever, people need to be reminded of the genocide perpetrated by the Nazis and to understand the threat fascists pose today to democracy and indeed to humanity. Speakers at the Edinburgh meeting will include **Aamer Anwar** and **Pinar Aksu**, with other speakers to be confirmed. 7pm, University of Edinburgh, Lecture Theatre 5, [Appleton Tower](#), 11 Crichton Street.

✖ **Edinburgh Gay Men's Book Group:** an inclusive group where you can meet new people and read and discuss interesting books. 7-9pm, [LGBT Health & Wellbeing](#), 9 Howe Street. For more information please contact info@gaybookgroup.co.uk.

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD): *Fateless* (12A) (in Hungarian, English and German with English subtitles). Nobel Prize winner **Imre Kertész's** screen adaptation of his semi-autobiographical novel is a major addition to the cinema of the Holocaust. Since Hungary was nominally a German ally, it wasn't until 1944 that deportations began to affect Budapest's largely assimilated Jewish population, which in part explains 14-year-old Gyuri Köves' initial disbelief as he's packed into a train for Auschwitz. He's soon forced to adjust his perspective, given the daily round of endurance that becomes his lot, yet, amid the suffering, there's also comradeship, allowing him to retain a precarious grip on his humanity. Measured, ✖ unsentimental, and of a sustained intensity appropriate to but never exploitative of the situation, **Lajos Koltai's** directorial debut explores the horrifying ramifications of perseverance in the face of incomprehensible horror. Wide-eyed **Marcell Nagy's** committed central performance potently embodies the struggle to maintain an individual identity beyond mere victimhood. 'On HMD we share the memory of the millions who have been murdered in the Holocaust and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur in order to challenge

hatred and persecution in the UK today'. 5.45pm, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Tickets may be purchased from the Box Office in person, by calling 0131 228 2688 or online.



Parenthèse (science): mathématiques et technologies. In 2016, the Institute opens a new series of *Parenthèses*: informal, demonstrative and interactive rendez-vous with speakers invested in the broadest spectrum of cultural, social and creative life. Today **Emmanuel Delande** from the Institute of Sensor, Signals and Systems at Heriot-Watt University will explain how mathematics are being used to innovate in target detection and tracking in uncertain environments. In so doing, he will give an insight into what the French school of mathematics is bringing to research institutions here in Scotland. 6pm, [Institut Francais d'Ecosse](#), 13 Randolph Crescent. Free but **advance booking is highly recommended** and may be made by calling 0131 225 5366 or emailing info@ifecosse.org.uk. Please note this talk is in French.



LGBT Exchange: Meet Up. Whatever your identity or experience, try this new monthly meet up for those looking to connect with a like-minded community and meet new people, whether you identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, non-binary, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, pan, poly or none or several of the above. Exchange is a space where people are encouraged to share their thoughts, suggestions for things to do and ideas for how to get involved in other relevant projects or groups. The organisers strive to make the evening a safe space, where no assumptions are made about others and everyone has the opportunity to contribute. For over 18s only. 7.30-9.30pm, [The Regent Bar](#), Montrose Terrace. For more information please contact **Alison Wren** on 0131 652 3283 or email alison@lgbthealth.org.uk.



Lights Off! Climate Confessions. Ever wondered what would happen if you got together with a bunch of strangers to talk climate change in the dark? Come along tonight to find out! There will be games, low carbon food, local beer and acoustic music at this event organised by **The Himalayan Centre for Arts and Culture**; a great chance to switch off and tune in! The main activities will run from 6-8pm and from 8-9pm **Charlie and Felipe** from **The Blueswater** will play an acoustic set. There'll be refreshing local beers thanks to Edinburgh's own **Growler UK**, plus delicious and low-carbon home-made food to share (please let the organisers know beforehand if you have any dietary requirements). You can also BYOB to enjoy alongside the live music. Bring your environmental stories and come along to switch off, tune in and have some lightbulb-free fun! 6-8pm, [Sketchy Beats Cafe](#), 208 Great Junction Street. Free but registration is required and may be made via eventbrite [here](#).



Square One Jazz Quartet: the Glasgow-based contemporary jazz 4-piece showcases vibrant original compositions and a diverse range of influences from jazz to fusion, Scottish folk and groove-based music. **Joe Williamson** (*guitar*), **Pete Johnstone** (*piano*), **David Bowden** (*double bass*) and **Stephen Henderson** (*drums*) make music rich in harmonies, lyrical melodies and unstoppable rhythmic momentum, and recently won a highly contested **Peter Whittingham Jazz Award**. 9pm (entry from 8pm), [The Jazz Bar](#), Chambers Street. Admission £5/£4 on the door: please note this venue is strictly cash only.

THURSDAY 28TH JANUARY 2016



Mayfield Salisbury Thursday Club: a weekly programme of music,

visual presentations, films, talks and demonstrations. Although mainly for retired people, visitors of any age are always welcome. This week **Mark McLean** talks about **Newhailes House (National Trust)**. 2-4pm, Upper Hall, [Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church](#), 1a Mayfield Road. Annual membership costs £4 per year and 50p a week is charged for tea; new members are most welcome, but you don't have to be a member to come along. For more information please contact Florence Smith on 0131 663 1234.




Gaelic Rhymetime: Gaelic songs and rhymes for young children and their parents and carers. 10.30am today and the last Thursday of each month, [Leith Library](#), 28-30 Ferry Road. All welcome!



Picturehouses Big Scream: exclusively for babies under the age of twelve months and their parents and carers. Today's film is ***The Good Dinosaur* (PG)**: in an ancient alternative universe where the dinosaurs weren't destroyed by an asteroid, a big-hearted young Apatosaurus called Arlo, who has become separated from his family, befriends Spot, a lonely cave-dwelling tot. The pair encourage each other to face their fears and overcome adversity as they travel through the wild and mysterious landscape. The directorial debut of **Peter Sohn**, who was an animator on *The Incredibles* and *Ratatouille*, has twice as many special effects as any previous Pixar animation. 10.30am, [Cameo](#), Home Street. Tickets are at usual matinee prices: babies admitted free.

Don't Stand By: Holocaust Memorial Day. Edinburgh's annual event to mark Holocaust Memorial Day and remember the victims of holocaust and genocide the world over. The programme will include testimonies from **Zigi Shipper**, who survived the Lodz ghetto and Auschwitz-Birkenau camp and human rights advocate

Mukesh Kapila who has worked with survivors of the genocides in Rwanda and Darfur; **Rabbi Stephen Fuchs** will lead prayers. Arrive early for a guided tour of the **Anne Frank**  **exhibition**. There will be music, poetry and candle-lighting by pupils of the school, with a break for some refreshments. Please bring along a pair of shoes you no longer need to add to the installation; these will be donated to **Oxfam** after the event. 7pm, [Firrhill High School](#), 9 Oxbgangs Road North. Free and open to all, but advance registration is required and may be made via eventbrite [here](#). This event is generously supported by the Claremont Trust. 'Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented'. (*Elie Wiesel*)



Meet the Glasshouse Staff: come along to find out more about the RBGE's stunning collection of plants from the people who care for them. Each month meet a different member of the indoor horticulture team in one of the ten glasshouses, each with different specialist knowledge. 1-2pm, Glasshouse, [Royal Botanic Garden](#), Inverleith Row. Free with Glasshouse entry (£5/£4, children under 15/essential carers free); no booking required.



Greyfriars at 12: Christian Schneeberger (*tenor*) and **Jennifer Redmond** (*piano*) perform a beautiful programme of English and Italian song to banish the January blues. 12 noon-12.45pm, [Greyfriars Kirk](#), Greyfriars Place.



Music Research Seminar Series 2015 – 2016: Professor David Clarke (University of Newcastle), former Director of the HEFCE-funded Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning for Music and Inclusivity, is a music theorist in the broadest

sense, interested in analytical, philosophical, cultural, psychological, linguistic and semiotic applications to questions of musical meaning. This broader concern extends into music and philosophy, with 'music and consciousness' being a particularly important strand in his research. 5.15pm, Lecture Room A, [Alison House](#), Reid School of Music, Nicolson Square. All welcome: please contact Dr Benedict Taylor at B.Taylor@ed.ac.uk if you have any queries.



Cards Against Humanity: 'a night of bringing out your humanity and laughter with a party game for horrible people. If you haven't played before, there's not much to learn and it's a great time. Come and get to know some strangers through awkwardness'. 7.30pm, [Sofi's Bar](#), Henderson Street.



StAnza Preview: short readings from several of this year's **StAnza Festival** poets including **Don Paterson** and **Katie Ailes** – with more to be revealed shortly – plus some music from poet and harpist **Rita Bradd**, who will be playing at the Festival Launch in March, and a round-up of some of the festival highlights. 6-7pm, [National Library of Scotland](#), George IV Bridge. Free but please book by emailing stanza@stanzapoetry.org or calling 07900 207 429. Founded in 1998, StAnza is Scotland's International Poetry Festival, celebrating poetry and related art forms by holding a main spring festival each year in St Andrews in March, and organising other events, programmes and projects throughout the year. Please note that this event is scheduled to end in time to allow people to attend the Scottish Book Trust New Writers Award Showcase (see below) if they wish to do so.



Scottish Book Trust New Writers Award Showcase: come and hear

some of the most exciting new writers in Scotland perform their work live, as Scottish Book Trust celebrates the New Writers Awards, hosted by **Peggy Hughes**. The awards highlight of some of the most exciting and engaging new writing in Scotland; each year, expert panellists choose twelve awardees from hundreds of entries. 2015's judges included **Kevin Williamson** (*Rebel Inc, Neu! Reekie!*), **William Sutcliffe** (*The Wall*) and **Christine De Luca** (Edinburgh Makar). 7.30 (doors open 7)-9pm, [The Jam House](#), 5 Queen Street. Tickets cost £2 and may be booked [here](#) (transaction fee applies).



In Conversation: Joanna Blythman. The much respected and award winning author, food journalist and broadcaster's works include *Shopped: The shocking power of Britain's supermarkets*, *What to Eat?* and her latest revealing insight into the food industry *Swallow This*. She is the food critic for *The Sunday Herald* and often broadcasts on Radio 4's Food Programme and Woman's Hour. Joanna will be discussing her work, her discoveries and her food ethics, and the delicatessen will be offering some dishes that complement Joanna's scruples and illustrate her writing. 7.30pm, [181 Delicatessen](#), 181 Bruntsfield Place. Please phone the delicatessen on 0131 229 4554 to book your ticket, as spaces are limited. Co-organised by The Edinburgh Bookshop.



LGBT Language Cafe: a safe, sociable and supportive space for LGBT people whose first language is not English. Improve your spoken English and your confidence and socialise with other LGBT people at these fun and inclusive sessions. Facilitators **Sophie** and **Clare** will provide fun and inclusive ways to practice speaking English, build your vocabulary and find out more about the LGBT community in Edinburgh. 6.30-8.30pm, [LGBT Health & Wellbeing](#), 9 Howe Street. For more information please contact **Jules Stapleton Barnes** on 0131 523 1104 or

email jules@lgbthealth.org.uk.



History of Art Research Seminar Series 2015-2016: Professor Paul Gladston (University of Nottingham) – (Bad) Faith in Painting (?): Critically Re-evaluating the Significance of Yu Youhan's Political Pop Series. Professor Gladston originally trained in Fine Art, gaining an undergraduate degree in drawing and painting from ECA; he has written extensively on contemporary Chinese art, with particular reference to the concerns of cultural and critical theory. His paper focuses on the so-called 'Political Pop' paintings by the Shanghai-based painter, **Yu Youhan**. 5.15pm, Lecture Theatre, [Hunter Building](#), Edinburgh College of Art, Lauriston Place. All welcome.



Meet Your Politicians: MEP Catherine Stihler, MP Joanna Cherry and local councillors will talk about their work and answer questions from the floor. 8pm, [Balerno Parish Church](#), 2 Main Street, Balerno. Free tickets are available from various Currie and Balerno outlets – or just turn up. Please send any questions for the panel to chair@junipergreenc.org.uk as early as possible.



The Library Is Open! Drag Queen Poems. There is more to the world than **RuPaul's Drag Race** and lip-syncing club queens. Poets **Iain Morrison** and **Jean-François Krebs** (also known as **Wanda Isadora de Fournure**) invite you on a drag date... heels will sound and images will rise from the drag queen's mouth. With lipstick words and shimmering silks, this underground-overground art takes on the night at the SPL. 6.30-8.30pm, The Mezzanine, [Scottish Poetry Library](#), Crichton's Close. Tickets cost £5/£4 and may be purchased via eventbrite [here](#).



The Skylark Pub Quiz: 8pm tonight and every Thursday, [The Skylark](#), 241/243 Portobello High Street. Free entry.



The First World War in Cinema: *Oh! What a Lovely War* (PG). Richard Attenborough's directorial debut is a highly-stylised musical satire featuring some of Britain's very finest actors. After an opening that finds Europe's heads of state choosing sides when Archduke Franz Ferdinand is killed during a royal photo session, the film traces the First World War through a series of surreal set pieces, alternating between the front lines in France and the English homefront, where generals and diplomats conduct a distant war that is actually waged by the young and poor. Despite the world forces in play, the film instead focuses on the Smith family – and its sons, who, seduced into service in the carnival atmosphere of Brighton, find themselves dying for their country one by one. 8pm, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Tickets may be purchased from the Box Office in person, by calling 0131 228 2688 or online.





Louis Durra Trio with Jess Abrams (voc): the adventurous ex-LA, now Berlin-based, pianist played many Fringe shows here, garnering excellent reviews and enthusiastic audience reactions for his amazingly varied repertoire, which stretches from modern jazz piano icons like Bill Evans, through electronica, to influences from White Stripes, Bob Marley and KT Tunstall. He's back in the UK for a minute and appears with ex-New York vocalist Jess Abrams, bassist **Jay Kilbride** and drummer **Doug Hough**. Expect a top class evening of beautiful, surprising and delightful music! 9pm (entry from 8pm), [The Jazz Bar](#), Chambers Street. Admission £7/£5 on the door: please note this venue is strictly cash only.

FRIDAY 29TH JANUARY 2016



The White House Presents John Connor and Guests in Concert: a set of covers and classics played by like-minded local musicians. The evening offers a nostalgic and relaxing blend of rock, soft rock, blues and folk in the laid back atmosphere of the White House, and is part of an ongoing effort to encourage and showcase local talent that has been steadily growing and building momentum. 7pm (doors open), [The White House Community Cafe](#), 70 Niddrie Mains Road. Admission £7/£5. For more information about the evening and future events, contact 0131 468 1934.



Gosia Walton: *Prelude*. A solo presentation of a series of intricate printed drawing abstractions by Gosia Walton. The

concept behind the show is to strip back the complex process of Walton's explorative process into drawing and materiality, resulting in a more traditional, honest presentation of the artistic process while still responding to Walton's artistic personality. Her works often explore the mark making capabilities and boundaries of technology and computer software, resulting in experiments that try to give language to the empty or occupied space where digital representations and human intimacy meet, and creating chaotic images that a 'bored' computer might make. Preview tonight 6-9pm, then 10am-6pm, [Gayfield Creative Spaces](#), 11 Gayfield Square. Ends 10th February 2016.



Edinburgh Napier University Campus Tours: come and see the university in action. Student Ambassadors will guide you around your chosen campus, show you the facilities on offer and give you an insight into life as an Edinburgh Napier student. Napier has six academic schools across three main campuses, so when selecting which campus you'd like to visit please make sure you select the correct one for your chosen course – the open days will take place simultaneously at all three. 2pm (tours take approximately one hour), [Merchiston Campus](#), 10 Colinton Road, [Craiglockhart Campus](#), 219 Colinton Road and [Sighthill Campus](#), 9 Sighthill Court. Tours are free but registration is required and may be made [here](#).



Gallery Social: Rabbie Burns – A Celebration! A relaxed and informal guided tour with refreshments for anyone affected by dementia and their relatives, friends and supporters. 10.30am-12 noon, [Scottish National Portrait Gallery](#) (meet at the Information Desk), 1 Queen Street. Free but booking is required and may be made by contacting the Information Desk on 0131 624 6560.



Collective Hush: Keep meaning to put some time aside for reading and writing poetry each week? Bring your lunch if you like and join this silent, drop-in group reading/ writing/ making time every Friday in **The Space**. Sharing the silence, everyone can work together to achieve their artistic and poetic goals. 12 noon-2pm, [Scottish Poetry Library](#), Crichton's Close. No booking required, just drop in. Free: donations welcome.



In Focus: Gavin Hamilton, James Dawkins and Robert Wood Discovering the Ruins of Palmyra (1758): Dr Patricia Andrew, freelance art historian, traces the exciting history of the discovery of the ancient desert city of Palmyra in present-day Syria, by the British explorers James Dawkins and Robert Wood. They set out in 1751, at a time when archaeological discoveries were widening intellectual understanding of the ancient world and informing the emerging taste for the neoclassical style in architecture and decoration then sweeping Europe. Today, Palmyra is in the news again, due to its uncertain future in a war-torn region. The painting, by Scottish artist Gavin Hamilton, was commissioned after James Dawkins's death by his brother. Hamilton had settled in Rome, where his work as an archaeologist, dealer and adviser, as well as his huge neoclassical paintings, had a major influence on taste across Europe. 12.45-1.30pm, Hawthornden Lecture Theatre. [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed.



Lunchtime Recital: **Laura Sergeant** (*cello*) and **Ian Watt** (*guitar*) will play Vivaldi *Cello Sonata in E minor* RV 40, Simpson *Divisions upon a ground in E minor*, Villa-Lobos *Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5*, Gnattali *Sonata for cello*

and guitar, Smith-Brindle 10-string music and Squire Tarantella. 1.10pm, [Playfair Library Hall](#), Old College, South Bridge. Free admission.



Remembering the Reformation: Looking Back and Looking Forward. Reflections on Protestantism Approaching 500. An international day conference looking back and forward at the Reformation. The world is racing towards the red-letter day: 31 October 2017, the 500-year anniversary of **Martin Luther's 95 Theses** and the Protestant Reformation. As countries, churches, universities and other institutions take up the daunting questions surrounding Protestantism's legacy, this conference considers what it means to remember the Reformation – in the past, present, and future. Various Speakers from the universities of Edinburgh, St Andrews, Kiel, Debrecen, Apeldoorn, Frankfurt and St Louis will be taking part. 8.45am-5pm, [Augustine United Church](#), George IV Bridge. Free and open to the public – all welcome: no registration is necessary, but please address any queries to **Zachary Purvis** at Zachary.purvis@ed.ac.uk. The full programme may be found [here](#).

Guid Crack: A Tale's A Tale and A' That! Warm your hearts round the ceilidh fire at the first **Guid Crack** of the year, with tales to keep the cold at bay and of course a few nods to the great Bard himself. **Lea Taylor** will delight with Burns songs and tales with a mischievous twist. 7.30pm, upstairs at **The Waverley Bar**, 3-5 St Mary's Street. Suggested donation £5/£3. Accompanied young adults welcome.



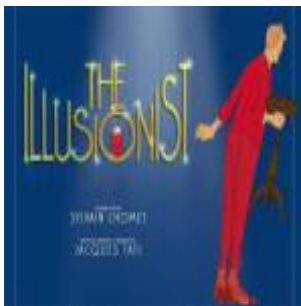
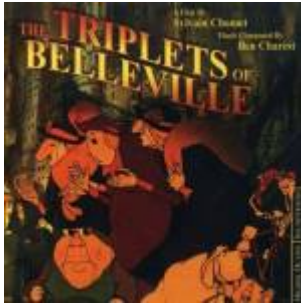
Nothing Ever Happens Here and Braw Gigs Present Optimo Espacio and Neil Landstrumm. The legendary DJ duo of **Optimo** will be taking over The Dissection Room space for a one off Optimo (Espacio) event. Renowned for their visionary and exploratory

musical approach during DJ sets, as well as throwing some of the best parties on the planet, they'll be joined by one of the true innovators in techno, local Edinburgh stalwart **Neil Landstrumm** (live), and the mysterious **Mr TC** (live) from Glasgow School of Art, just in time for his new release on Optimo's home grown label. For over 18s only. 10pm-3am, [Summerhall](#), 1 Summerhall. Tickets cost £10 and may be purchased from the Box Office, in person, by calling 0131 560 1580 or online [here](#) (transaction fee applies).



Remembering Brigid: singer and storyteller **Susanna Orr Holland** will be joined by storyteller **Kate Walker** and violinist **Morag Brown** in a unique ceilidh, sharing tales of Brigid in ancient myth through her guise as saint and goddess. Gaelic and English folk songs, rhymes and folklore texture the evening around the warmth of Brigid's hearth. Come and celebrate the turning of winter to the beginnings of spring's whispers and remember. For ages 16+. 8pm, Netherbow Theatre, [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#), 43-45 High Street. Tickets cost £10/£8 and may be booked in person, by calling the Box Office on 0131 556 9579 or online [here](#).

New Town Community Cinema: Chomet Double Feature. A double bill of films by French director **Sylvain Chomet**. The cinema's **Alternative Kids Classics** programme launches with Chomet's first feature-length film, nominated for Best Animated Film at the Academy Awards, ***The Triplets of Belleville* (12)**: Madam Souza and her grandson Champion have been training hard for the Tour-de-France, but disaster strikes when, during the race, Champion is kidnapped. The story follows Madam Souza, her dog Bruno and the renowned singing group, The Triplets of Belleville, as they try to find Champion.



The second film is ***The Illusionist* (PG)**, to be paired with a surprise short film. *The Illusionist* was originally to be set in Czechoslovakia, but Chomet relocated it to Scotland; you will be able to spot a lot of Edinburgh including New Town pub **The Barony Bar!** The Illusionist leaves Paris when he finds his opportunities are sparse, moving to London to try his luck then travelling to a small island in Scotland, where he meets Alice. Alice shows unwaivering faith in him and the pair move to Edinburgh together in hopes of finding success. Both screenings will take place in the main hall of the Glasite Meeting House, under the spectacular Georgian glass cupola; guests will sit on the padded pews (but feel free to bring additional cushions). *The Triplets of Belleville* will begin at 2.30pm, *The Illusionist* at 7.30pm, [Glasite Meeting House](#), 33 Barony Street. Tickets cost £6.44 for *The Triplets of Belleville* and may be purchased via eventbrite [here](#), and £7.48 for *The Illusionist* via eventbrite [here](#). The Glasite Meeting House is run by **Scottish Historic Buildings Trust**. All profits from the running of the cinema go towards saving Scottish

historic buildings and giving them a future use in the community.



LGBT Women's Wellbeing Group: an inclusive and informal group offering the chance to meet other LGBT women in a relaxed environment, with chat, information and activities promoting health and wellbeing. The group is open to all LGBT women and also to transgender people who primarily identify as women. Today: ***Irreplaceable*** – on the week of **Holocaust Memorial Day**, join the group for an evening of discussion, activities and reflection on why this is still a significant tragedy and how it continues to be an issue of fundamental importance for all humanity. 5.30-8.30pm; to stay up to date with the group and to keep informed of meeting times and locations for outings, contact **Alison** by emailing alison@lgbthealth.org.uk to be added to the email reminder list.



Balerno Village Screen: a community cinema run by volunteers, offering free admission and funded by donations. Tonight's film is ***Jimmy's Hall (12A)***: a story inspired by the life and times of Jimmy Gralton and a country hall in Ireland. Jimmy Gralton's sin was to build a dance hall on a rural crossroads in Ireland where young people could come to learn, to argue, to dream...but above all to dance and have fun. ***Jimmy's Hall*** celebrates the spirit of these free thinkers. 7.30pm, [St Joseph's Hall](#), St Joseph's Centre, Balerno. Although all screenings are free, the organisers ask that you register in advance to give them an idea of numbers – free tickets for each film may be reserved via eventbrite [here](#) or obtained from The Mill Café or Balerno Post Office.



Burns Night Ceilidh with the Greater Spotted Ceilidh Band:

live music by 3/5ths of the band, plus special guests... Other delights include a prize-filled raffle, a cake stall catering to all diets and a chance to stock up on some home made herbal goodies, lovingly crafted by some members of the **Scottish Radical Herbal Network**, for which this event is a fundraiser. The network plans to hold the first ever **Scottish Radical Herbal Gathering** this September. 7pm-12 midnight, [Old St Paul's Church](#), Jeffrey Street. Tickets £7/£5 in advance from [New Leaf Co-Operative](#), Argyll Street, Marchmont or on the door (sta).



Joe Locke Quartet (New York): Joe Locke is one of the World's top vibraphone artists, currently on an extensive European tour to launch his latest CD ***Love is a Pendulum***. Although Joe has toured the UK many times, this is his first appearance in Edinburgh for many years, and he's back with a bang with this great band, featuring outstanding drummer **Terreon Gully**, **Robert Rodriguez** (*piano*), and **Ricardo Rodriguez** (*bass*). Winner of countless awards for his virtuosic playing, and with a massive CD discography, Joe is revered worldwide for his formidable 4-mallet vibes technique and the highly energetic and emotional content of his soloing and compositions. 'No vibraphonist working today swings more soulfully than Joe Locke' – Paul Debarros, *Seattle Times*. Plus support **Fergus**

McCreadie Duo: hugely gifted 18yr old pianist Fergus McCreadie (currently studying jazz at Glasgow's RCS) in a duo setting with RCS graduate, bassist **David Bowden**, playing a mix of original compositions and jazz standards. 7.45-8.45pm (support), (entry from 7.30pm), 9pm (Joe Locke Quartet on stage), [The Jazz Bar](#), Chambers Street. For this event The Jazz Bar is selling tickets in advance: these cost £15/£12 (+ transaction fee) and may be purchased online [here](#). Please note that you will receive an email acknowledgement but no paper ticket; your name will be added to the door list and you will need to bring ID on the night.

Dalriada Wine Tasting: an evening of wine tasting, hosted by some of the industry's most knowledgeable professionals. 7.30pm, [Dalriada](#), 77 The Promenade, Portobello. Tickets cost £10 and are available from the bar.

SATURDAY 30TH JANUARY 2016



St Bride's Family Cinema: see your favourite films for free! Adventure, excitement, fun and laughs – everyone welcome. Juice and choc ices are available to purchase in the interval at 50p each. This week's film is ***The Princess and The Frog (U)***. Please note that all children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. 10.30am-12.30pm (includes interval), [St Bride's Centre](#), Orwell Terrace, Dalry. Next week's film is *Toy Story 3 (U)*



Refugee Survival Trust: Massive Nights Presents Billy Liar, Paper Rifles and Pals. Featuring live sets from Billy Liar and Paper Rifles, Honeyblood, The Murderburgers, Supermoon (Ex-Mersault), Lovers Turn to Monsters, Tragical History Tour, Richy Neill, Dog on a Swing, Faith Elliot and Turtle Lamone, with hosts Ryan van Winkle and Rachel McCrum and DJ sets from

Cyan Black and **Jimmy Bastard**. There will also be short talks from a member of the **Refugee Survival Trust** and a refugee who has been through the programme. 100% of the money raised from the EP release and benefit will go directly to the RST, which was set up in 1996 as a reaction to the problem of refugees and asylum claimants being made destitute in Scotland. Grants made by the RST either alleviate poverty and destitution or help refugees and asylum claimants to overcome obstacles in accessing educational and employment opportunities. 6pm (doors open), [Southside Social](#) (the first social enterprise pub in Edinburgh), 42-44 Buccleuch Street. Admission £5 minimum, EP £3 minimum. Tickets may be purchased online [here](#) (transaction fee applies) or on the door (sta).



granton: hub Presents The Embassy Cinema: A Celebration of the Big Screen. Workshops, screenings and children's activities, plus an evening showing of **Wes Anderson's *The Grand Budapest Hotel* (15)**. 2-9pm, [Maldevic House](#), Granton Park Avenue. All sessions are free apart from the evening film, for which there will be an admission fee (payable on the door) of £2 to include popcorn and drink, but booking is required for all events and may be made [here](#).



Out of the Blue Flea Market: over 45 stalls full to bursting with clothes, jewellery, small furniture, music, books, bric-a-brac and so much more, with delicious coffee and cake available from the Drill Hall Arts Café. 10am-3pm, [Out of the Blue](#), 36 Dalmeny Street.



Balerno Village Screen: a community cinema run by volunteers, offering free admission and funded by donations. Today's films are ***Cinderella*** (PG) at 2.30pm and ***Jurassic World*** (12A) at 7.30pm, both at [St Joseph's Hall](#), St Joseph's Centre, Balerno. Although all screenings are free, the organisers ask that you register in advance to give them an idea of numbers – free tickets for each film may be reserved via the BVS website [here](#) or obtained from The Mill Café or Balerno Post Office.





Word Power Books Presents Dawn Foster: *Lean Out*. In her 'concise, accessible and powerful call for a more inclusive feminism in an age of austerity', the journalist, writer and broadcaster (*The Guardian*, *London Review of Books*, *The Independent*, *TLS*, Sky News, Channel 4 News, *Newsnight*) surveys business, media, culture and politics, showing how trickle-down feminism offers little material gain for women collectively, while acting as window-dressing PR for the corporations who caused the financial crash. *Lean Out* also argues that, below the celebrity speeches and bestselling books, another, more grassroots feminism is alive and kicking; campaigns led by women have scored victories in housing, immigration, employment rights and cuts. What would happen if mainstream feminism could throw its weight behind those suffering at the sharp end of austerity? Dawn Foster argues that instead of leaning in, we need to disrupt, to shout back, to *lean out*. 12 noon, [Word Power Books](#), West Nicolson Street. All welcome, free – donations also very welcome!



National Gallery Highlight Tours: an introduction to and tour of the National Gallery's permanent collection, focusing on key paintings. 2-2.45pm or 3-3.45pm, [Scottish National Gallery](#) (meet in the main entrance), The Mound. Free and unticketed.



Edinburgh Society of Musicians: the Queen Anne Singers from Fife and Catriona Hetherington (cello) will perform classical and light music followed by a programme of Burns. 7.30pm (prompt), [Edinburgh Society of Musicians](#), 3 Belford Road. There is a small annual membership subscription but concerts are open and admission is free. The Edinburgh Society of Musicians is an organisation which promotes practical music-making in Edinburgh; it has been in existence since 1887. Chamber music recitals are given every Saturday evening from early October until the end of June. For more information please contact Sarah Bainbridge at sarahba@lineone.net




Men with Coconuts: Scotland's foremost musical improv comedy troupe presents 90 minutes of improvised games and scenes culminating in an entirely improvised Broadway-style musical. Unplanned, unscripted and unbelievable! 'Laugh until you cry!' (*Cabaret Nova*), 8pm, Netherbow Theatre, [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#), 43-45 High Street. Tickets cost £8/£6 and may be booked in person, by calling the Box Office on 0131 556 9579 or online [here](#).



Scottish Music Group Ceilidh with Bella McNab's Dance Band: a fresh lively sound that swings from some of Scotland's top traditional musicians – with fiddles, guitar, piano and double bass. The Bellas have recorded for BBC Scotland's *Take the Floor* and have appeared individually on dozens of albums. 7.30pm (dancing from 8pm)-11.30pm, [St Bride's Community Centre](#), Orwell Terrace. Tickets cost £9/£7 in advance from St Bride's Centre and may be purchased from the Box Office in person or by calling 0131 346 1405, or from Scots Music Group online [here](#), or £10 on the door, sta.



Saturday Session: Hoban and Scott. Country, bluegrass and Americana from the Edinburgh-based duo. 3.30pm, [Sofi's Bar](#), Henderson Street.

Nothing Ever Happens Here Presents De Rosa (album launch). Lanarkshire based De Rosa are **Martin John Henry** (*vocals, guitar*), **James Woodside** (*bass*) and **Neil Woodside** (*drums*). They have released two studio albums – *Mend* (2006) and *Prevention* (2009) – on Glasgow's acclaimed **Chemikal Underground Records**. De Rosa have toured in support of Mogwai, Doves and Arab  Strap and have collaborated with *Under the Skin* author **Michel Faber** on the *Ballads of the Book* album. *Weem*, their long awaited third album, was released on **Rock Action Records** on 22nd January. For over 18s only. 7-10pm, [Summerhall](#), 1 Summerhall. Tickets cost £10 and may be purchased from the Box Office, in person, by calling 0131 560 1580 or online [here](#) (transaction fee applies).

SUNDAY 31ST JANUARY 2016



Filmhouse Junior: films for a younger audience. This week: *The Good Dinosaur* (PG). Arlo, a lively Apatosaurus with a big heart, sets out on a remarkable journey with a most unlikely companion: a human boy. This extraordinary tale of self-discovery is filled with thrilling adventures, humour and poignancy. 11am, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Tickets cost £4 per person, big or small.



National Anti-Fracking Day: Come and join the **Our Forth** group at low tide, when they'll be writing anti-fracking and other anti-UGE messages in the wet sand. Once all of the messages are written, join them in a ceremonial linking of arms between the messages to show that it is possible to have 'joined-up

thinking' and a positive way forward for Scotland's future without ruining the environment and causing risks to people's health. You can, if you wish, bring along a sandwich, soup or some other food to sit and have lunch with friends and listen to music. Meet 12 noon at **Portobello Beach**: for enquiries or more details leave a message on the Our Forth Facebook page [here](#) or their website [here](#).



Sunday Double Bills: *Vivre sa vie* (15) + *Bande à part* (PG) (both films in French with English subtitles). Screening to accompany **Godard's** masterful *Le Mépris* (showing 22nd – 25th January), these 1960s classics starring the infinitely fascinating **Anna Karina** pair an insightful documentary-style portrait of a sex worker and a fanciful criminal caper. Described by **Susan Sontag** as a 'perfect film', *Vivre sa vie* plays out in a set of 12 chapters detailing the story of Nana, a woman from the provinces who gradually becomes part of the world of Parisian prostitution. Godard's uses of interview

techniques, direct sound, long takes, quotations and statistics give this thought-provoking and dazzling examination the ring of cinéma vérité. If *Vivre sa vie* can be described as a cinematic love letter to Karina, then *Bande à part* is a love letter to cinema itself. Inspired by the world of B-movie Hollywood (and itself an inspiration for everyone from **Fassbinder** to **Tarantino**), the film features Karina's Odile and her two tough-but-self-conscious pals doing extravagant mimes on the death of Billy the Kid, attempting to learn English, executing some neat dance steps, running around the Louvre, and robbing Odile's aunt (with disastrous consequences). 2pm, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Tickets cost £12/£10 and may be purchased from the Box Office in person, by calling 0131 228 2688 or online. There will be a 15 minute break between films.



Cafe of Babel: Forest's nights of a thousand languages! A new series of multi-language sharing events, with a table in the café dedicated to exploring each featured language; there will be multiple language tables with hosts to share their language and culture with everyone interested. The organisers hope people of all experience levels will feel free to dive into any language that excites them – but **they need your help**. Anybody who would like to spend an evening **sharing a language and culture** they are enthusiastic about, or can bring **materials**, especially children's books and phrase books in languages other than English, or who has any thoughts and **ideas** on how to make this event great, is asked to contact alexiadesypri@yahoo.gr. 6-10pm, [Forest Café](#), Lauriston Place.



Sister Cities: Tartan Ties. A musical collaboration between sister cities Dunedin and Edinburgh. **Robert Scott** and **Jay Clarkson** from New Zealand's indie music capital Dunedin will

join Edinburgh musicians **Dean Owens**, **Craig Lithgow (Emelle)**, **Hailey Beavis** and poet/raconteur **Kevin Williamson** (Neu! Reekie!) to present a collaborative night of music and verse, celebrating and reconnecting the tartan ties between the cities. This event is made possible by support from the British Council New Zealand, British Council Scotland, Dunedin City Council and Creative Scotland. Founded as a Scottish settlement in 1848 and named after Edinburgh's original Gaelic name Dùn Èideann, Dunedin shares much of its architecture and history with its namesake and is regarded as NZ's indie music capital. For over 18s only. 7pm, [The Voodoo Rooms](#), West Register Street. Tickets cost £10 and may be purchased via Brown Paper Tickets [here](#) (transaction fee applies).



Rock N Roll Ping Pong – with DJ Ding and DJ Dong. A free, monthly Sunday-night social, with fine beers and fine company, free-play, silly ping pong games, and music from every genre to play along to courtesy of in-house soundtrackmeisters DJs Ding & Dong. Also, for those with a wee bit of a competitive instinct, there's an optional, strictly amateur tournament [£1 to enter, winner takes all!] 7-11pm, [The Bongo Club](#), 66 Cowgate. Free admission. The Bongo Club is an independent nightclub, live venue and all-round artistic hub owned by local arts charity **Out of the Blue**. 'Putting the sounds of the underground and imaginative aspirations before the mighty dollar'.



Acoustic Special: Owen Denvir + Joshua Burnside. The well-established Northern Irish singer-songwriters drop in for an evening of attractive and atmospheric folk/pop acoustic sounds. Owen's debut EP **Daydreamer** has achieved airplay on stations as far flung as New York and the Netherlands; his live set employs the use of viola, guitar and piano to create an audio visual spectacle. Colleague Joshua Burnside has 'a

brooding, powerful sound echoing artists of places afar and times long gone, his enthralling craft defies local comparison in striving towards an aesthetic as much visual as it is sonic'. 9pm (entry from 8pm), [The Jazz Bar](#), Chambers Street. Admission £5/£4 on the door: please note this venue is strictly cash only.

St Giles' At Six: Organ Recital – *The Auld Alliance*. Michael Harris plays organ music from Scotland and France, including works by Franck, Vierne, Leighton, Judith Weir and Thomas Wilson. 6pm, [St Giles' Cathedral](#), High Street. Free admission: retiring collection.



Ten Men Hearts Draw A Blank

Hamilton Academical 0 Heart of Midlothian 0

Ladbrokes SPFL Premiership, Sunday 24 January 2016, New Douglas Park

The last time Hearts visited New Douglas Park the game ended in controversial circumstances as Robbie Neilson's side lost 3-2 with defender Callum Paterson being ordered off by referee Willie Collum – a decision that proved to be incorrect and the red card rescinded days later. Neilson didn't disguise his thoughts after the game and that August afternoon in Lanarkshire left a sour taste in the mouths of those with an allegiance to the Maroons.

Five months on, Hearts returned to the scene to face an Accies team who had suffered the embarrassment of an 8-1 trouncing to Celtic on Tuesday evening. As if to disprove the adage that lightning doesn't strike twice, Hearts had another defender – Igor Rossi – red-carded and a long afternoon ensued for the Maroons. There was nothing contentious about this red card though and while Accies also had a player sent off – Garcia – this was with just five minutes left for play and, having thrashed Accies neighbours Motherwell 6-0 last weekend, Hearts had to be content with a goalless draw.

Robbie Neilson opted for the same starting eleven from that side who played so well eight days ago. However, the opening stages of this game were a marked contrast to last week's sparkling display.

Crawford had the first chance for the home side in 13 minutes but his free-kick was easily saved by Hearts keeper Neil Alexander. Four minutes later the visitors should have gone ahead when Alim Ozturk's pass found Igor Rossi who produced a fine save from Accies keeper McGovern. The subsequent rebound fell to Callum Paterson but the defender's effort merely trickled goalwards and McGovern saved without too much trouble.

After 31 minutes a fine pass from Miguel Pallardo found Osman Sow and it looked inevitable the Swedish striker would open the scoring. However, the former Crystal Palace striker, who has attracted interest from other clubs Scotland and beyond in this transfer window, fired his shot wide – which wouldn't have impressed any potential suitors.

Gavin Reilly then set up Prince Buaben but, again, the former Dundee United man's effort on goal was wide. At least Billy King managed to keep his shot on goal on target soon after but McGovern was equal to the impressive strike and saved well.

The suspicion this wasn't going to be Hearts day was enhanced

five minutes before half-time when Igor Rossi lunged in with a two-footed tackle on Lyon. Referee Bobby Madden showed a red card to the Brazilian defender with yellow cards shown to Alim Ozturk and Prince Buaben as they doth protest too much. Gavin Reilly was sacrificed for Jordan McGhee as Robbie Neilson made a tactical switch before half-time.

Half-time Hamilton Accies 0 Hearts 0

The second half assumed the inevitable pattern of ten man Hearts hitting on the break and Accies, after their mauling at Celtic Park on Tuesday, looking rather unsure of whether to press for a goal or be content with a goalless scoreline.

Devlin came closest for the home team with a couple of headers, the first of which was scrambled off the line by the Hearts defence before the second was flagged for offside meaning Neil Alexander's brilliant save was superfluous.

Despite being a man short, it looked like Hearts defence would not be breached and, indeed, Robbie Neilson's side almost went in front when captain Ozturk's cross was headed goalwards by Blazej Augustyn but his effort, in keeping with the afternoon, bounced off the crossbar and Accies breathed again.

The home side were reduced to ten men when Garcia mimicked the long-departed Rossi with a fierce challenge on Hearts Arnaud Djoum. For the second time in the afternoon, referee Bobby Madden had no choice but to show a red card. Ten-a-side for the remaining five minutes and Hearts almost nicked all three points when Dario Zanatta's header – like Augustyn's – bounced off the crossbar. Juanma also had a chance at the end of the game but he was denied by McGovern.

Robbie Neilson attempted to look at the positives after the game.

"I thought we kept our shape well when we went down to 10 men" he told BBC Radio Scotland. "I've got no qualms about the red

card. We created some good chances and could have won the game. Hamilton at home is a really difficult place to come, with the wind and the pitch that they train on every day. The players gave us everything and that's all you can ask."

Hearts hopes of catching Aberdeen for second place in the league now look rather forlorn with a gap of eight points. At least it looks unlikely they'll need to return to New Douglas Park again this season.

Hamilton: McGovern, Gordon, Kurakins, Devlin, Imrie, D'Acol, Crawford, Kurtaj, MacKinnon (Docherty, 46'), Lyon (Brophy, 74'), Tagliapietra (Tena, 46').

Hearts: Alexander, Paterson, Ozturk, Augustyn, Rossi, King (Zanatta, 46'), Pallardo, Djoum, Buaben, Reilly (McGhee, 38'), Sow (Juanma, 70').

Referee: Bobby Madden

Att: 2,684

Top man: Arnaud Djoum

Rugby – Stewarts-Melville v Dundee, BT National League, Div. 1

"A Damn Close Run Thing" at Inverleith as Dundee hold on for a narrow win*



The BT National League resumed hostilities at a breezy Inverleith as second place Dundee HSFP made the trip South to play 8th place Stewarts-Melville FP RFC in the latest round of the season long competition. Stew-Mel lined up as advertised, but Dundee had made several changes to their squad, a couple of which gave their coaching squad a few memory challenges...

Nevertheless, playing with the wind, Dundee looked, by far the better side in the early exchanges and were quickly up in the Stew-Mel half. Some fine running and handling then had the ball out wide and with a clear run in, No. 11, Mike Brown had the first points on the board with his 5th minute try. Centre, Duncan Leese kicked the conversion to add the extras and it was 7-0 before Stew-Mel were seemingly aware of what had happened.

Seven minutes later, and despite a swift response from the home side, a dropped ball in the centre returned possession to Dundee and they returned to the attack. Brown carried the ball into the outer reaches of the 22 where he was tackled by Angus Rennie, but he still got his pass away. A couple of moves later and a neat reverse pass – Dundee made good use of the reverse all match – put full back, Blair Cochrane through under the posts for the second try. Lees slotted home his kick and, 14 minutes in, it was 14-0.

The next 10 minutes, or so, of the match were a bit more evenly contested with Dundee shading the territorial advantage, but getting turned over a couple of times allowing the home side to clear. Rennie made a strong run upfield and moved the play away from the danger zone, setting the ball rolling for Stew-Mel's first score.

A penalty lineout close to the Dundee line was won by Stew-Mel – lineout issues would later cause them all sorts of problems

– but the ball was eventually lost forward a couple of metres short. Dundee won the ball from the disintegrating scrum, but pressure on the defence lead to a catalogue of errors culminating in a poor clearance from Brown. ‘Poor clearance’ is probably a mild understatement as his sliced kick landed in the hands of home centre, Ali Greig, who was minding his own business in front of the posts. He quickly overcame the shock and charged in the score. Mike Hanning added the points for the conversion and it was 14-7 with 15 minutes of the half still to play.



Stew-Mel followed up from the restart with a fine display of running rugby, but they were turned over near the posts, allowing the visitors to clear and eventually get up into the home 22, however, neither side were able to score further so the half ended 14-7 to Dundee.

Five minutes into the second half, Stew-Mel had Dundee under a great deal of pressure and managed to force a poor clearance from centre, Nick Alston. Stew-Mel’s Alexander Rappestad collected the ball in his own half and set about returning play to the other end. His powerful run, scattering opponents as he went, took play into the Dundee 22, where he got a clean pass away to scrum half, Gregor Portus. His pass then found full back, Ross McCann with empty space in front of him, giving the 15 a clear trot in for his try. Hanning just missed the kick from out wide so the score stayed at 14-12 to Dundee with five minutes of the second half played.

The two point gap lasted just over two minutes as the visitors returned to the fray and scored their third try of the afternoon following up a fine display of attacking rugby, the final pass putting No. 10 Ewen Fox over for a 19-12 scoreline.

Mike Hanning pulled three points back for the home side with a penalty on the 50 minute mark, but Dundee soon stretched away

again with their fourth – and bonus point – try of the match. Pushing Stew-Mel deep into their 22 a series of rucks lead to a couple of penalties, the final one of which was taken quickly by Leese who fired himself over the line from close in to take the points tally to 24. He then converted to give the Tayside men a 26-15 lead.

The next period of play was dominated by Stew-Mel as they drove the match deep into the Dundee half. Some fine attacking play then lead to a couple of penalties which were kicked to touch. For once – or twice, as it happened – the home lineout managed to fire properly and the second of the penalties lead to a set of rucks which eventually put front row, Michael MacDonald, over for the score. Hanning conversion then made the score 26-22 to Dundee.

☒ Three minutes later, with Dundee still on the back foot, Hanning added three points from an offside penalty award to make it a one point game at 26-25 with just over 15 minutes left on the clock.

Stew-Mel spent the rest of the rest of the match hammering away at the Dundee defence, but, aided and abetted by the home lineout woes the visitors held out and pushed back. As the clock slipped into overtime, Dundee were knocking on the door of the home try line. Rucking their way across the field they soon won a penalty and Leese stepped up to close out the match with a successful kick and the try bonus point win with a final score of 29-25. Stew-Mel, for their part, clawed their way back to, and stayed within, seven points to gain a losing bonus point at the end of a tough encounter at home.

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

**As Wellington was alleged to have said after victory at Waterloo.*

Handbag snatch in Prestonpans



Police in East Lothian are looking to trace a male in connection with a handbag snatch in Prestonpans which happened shortly after 9:30pm last Thursday when a 59-year-old woman was walking with two of her friends along Rope Walk heading in the direction of Summerlee.

As all three women approached Redburn Road North, the unknown man ran towards them from behind before grabbing the woman's handbag. He then made off along Rope Walk heading towards Inchview before being lost from view.

The woman was unharmed and raised the alarm with police moments afterwards.

Inquiries are now ongoing into this matter and anyone who witnessed the incident or who can help identify the male is asked to come forward.

The suspect is described as in his late teens or early 20's, has a medium build and is between 5ft 10ins and 6ft tall. He wore light coloured jeans and a dark coloured padded jacket with the hood up, which partially covered his face.

Detective Constable John Fortune who is based in Dalkeith and leading the inquiry said: "Although shaken the woman did not sustain any injury however such crimes are completely unacceptable and we are doing all we can to ensure the man responsible is swiftly arrested.

"Today, I'm urging anyone who has information relevant to our ongoing investigation to please make yourself known.

“In particular, I want to trace a male and female who were walking a dog near to Pennypit Sports Complex in Prestonpans who may have walked past the suspect shortly before the attack.”

Those with information are asked to contact police on 101 or alternatively the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Five things you need to know today



- **Writers Museum reopens**
- **Global Game Jam**
- **Deidre Brock MP**
- **Council Tax Reform**
- **Plan ahead for half term**



The Writers Museum is situated on Lady Stair's Close halfway up The Mound. It is a quaint little building with a tiny doorway and narrow stairs inside. Now it has many new attractions after a two month closure for refurbishment, including dedicated spaces for all three literary greats, Scott, Stevenson and Burns, and a lovely gift shop.

Councillor Richard Lewis, Culture Convener, said: “The dedicated exhibition room to Walter Scott will give a fascinating insight into his life and works, while the re-opening of the Museum in time for Burns Night will provide

visitors with the ideal way to mark the Bard's special day.

"The Writers' Museum celebrates some of Scotland's most revered writers and notable thinkers. Now it will be able to celebrate contemporary and budding writing talent too."

Gillian Findlay, Senior Curator for the Council's museums, added: "The display of Walter Scott's original writing desk has been made possible thanks to a generous lender who privately owns this wonderful artefact and the fabulous letters and notes it contains. We are very grateful to be able to display this material publicly for our reopening."

It will reopen to the public today.



Next weekend at Edinburgh Napier University's Merchiston Campus there will be lots of people who have had little sleep. There will be a 48-hour gaming marathon called Global Game Jam going on.

More than 50 people have already signed up for the event which is designed to attract those with game development skills.

The friendly competition will run from 5pm on Friday till 5pm on Sunday, at the same time as 632 others across the world, culminating in a final presentation on Sunday. Video games have to be completed during the weekend with computer code, art and other assets.

Organiser Sam Serrels said: "The Edinburgh Napier Global Game Jam is a crazy 48-hour weekend of games development.

"Programmers and artists of all backgrounds and capabilities are welcome to take part. It's an exciting opportunity to test your skills and learn from others in the industry.

"It is an intense event and some people do spend the entire 48 hour

Anyone who wants to take part should register on the jam website <http://globalgamejam.org/2016/jam-sites/edinburgh-napi-er-university> There is no entrance fee for the event, which is restricted to age 18+.



Deidre Brock is SNP MP for Edinburgh North and Leith.

Ms Brock posed this question to the Minister for Culture Media and Sport in [parliament](#) on 21 January: “How does the [Secretary of State](#) explain the worrying discrepancy between the amount raised via licence fees and the amount spent in Scotland? There is a mismatch between the £335 million in income for the BBC from Scotland and the £190 million spent there. Does he not agree that a fairer share of that income would boost our broadcasting sector and provide funding for the restructuring of [BBC Scotland](#)?”

The Minister, John Whittingdale MP replied: “Of course, viewers in Scotland, just as elsewhere in the United Kingdom, benefit from the national programming of the BBC. She will be aware that the director general recently gave evidence to the Scottish Education and Culture Committee, in which he pointed out that in 2014 £108 million was spent on local content and that that rose to more than £200 million when central support and distribution costs were included.”



This week we heard a lot of rhetoric about council tax reform. First of all Naomi Eisenstadt the independent adviser appointed by the Scottish Government to advise on how to tackle poverty, criticised the current system in her report. Secondly during the budget debates at the City Chambers a great deal of time was devoted to the fact that the local government funding system in Scotland is broken and requires

reform.

In this Holyrood election year, we have yet to hear from the candidates or the parties about their plans for such reform, except that local MSP and Minister for Local Government and Community Empowerment, Marco Biagi made an announcement about it on 21 January. Jean Urquhart an Independent MSP representing the Highlands and Islands asked The Minister for an update on the proposals issued by the local tax reform commission last month. The Minister said:

“The First Minister established the commission on local tax reform, jointly with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, to examine options for the future of local taxation. Before the end of the current parliamentary session, the Scottish Government will introduce plans for the reform of local tax, which will reflect the principles of the commission’s report.”

Ms Urquhart pressed the point by asking: *“Can the minister at least declare today that this will be the last year of the unfair and regressive council tax?”* and the Minister responded:

“The Scottish Government is very proud of the effect that the council tax freeze has had in mitigating the unfairness of the council tax. It is noticeable that a commission that included representatives from the Scottish National Party, Labour, the Lib Dems and the Greens—not a group that easily finds agreement—declared that the council tax is an unfair tax and that it hits those on low incomes the most. I would therefore express some caution to anybody who calls for a rapid end to the council tax freeze or the use of council tax when it has been observed by all those people to be an unfair way of raising revenue.”

Keep the family active and entertained during the half term holidays with a range of adrenaline pumping and entertaining activities at Edinburgh Leisure’s February Activator camps. Book for a day or a week and there’s even the opportunity for an early drop off and late pick up at no extra cost.


From sports, games, arts and crafts and much more, Edinburgh Leisure's fantastic multi-activity holiday camps are perfect for getting the kids active and giving you some peace of mind this holiday.

Aimed at P1-P7 aged children, the camps are running at four of Edinburgh Leisure's venues including [Drumbrae Leisure Centre](#), [Gracemount Leisure Centre](#), [Craiglockhart Leisure and Tennis Centre](#) and [the Royal Commonwealth Pool](#). Each camp is different and is led by experienced leaders and coaches who will ensure the children are safe and happy throughout.

There's also an [Aquatics Activity Camp](#) for older children aged 9-14 years who are confident swimming 25m in deep water being held at the Royal Commonwealth Pool.

Prices start from £35 per day/£140 per week. To book, contact the venue direct, either by email, telephone or in person. And there's an early bird discount of 20% for those booking by the end of January 2016.

Edinburgh Leisure will also be running Activator Camps during the Easter and summer holidays. For further information www.edinburghleisure.co.uk

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Hibernian 3-1 St Mirren



Hibs move for Anthony Stokes paid double dividends this afternoon with an extra 1249 supporters through the turnstiles compared to when the teams last met, as well as the decisive goal which secured a valuable three points that sees Alan Stubbs' men leapfrog Falkirk into second place in the Championship thanks to a 3-1 win over St Mirren at Easter Road.

Head Coach Alan Stubbs made four changes to the starting XI that drew 1-1 with Falkirk last weekend although not the one that everyone was expecting.

Skipper David Gray returned in place of Darren McGregor at right back, Liam Henderson took over from Dylan McGeouch who was injured, James Keatings made way for Marvin Bartley and Chris Dagnall started up front in place of Dominique Malonga,

New signing Stokes had to settle for a place on the bench following his loan move from Celtic.

St Mirren fielded former Hibs defender Keith Watson and 'old foe' Andy Webster. Ex midfielder Davie Farrell was in the away dugout as assistant manager to Alex Rae.

Hibs started brightly and took the lead in the 9th minute. Henderson was brought down 25 yards from goal and he spectacularly curled the resultant free kick into the top corner of the net.

Hibs then dominated possession although St Mirren looked dangerous on the break.

With half time approaching John McGinn doubled Hibs' lead after a superb flick by Henderson fell into his path. The former St Mirren favourite then beat two defenders before

firing the ball past Jamie Langfield.

In time added on, Bartley was harshly judged to have committed a foul just outside the area and Stevie Mallen fired the ball over the wall into the corner of the net to make the score 2-1.

The second half belonged to Hibs and Langfield produced several first class saves to deny Hanlon, Cummings and Dagnall.

In the 70th minute, Stokes replaced Dagnall and entered the field to a rousing reception. Within seconds he showed his undoubted skills to the fans by setting up Fraser Fyvie but the youngster was unable to capitalise.

As the 90 minutes approached the nerves of the supporters began to show however Stokes wrapped things up with a tap in after some good work by fellow substitute James Keatings and Lewis Stevenson.

Hibs: Oxley, Gray, Henderson, Hanlon, Fontaine, Bartley, Fyvie, Stevenson, McGinn, Dagnall, Cummings. Subs Reguero, Malonga, Boyle, Keatings, McGregor, Gunnarsson, Stokes.

St Mirren: Langfield, Kelly, Webster, Howieson, Mallan, Baird, Agnew, Watson, Gallagher, Shankland, Quinn. Subs: Wilks, McMullan, Gow, Thompson, Cuddihy, Stewart, McAllister

Referee Don Robertson

Attendance 10,160

Witness appeal following Greyfriars Kirkyard attack



Officers investigating a report of sexual assault within Greyfriars Kirkyard, Edinburgh, are today appealing to anyone who was in the vicinity to come forward.

Investigators want to speak to those who were in the area of Greyfriars Kirkyard and the Frankenstein bar on George IV Bridge, between 9:30pm and 10:30pm on Thursday 21st January.

A further appeal is being made for any members of the public who saw a male and female leaving the Kirkyard at around 10:30pm to make themselves known.

An extensive police inquiry is underway and officers are extremely keen to hear from patrons who may have witnessed an incident within the Frankenstein bar.

Detective Inspector Tom Carty of the Specialist Crime Division based in Gartcosh, said: "We're currently pursuing a number of lines of inquiry and as a result of this work, we've established that a group of males and females were within the bar prior to this attack.

"I want to hear from anyone who may have been in the premises on Thursday evening to contact police."

Anyone with information that can assist with this investigation is asked to contact police on 101 or the Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or speak to local officers.

Fire at Edinburgh Airport car park



Emergency services were called to the multi-storey car park at Edinburgh Airport at 12.50pm yesterday following reports of three cars on fire.

Four crews with a total of 18 firefighters attended the scene but the cause of the fire has not been established at this time.

No vehicles were allowed into the terminal or drop off point while fire crews tackle the blaze.

A spokeswoman for the Scottish fire and Rescue Service said: "On arrival, crews found three cars on fire producing large volumes of smoke. "Four firefighters in breathing apparatus were able to bring the fire under control with a high-pressure jet hose.

"Fire services remain at the airport and are making sure the fire is completely extinguished before they leave. Officers from the SFRS fire investigation unit are also at the scene."

An Airport spokesman said: "I can confirm that the fire in our multi-storey car park has been dealt with. "We are currently investigating the cause. We thank passengers for their patience and co-operation as we handled the situation."

Police investigate sexual assault in Greyfriars Kirkyard



An investigation is underway after a woman was sexually assaulted at Greyfriars Kirkyard, just off George IV Bridge on Thursday night.

Detective carried out a forensic examination of the area and witnesses are being sought.

A Police Scotland spokesman said: "We are currently investigating a report of sexual assault within Greyfriars Kirkyard during the evening of Thursday, January 21.

"Anyone with information that can assist with this ongoing investigation is asked to contact police on 101 or the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555111."

Increased council charges – what does it mean for you?



The Council has set out its plans as to how it will spend just under £1 billion of revenue next year. But it has deemed it necessary to put some charges up too from 1 April 2016, and while most of these have risen by around 4% there are a couple of exceptions.

Here are a selection of the charges which have been reviewed (upwards!). In light of reduced funding from central government the council is not only increasing its charges, but it is shedding 2000 jobs in its transformation programme to create a leaner, more agile corporation. Band D council tax will be set at £1,169 and the council expects to raise £238 million from that source in the next year.

The council put its draft budget out to consultation last September and received over 4,000 suggestions and comments from the public, some of which they listened to and reacted to by making changes in their budget calculations. For example school crossing patrols have been retained and there will be no reductions in community centre staffing. Increasing charges for council services seems inevitable each year, but the list itself shows how wide and varied the council's services are.

These are just some examples of what the council charges, but the full list of amended charges will be published on the council [website](#) within the next month.

The cost of one session for a pre-school child at Cowgate Under 5s Centre on the Royal Mile goes up by 4% from £24.30 to £25.30 and the cost of having school meals at primary school rises to £2.05 from £1.95.

The entrance fee to the Nelson Monument and Scott Monument has been increased by 25% to £5.00.

Half day hire of Assembly Rooms Music Hall has gone up from £955 to £985.

Getting rid of your wasp infestation will now cost £59.00 increased from £56.46, while dealing with rats and mice will now cost you £80.00 not £76.32. Bed bugs however are a more costly exercise at £109.00 (£104.55), presumably as they are harder to see?

The burial fee which the council charge has increased to

£1051.00 from £1010.65, although if you need to dig the grave up again the cost is much higher at £3364.00 (£3234.90) and, for some reason known to HMRC, an exhumation fee has VAT added to it.

The cost of cremation at the city's crematoria has been increased from £679.58 to £708.00.

At the Central Library the cost of attending an Edinburgh Reads Event will increase from £4.30 to £4.50 for non-Library members, and if you want to hire a room at the Reference Library the cost is £162.00 rather than £155.00.

The cost of obtaining a licence for various activities has risen; for animal boarding the fee is now £309 (£297) but the cost of obtaining a public entertainment licence for an audience of more than 15,000 is now increased by 4% to £12,480 (£12,000).

If you own a flat or house let out to 3 people or more then you need to have a certificate of Housing in Multiple Occupation (HMO) and this has risen in the highest category to £627 from £602.

If you plan to be married in a Registrar's office then the cost goes up to £225 (£215) which is cheaper than the £330 charged on Saturdays (currently £315).

The cost of renting an allotment has increased to £104.00 strictly in line with the 4% rise although if you need the council to come and cut your grass for you the cost is yet to be confirmed. Currently it costs £80 per year to have your lawn up to 100 square metres tended by the council's gardens department.

If you are having a spring clean then it will cost you £1 more to have your bulky items uplifted by the council after April and if you have to pay for trade waste then the cost goes up to £152 per tonne from £146.50.

The cost of renting a guest room at a sheltered housing complex is increased to £11.30 (£10.87).

Parking charges are usually contentious. There are some who feel that the city centre should be free of cars to eliminate as much pollution from our streets as possible, while others consider it their right.

For those who have to come into the city with their own four wheels the parking charges on George Street, St Andrew Square, Charlotte Square, Queen Street, Market Street and Cockburn Street will increase from £3.50 per hour to £3.60 but the charges in Stafford Street, Melville Street, Morrison Street, Shandwick Place and the Old Town rise by 15% to £3.00 per hour from £2.60.

In Bruntsfield, Sciennes, St Leonard's, Dumbiedykes, Stockbridge and Dean the parking charges are rising from £1.60 per hour to £2.00. If you park within the Extended Controlled Zone then the charge rises by 50% from £1.20 to £1.80 per hour. This measure appears sure to ingather some more cash, but would also appear to have an environmental edge to it.

If you have a resident's permit then the charge increases more if you only buy a three month permit. For example if you live in the Central Zone 1-4 and buy a three month permit then it will cost you 20% more at £92.00 (£77) but if you buy a 12 month permit then the cost increases to £235.00 from £224.40.

The reason is simple. The council want you to more online and they want to have fewer interactions with you about your parking permit or anything else that you can pay on a computer.

If you need to use the public loo in the bus station then you will need a further 10p when the charge increases from 30p to 40p. The council considered earlier in the year closing some public toilets in the city to save £300,000, and as a result conveniences were closed at

- Ardmillan;
- Canaan Lane;
- Canonmills;
- Currie;
- Granton Square;
- Joppa;
- Juniper Green;
- London Road;
- St John's Road
- Tollcross

The council is still considering the closure of facilities at Middle Meadow Walk and Hawes Pier. There is a list of publicly available toilets [here](#).

Five things you need to know today



Community Council meeting

Run for Barnardo's Scotland

First Fringe tickets go on sale

Friends of Starbank Park

Edinburgh's Hogmanay survey



Portobello Community Council meets on Monday evening – 25

January – in Portobello Baptist Church Hall at 7.30pm.
Everybody is welcome.



Missed the boat for the Virgin Money London Marathon this year? Never fear, there is still a chance for you to take part in the run of a lifetime by running the Edinburgh Marathon for Barnardo's Scotland!

On Sunday 29th May, an estimated 30,000 runners will take to the streets of Edinburgh egged on by thousands of cheering spectators.

Johnny Wells from Edinburgh, who has previously taken part on the challenge, said: "I wanted to mark getting older by doing something that would challenge me and so I could check I still had it, whatever it is.

"Although at times it was hard to arrange the training schedule around my other commitments, I look back with fond memories on my training runs, being outside, discovering new parts of Edinburgh and many awe-inspiring views I wouldn't have seen otherwise.

"On the day, I had lots of self-doubt at the start but just went at a steady pace, high fiving every child with their hand out and accepting many jelly babies from spectators. Come the end, I was still going strong and managed a sprint to finish off a great day out supporting Barnardo's Scotland."

If you would like to take up one of the places or are already running for Barnardo's Scotland, contact Jordyn on 0131 446 7021 or jordyn.armstrong@barnardos.org.uk or visit www.barnardos.org.uk/edinburghmarathon. All runners will receive a running vest and sponsorship pack on registration with Barnardo's Scotland. Registration must take place before 4th May.



The first Edinburgh Festival Fringe tickets go on sale on 28 January so get yourselves ready now and click [here](#) for more information. If you'd like a programme delivered straight to your door, [pre-order one online](#) and the nice people at the Fringe Office will send one to you the moment it launches.



The Friends of Starbank Park have begun a crowdfunding campaign to create a Hans Christian Andersen inspired nature trail. More news [here](#) – but they are already halfway to their target so a little from you will go a long way!

Edinburgh's Hogmanay have a survey running on their website and you could win a unique experience for next year if you take part.

The prize is pretty good (even if you live in Edinburgh!) Click [here](#) for the survey


COMPLETE EDINBURGH'S HOGMANAY FESTIVAL SURVEY AND YOU COULD WIN:

1st PRIZE – 2 x Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2016/17 VIP Passes plus 3 night accommodation at a fantastic one bedroom apartment courtesy of [Destination Edinburgh Apartments](#)

2nd PRIZE – 2 x Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2016/17 – Concert in the Gardens Enclosure Tickets


RUNNERS-UP PRIZE – 4 x Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2016/17 Street Party Tickets



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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.

Edinburgh Mountain Film Festival 2016

 We are well used to festivals in the city but this one takes you to the mountains whether for beauty or adventure. The whole event takes place in one weekend at the beginning of February. Tickets [here](#).

Why do people go to the mountains? You'll find many different answers at the 13th Edinburgh Mountain Film Festival, which runs Saturday 6 – Sunday 7 February. For some, they go to explore, venture somewhere new and really off the beaten path. For others, years of training can pay dividends when they complete a challenging rock climb or ski descent. And then there are the daredevils, who need the buzz of pushing the limits to keep them sane. All such characters feature at this year's EMFF, which promises to be a cracker.

The two-day festival is being staged, as always, at George Square Lecture Theatre in Edinburgh. Tickets for the popular festival start at £6 and are on sale now at www.emff.co.uk with the organisers reporting that tickets are already selling fast.

The casts of the various movies read like a Who's Who of the adventure world: climbers Alex Honnold and Tommy Caldwell, the

late extreme adventurer Dean Potter, leading mountain biker Brandon Semenuk. Then there are the unknowns: a team of 'balloon-skiing' pioneers, 91 year-old former mountain guide Gwen Moffat, and a skier who goes only by the name of Snowflake. Local heroes are well-represented too, with top climber Natalie Berry, Inverness-based extreme skier Peter MacKenzie and a team of paraclimbers who take on the Eiger. As ever, the film line up promises to entertain, enlighten and inspire.

The guest speakers at the EMFF show as much diversity as the films. Top Scottish climber Dave MacLeod, with a string of world-firsts behind him is the perfect example of devotion paying dividends. Photographer and alpinist Jon Griffith shows similar dedication that has allowed him to capture some truly stunning images. Andy Kirkpatrick's years in the mountains are quite contrasting, with his adventurous spirit and apparent love of suffering resulting in some quite incredible tales. Meanwhile, top Scottish mountain biker Lee Craigie, a former British Champion and Commonwealth Games athlete is going full circle to rediscover adventure having spent years training for events.

New for the 2016 festival is a Sunday morning film show which has been designated family-friendly. Stevie Christie, Festival Director, explains:

"We have 6 fantastic adventure films to screen at this 90 minute session. It's definitely not just for kids as the films are awesome and you won't want to miss them. But we've selected these films for this session because there are no adult-themes or swearing in the films, making them suitable for all to enjoy."

"Whether you are a committed outdoor enthusiast or more of an armchair fan, or if you simply enjoy hearing enthralling stories set against incredibly beautiful scenery, there is something for you at the EMFF. And if you wish you could have

adventures like the ones you see but can't find the time in your life, we even have a short film which tells you the solution!"

The festival, staged in association with Tiso, Mountain Equipment, Gore, Coors Light and Wilderness Scotland, expects big numbers from the climbing, snowsports, kayaking, adventure sports, outdoor photography and filmmaking communities; as well as those who love the outdoors, travel and mountain adventure, from all over the UK to attend the event. From its humble beginnings in 2003, it's grown to be one of the most popular and dynamic events in Scotland's outdoor adventure calendar, attracting in excess of 2,000 outdoor enthusiasts annually.

For full details of the festival and how to buy tickets go to: www.emff.co.uk

Scottish Policing Excellence Awards held today



A police sergeant who tackled New Psychoactive Substances in the community and a Special Constable from one of the country's most rural beats have been honoured in an awards ceremony recognising the work of officers and staff across Scotland.

They were amongst the winners at the inaugural Scottish Policing Excellence Awards held today at the Police Scotland College at Tulliallan.

The Awards have been designed in partnership with the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) to recognise and reward excellence and innovation in policing. The Awards have been sponsored by Police Mutual.

Also among those receiving awards were:

- The Police Scotland Youth Volunteers who have deployed to more than 200 events country-wide
- An Inverness-based staff member whose interventions work helps combat bogus caller crime
- A community policing team from Lanarkshire whose work achieved a reduction in the sale of alcohol to under-age drinkers.

The event showcased the commitment, inspirational work and innovative projects under way across Police Scotland.

Chief Constable Phil Gormley, Justice Secretary Michael Matheson, SPA Chair Andrew Flanagan and Police Mutual Finance Director Ian Cordwell presented the winners with their awards.

The Chief Constable said: "It was an honour and privilege to meet both the winners and nominees today. The sheer breadth and scope of work being undertaken by officers and staff across Scotland, around the clock, with one focus – the safety of our communities – is truly inspiring.

"The officers and staff should be proud of their efforts – and the public should take pride in the work of the police service in their communities. These awards are in recognition of the tremendous dedication and contribution to public service from our officers, our staff and our volunteers."

The awards were open to all police officers and members of staff of any rank or grade. Nominees were put forward by colleagues and peers as a reflection of their hard work, commitment and efforts in promoting the ethos and values of

Police Scotland. Each category was whittled down to a three person shortlist, with all the finalists invited to today's ceremony.

Mr Matheson said: "Today's ceremony highlights the hugely important impact Police Scotland staff have on not only protecting Scotland's communities, but making them better places to live. Their efforts in going above and beyond the call of duty are not always publicised, but they are always appreciated, and I commend all of the nominees and recipients involved in today's ceremony."

Mr Flanagan said: "The most valuable asset in Scottish policing is, without a doubt, its people. Police Scotland and the SPA have a highly motivated and committed workforce. We are in no doubt that the loyalty and flexibility shown by our officers and staff in the last three years has been the biggest contributor to the continuing quality of service delivered to our communities.

"The Scottish Policing Excellence Awards is an opportunity to acknowledge and reward outstanding work that our officers and staff are delivering across Scotland to keep people safe and strengthen our communities. It also allows us to celebrate and share the most innovative pieces of work that are having a positive impact on how we deliver policing in a world of ever-changing challenges."

Sergeant Neil Wilson wins Police Officer of the Year

Police Officer of the Year is Sergeant Neil Wilson of E Division (Edinburgh), who has made a sterling contribution to tackling the sale and impact of New Psychoactive Substances, or so-called Legal Highs.

His results include securing the first forfeiture order in Scotland for NPS, reducing the availability of these harmful

products. Sgt Wilson's efforts have also contributed to the granting of a Temporary Drugs Class Order for methylphenidate.

Six years in prison for man found with 3kg of heroin on M74



A man found in possession of a large quantity of heroin has been convicted and jailed for drug offences.

At the High Court in Livingston today, Mark Hutchison was found guilty of being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs after 3kg of heroin was recovered from his car in 2014.

During an ongoing operation to target drug dealing, officers stopped Hutchison's vehicle on the northbound carriageway of the M74 near Junction 19 on 11th April where the Class A substances were found.

Further inquiry also linked the 35-year-old to 500g of heroin, which was recovered in Whitburn on the 2nd April 2014.

Hutchison was sentenced to six-years in prison.

Detective Inspector Graeme Naysmith from the Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism Unit said: "The recovery of such a significant amount of heroin from Mark Hutchison highlighted his role in the distribution of harmful drugs into our communities.

"We have no doubt that Hutchison was deeply involved in

organised criminal activity and as a result of extensive surveillance and intelligence-gathering by the OCCTU, he was detained, charged and subsequently convicted for his crimes.

“Police Scotland continues to target serious and organised crime offenders as one of its top priorities and those responsible for crimes of this nature should be left in no doubt that we are using all resources at our disposal and working alongside our communities and relevant partners to bring you to justice.

“I would urge anyone with information relating to ongoing crime in their area to contact us on 101 or alternatively make an anonymous report to the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.”

Hibs sign Kevin Thomson for the third time



Hibernian have confirmed the signing of Kevin Thomson on a deal until the end of the season.

The 31-year-old midfielder former Scotland internationalist becomes Hibs' second signing of the week following the capture of striker Anthony Stokes on Tuesday.

This is Thomson's third spell at the Club, having started his career at Easter Road and returning between 2013 and 2014, and he will combine his playing duties with coaching the development squads under Eddie May.

Head Coach Alan Stubbs said: “We're very happy to have Kevin

join the squad.

“Both Kevin and Anthony have won league and cup medals, and that experience will be important in the run in.

“He’ll also be a strong addition to Eddie’s coaching staff – I’m sure the kids coming through will pick up a lot from Kevin.

“I’ve got to thank the supporters, as well as the board, for their backing – there’s a very positive feeling about the place just now and we’re doing everything we can to get back to the Premiership.

“The supporters have a lot to be excited about, and hopefully they can show their support in numbers at Easter Road on Saturday and for the remainder of the season.”

Thomson goes into the squad for tomorrow’s match with St Mirren, wearing the number 30 jersey.

Photo by John Preece

COMPETITION – Win tickets for Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour



The Edinburgh Reporter is delighted to announce a competition run in partnership with Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour 2016.

The films are coming to Edinburgh next weekend and you could

be there. There is a wide collection of the newest and best films from the mountain culture and sports community.

350 films were entered into the festival which enjoyed its 40th anniversary last year in the Canadian Rockies. The Banff Tour will be a good time for those of you who are passionate about the outdoors or perhaps in need of some inspiration for your next outing.

The tickets we have on offer are two pairs – one for a matinee and one pair for an evening performance. And just to confirm you will not be going on the world tour – the films are coming to you! **Answer this question by 12 noon on Thursday 28 January 2016**

Error: Contact form not found.

There are 13 films in the tour and the selection includes:



ECLIPSE, 31 mins Best Film – Snow Sports

The odds are low, the risks are high – photographer Reuben Krabbe is determined to capture an impossible photo of a skier in front of the 2015 solar eclipse in Svalbard. Up in the high arctic though, the weather is bad, the guide is sketchy, the pressure is massive, and the skiers just want to ski.

OPERATION MOFFAT, 20 mins Special Jury Mention

Operation Moffat takes inspiration and wit from the colorful climbing life of Britain's first female mountain guide Gwen Moffat. Writer Claire Carter and filmmaker Jen Randall scramble, swim and barefoot climb through Gwen's landscapes, grappling with her preference for mountains over people, adventure over security and wilderness over tick lists.

A LINE ACROSS THE SKY, 40 mins Best Film – Climbing

The Fitz Roy traverse is one of the most sought after achievements in modern alpinism. Long considered impossible, coveted by many and attempted by a few, the Fitz Traverse has fueled the imaginations of climbers in Patagonia for decades. Tracing the iconic skyline of Cerro Fitz Roy and its six satellite peaks, it spans four miles and 13,000 feet across snow and ice-covered rock. Seizing their chance during a rare extended weather window, Tommy Caldwell and Alex Honnold went big. The pair completed the first ascent in a five-day push, earning them the prestigious Piolet d'Or award.

UNBRANDED, 43mins People's Choice Award

Four young Texas horseman hatch an outrageous plan to adopt, train and ride a string of wild horses 3,000 miles from the Mexican border to Canada through some of the American West's wildest terrain. Their aim is to prove the worth of wild horses and raise awareness about their plight. What ensues is an epic journey of self-discovery, danger, friendship and big landscapes that entails runaway horses, perilous mountain passes, debilitating injuries, and one sassy donkey.

[Tickets and more details here.](#)

Belmont Group named as new sponsor of Hibs' match programme, #GGTTH



Belmont Group have been named as the new as sponsors of the Hibs' match programme, #GGTTH, beginning this Saturday.

With a history stretching back to 1960, Belmont Group have grown into becoming a leading car dealership in Edinburgh, the Borders and East Central Scotland.

Duncan Cunningham, Operations Director at Belmont Group said of the sponsorship: "We are incredibly delighted to be committing to sponsoring the Hibernian match programme, #GGTTH. We used to be involved in sponsorship at the club and are pleased to be back.

"We plan to use the programme as an avenue to give special prizes to the Hibernian supporters. In the future we look forward to a healthy partnership with Hibernian and the supporters, building on our previous ties with the club."

#GGTTH is back this Saturday and it is brimming with content yet again, with Mark Oxley as the cover star of Issue 16.

Writers' Museum reopens this weekend



The Writers' Museum will be open again this weekend following refurbishment.

The museum on Lady Stair's Close has rare works and artefacts which highlight three Scottish writers Burns, Scott and Stevenson. It will be open again just in time for the annual celebration of Robbie Burns' birthday after a two month closure.

Visitors will once again be able to see the city's rare collection of portraits, first edition books and writers'

personal belongings including Robert Burns' writing desk, the printing press on which Scott's Waverley Novels were first produced, and Scott's own dining table and rocking horse.

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

The refurbished Museum will also feature Sir Walter Scott material which until now has never been seen on public display and a new, temporary exhibition and events space which is expected to shine a light for the first time on contemporary writing in the Museum.

The flexible space can accommodate performances, meetings and is available for hire. It is a writing hub within the city's 'Literature Quarter' comprising the Scottish Poetry Library, Scottish Storytelling Centre, Scottish Book Trust (national agency for readership development), Canongate Books, the Makars' Court (commemorating Scottish writers and poets) and the National Library of Scotland.

Letter from Scotland



"The best laid
schemes o' mice
an' men...."

This weekend we Burns fans are given over to "eating haggis and cranachan, toasting the lassies, dancing the Dashing White Sergeant and cavorting," as the poster advertising my Burns Night puts it. It's a tradition which seems to be growing and it offers not just a night of fun in the depths of winter but a night of reflection too.

“Oh would some power the giftie gie us, to see oursels as ithers see us.”

If Burns himself were to visit us this weekend he would be amazed at our wealth, our urbanisation, our mechanisation, our communications, our poncy pronunciation, our irreverence, our size and our skimpy clothing. I picture him as a curmudgeonly figure, a mixture of Alastair Gray and Billy Connolly, but handsome like John Cairney. He would be appalled at our decline from the nation that led the industrial and scientific revolutions of the 18th century. And he would be angered by our continued inequality.

A report out this week from Oxfam says that the top one per cent of the world's population own more than the rest put together. Just 62 individuals own half the world's wealth (all but nine of them are men.) So much for the proposition that “all men are created equal”. The latest figures for Scotland show that 14 per cent of the population are living in poverty, half of them in working households.

The Scottish Government was rather taken aback when its own poverty advisor, Oxford economist Naomi Eisenstadt, submitted a [report](#) this week saying the council tax freeze should be ended, since it was benefiting the rich rather than the poor.

She also called for more progress on social housing and the introduction of the “living wage” of £8.25 an hour. Scotland's 32 local councils are proving reluctant to accept the freeze and the government has had to postpone its deadline for funding settlements.

This week's employment figures look good on the surface, with a record 2.6 million Scots in work, but a third of them are only in part-time work and around 5 per cent are on the minimum wage of £6.70 an hour. There have been warnings too that the economic outlook is grim, warnings from the Chancellor, the Governor of the Bank of England and the

Federation of Small Businesses in Scotland. We are being forced to come to terms with a slow-down in the world economy and a curious fall in the price of our North Sea oil.

It's been a week of slightly nervous talk of the impending referendum on membership of the European Union. David Cameron is sending mixed signals on his hopes to make a breakthrough next month on his "renegotiation" with Europe and there's speculation the referendum could follow as soon as June this year.

Nicola Sturgeon urged him to wait till the autumn or later to give him time to convince the sceptical British public that we should stay in the EU. Perhaps too she doesn't want the referendum campaign to interfere with her triumphant march towards what might be another overwhelming SNP victory in the Scottish elections on May 5th. But the Tory's Scottish Secretary David Mundell was having none of this. He was the first cabinet minister to break ranks to hint at a June vote. The Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond, on a visit to Edinburgh, followed suit.

So another R-Day approaches. The opinion polls show that the "Leave" and "Remain" campaigns are running neck and neck in England but around 60 per cent of Scots want to stay in the EU. I've always thought referendums are dangerous things. You never know what might happen.

Ross Finnie was familiar to us as the steady-as-we-go Agriculture Minister during the foot-and-mouth cattle crisis in 2007. They called him Captain Mainwaring. He's now the chairman of the Food Standards Agency and his gravelly voice could be heard this week warning us about consuming too much sugar. Apparently we eat and drink more sugar per stomach here in Scotland than in any other country in Europe and of course it's bad for our health, and our health service. The experts say we are facing adult obesity levels of 40 per cent in twenty years time if we don't stop our children consuming so

much sugar. He's calling for some sort of sugar tax, unless the food and drink industries take measures to reduce the sugar in their products.

On Monday MPs debated a petition to ban billionaire US presidential hopeful Donald Trump from entering Britain because of his call to ban all Muslims from entering the United States. There was no actual vote, though most MPs spoke against Mr Trump but also against a ban. The SNP were divided, Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh was in favour of banning The Donald, but Corrie Wilson said it would be catastrophic for Turnberry in her constituency since Mr Trump might withdraw his multi-million investment in the resort.

I suggest Mr Trump should spend his money on a space journey to the outer reaches of the Solar System to investigate the wind-power potential on Planet Nine, the huge and mysterious new planet "discovered" by scientists from the University of California. But no doubt his new supporter, former Alaska governor Sarah Palin, will persuade him to moderate his ambitions and his language.

And speaking of Alaska, I wonder if Ms Palin would like to compete in this weekend's Sled Dog races in the forests around Aviemore. They've been held there for over 30 years, snow or no snow. This year 250 "mushers" and a thousand dogs are expected to take part.

In all, it's a crazy world. As Burns says at the end of his Tale of Twa Dogs – a discussion between two friendly dogs from very different backgrounds on the foibles of their masters, high and low:

"Up they got and shook their lugs

Rejoycin' they were nae men but dugs."

Police hunt three youths following attempted robbery in Meadows



Police are appealing for witnesses following an attempted robbery in the Meadows which took place around 4pm on Monday in north Meadow Walk, at its junction with Meadow Lane.

While walking along, the 20-year-old female victim noticed three males on the path, close to a path that leads to Buccleuch Place.

As she approached North Meadow Walk's junction with Meadow Lane, one of the men repeatedly asked her for money and threatened he had a knife.

The three suspects then made off towards Hope Park Crescent.

The first male is described as around 15 or 16-years-old, 5ft 1in, wearing a grey zipper and dark trousers, and had his top pulled up over his face.

The second male is described as around 15 or 16-years-old, 5ft 2in, wearing dark clothing with his hair and face covered.

The third male is also described as around 15 or 16-years-old, 5ft 7in, and also wearing dark clothing with his hair and face covered.

Detective Constable Kevin Walls, of Craigmiller Police Station, said: "This incident happened in daylight, so it's possible that someone would've noticed the group of males

standing together.

“At the time of the incident, a jogger ran nearby which caused the suspects to back off slightly, so we’re also appealing to that person who might have some information.

“The woman refused to give the suspects any money, but it was still a frightening experience.”

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

Loretto sweep the boards at Glenshee

The Loretto Junior School ski team triumphed at the recent IAPS (The Independent Association of Preparatory Schools) Scottish Preparatory Schools Ski Championship in Glenshee, returning with an impressive medal haul of two 1st places and one 2nd place.



Under 13 category

Pete Caughey – 1st place

Open Team event

Loretto 1 (Lucy McNutt, Molly Paton, Pete Caughey and Glen Crawford) – 1st place (The Mark Reynolds Cup*)

Under 11 category

Glen Crawford – 2nd place



Glen Crawford

(*The Mark Reynolds Cup has been challenged since 1991 and this is the first time Loretto has won.)

Jonathan Hewat, Director of Communications at Loretto School, said, “ “This is a wonderful achievement by all the pupils who skied superbly against some stiff opposition. Our congratulations to all the pupils and many thanks to all the helpers and organisers.”

Buckstone Roofing announced as official sponsors Sunshine the Leith Lynx.



Hibs have announced that Buckstone Roofing are the new official sponsors of club mascot, Sunshine the Leith Lynx.

Buckstone Roofing was founded in 1989, and since then have gone on to be one of Scotland's leading roofers and are an established name in the roofing and building trade.

The company used to have advertising and sponsorship at Easter Road Stadium, and they are pleased to be back in a sponsorship capacity.

Steven Cockburn, Director of Buckstone Roofing said: “We are pleased to be bringing Buckstone Roofing back to Easter Road, having previously taken out advertising space at the stadium, and bringing it back recently.

“On top of this, we are also delighted to be sponsoring Sunshine the Leith Lynx – an incredibly loved mascot. We are looking forward to this venture and reconnecting with the Hibernian support in an effective way.”

Sunshine will be at Easter Road for this Saturday’s match against St Mirren, so all the young Hibernian supporters should watch out if they want a photo with Sunshine.

Support the new nature trail at Starbank Park



A very local crowdfunding effort has begun to raise funds for a children’s nature trail, and it is already halfway to its target.

The Friends of Starbank Park plan to create a Hans Christian Anderson inspired trail featuring statues of some of his most well-loved characters, including the Little Mermaid, the Ugly Duckling, Thumbelina and the Snow Queen. Each story will have its own area beside the path, with log seats for children and insect friendly flowers and bushes.

The educational trail was inspired not only by the tales of Hans Christian Anderson but also by his connection to the area. He may well have walked within the park as he was known to have lodged nearby at 73 East Trinity Road in 1847.

Alastair Roberstson, Friends of Starbank Park Chair said: *“The children’s nature trail will be a great way for them to learn while they’re having fun in the park and discovering the*

wonderfully imaginative tales of Hans Christian Anderson."

The group has already raised more than half of their £5,200 target and are now calling out for your help with donations to the crowdfund to take the amount raised up to the 100% mark.

Ian Goodman, Project Manager said: *"The Children's Trail is an inspired project which will benefit children and visitors for Edinburgh and beyond. This is why MyParkScotland is here – to help local park projects developed by Friends of Parks and other groups reach out to the wider public to raise funds through safe and easy online donations. Your donation, no matter how large or small will help bring this project to life."*

To donate to the project visit <http://www.mypark.scot/projects/childrens-nature-trail>

The Childrens Nature Trail is just one of a number of park projects in Edinburgh currently seeking funding through the MyParkScotand site, others include:

- Pensioners' Playground, Inverleith Park – why should kids have all the fun! This project will install outdoor gym equipment specifically designed for more mature adults
<http://www.mypark.scot/projects/pensioners-playground/>
- Newhaven Community Garden – drawing on the sea-faring heritage of Newhaven village, this project will create a small community garden under the Armada Stone on Newhaven Main Street
<http://www.mypark.scot/projects/newhaven-community-garden/>

Edinburgh Councillor blogs – Maureen Child

✘ Councillor Maureen Child represents the Portobello/Craigmillar Ward in the city. Here is her weekly round-up of news from the area.

Dear All

*I warmly welcome the imminent return of local charity **Caring in Craigmillar (CiC)** to their original home in the University Settlement Building at 63 Niddrie Mains Terrace, as announced at their AGM and in their excellent 2015 Annual Report.*

Among other things, CiC provides day care for vulnerable people with increasingly greater needs, a vital Phonelink service for housebound elderly people and is set to expand its services even further in partnership with other care organisations in the City. And the wider Craigmillar community will be able to share the space, once again, in a fair and properly managed way.

A Council officer's report to the Council's Finance and Resources has twice been on their Agenda – in December 2015 and January 2016 – but the Report recommending the lease was unfortunately 'continued', at the very last minute, causing stress and anxiety for all at Caring in Craigmillar and those who depend upon those vital services. CiC must quit their current premises by 31st March 2016 and need to have Care Commission approval of improvements to their new premises before the move can take place. I am assured that the formal decision to let the ground floor of 63 Niddrie Mains Terrace

to Caring in Craigmillar will be taken at the next F&R Committee on 2nd February. Not a minute too soon!

A new initiative is starting in Portobello Library next week. **Sporting Memories Network** run reminiscence groups based on sport in many parts of central Scotland, attempting to alleviate dementia, depression and loneliness in communities. Their **latest group meets this Monday January 25 in Portobello Library** from 2pm until 4pm. Everybody of retirement age are welcome and attendance is free. More here: <http://sportingmemoriesnetwork.com/>

Brunstane Primary School are asking everybody what experiences they think children should have before they leave primary school. Everyone can take part. They are conducting a survey surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3CK3ZHD called the **Brunstane Bucket List**. Please use the link to respond.

It's Saturday 14 May for **You Decide!** event, not the 12 May as I mistakenly typed last week! But that allows me to say how delighted I was to be copied in to the **Portobello Toddlers Hut** report on how they spent the money the community awarded them through You Decide! last year, complete with lovely photographs. Everybody get thinking caps on for this year! A little money can help people make a big difference. Wondering what this is all about? Link to the PB Network website – <http://pbnetwork.org.uk/> Scottish Government website for PB – <http://www.communityscot.org.uk/features/participatory-budgeting/>

Portobello Community Council meets again on Monday evening – 25 January – in Portobello Baptist Church Hall at 7.30pm. Everybody is welcome.

The final decision on **Brighton Place resurfacing** is for black-top asphalt not setts. There was no 'U-turn'. It was for Councillors on the Transport and Environment Committee to decide and they came under a great deal of pressure before Committee – including a front page in the Evening News – to support a cheaper, quicker option, contrary to Council planning and transportation policy on designing streets. Portobello people may have 'voted' in the consultation for the cheaper option thinking that the money saved (perhaps £800,000) will be spent on Portobello streets and pavements. I have to say, that is unlikely. We will have to use more persuasive powers with transport officers and Councillors at and before the next Committee in March. By the way, I am still not clear whether it is to be a skim over the top with asphalt or carriageway reconstruction that the Committee decided upon. No doubt all will become clear in due course.

Every Sunday **Bridgend Inspiring Growth (BIG)** hold open drop-ins that are open to all to attend. They are a chance to get involved with the renovation project, learn new skills, meet some wonderful people and share a delicious lunch. More here: <http://www.bridgendfarmhouse.org.uk/sunday-drop-in.html>

John Connor and Guests are in Concert again at our very own **White House Kitchen**, 70 Niddrie Mains Road on Friday 29 January 7pm. Tickets £5. See here: <http://chronicleonline.net/2016/01/15/the-white-house-presents/> I love going there for lunch or coffee and always find someone to chat to.

Here's a lovely wee video from Edible Estates, **building a growing community In Magdalene**. I visited on their open day last year and loved it: <https://www.facebook.com/ediblemagdalene/posts/775671695898562> Thanks to the Community Alliance Trust (CAT) in Craigmillar who secured a £150,000 grant from Scottish Government to get it going.

Domestic abuse can happen to anyone, regardless of gender or sexual orientation. Find out more from the CAB website: bit.ly/1UUve59

If you want to know what's going on at **Tribe Porty**, subscribe to their newsletter: <http://tribeporty.org/subscribe-to-our-newsletter/#sthash.fFm6Ekfc.1fHF5Gce.dpbs>

There is an information event about the plans for **Craigmillar Town Square** and public spaces on Thursday 28 January. Details here: <https://mobile.twitter.com/TheEDIGroup/status/689830673037815813/photo/1>

You have a chance to **win a free Ridacard** giving unlimited travel for a year on Lothian Buses and Edinburgh Tram: <http://edinburghtrams.com/news/WIN-a-years-Ridacard>

Crowds at **Portobello Outdoor Pool in 1955**: Remember this? <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1039784262745923>

Portobello Timebank invite members and interested parties come along, find out how to use the website, and meet Timebank members. They will show you how to log a request, post an offer, record your transactions and give feedback. This will give you the tools to start exchanging between your neighbours and get jobs done. Their meetings will usually fall on the second Thursday of the month, in the Dalriada at 7:30pm, meetings will be confirmed on the facebook site and via email to all members. All Portobello Timebank latest news here: <http://www.hourworld.org/bank/?hw=1201>

Create a World Festival Society for a day! “We can either react in fear or anger to the state of our world thus becoming part of the problem or respond creatively and become part of the solution.” You are invited to be part of a global celebration on 17 February 2016. To get involved, just be a little creative about an issue that you believe promotes “Caring and Sharing”. Song, dance, theatre, draw, paint, write, make, poem, photograph, lecture, walk, tour, talk, art class anyway that you feel you can be creative! See more here: <http://worldcommunityartsday.com/2015/07/16/invitation-9th-world-community-arts-day/>

Whatever you do, enjoy your weekend.

Best wishes

Maureen

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GameChanger commences this Saturday at Easter Road



GameChanger commences this Saturday at Easter Road as Hibs begin their partnership with Living it Up, the online service to help people get more out of life.

Starting at the St Mirren game, the Living it Up team will be in the upper concourse in the West Stand and will be on hand to discuss www.livingitup.org.uk, the digital service with ideas and tools to help people over the age of 50 to be happier, healthier and safer.

If you want to get your blood pressure checked or your body mass index measured, the qualified Living it Up NHS team will have two health check pop ups in the upper West Stand concourse and will be able to conduct these simple checks and give you good suggestions to help you stay match fit in your everyday life.

If you don't fancy getting your match health check this Saturday, www.livingitup.org.uk provides information on local services, products and activities to support and enrich health, wellbeing and personal interests.

There are four strands to Living it Up. People can:

Discover...what groups, events and social activities are available locally.

Connect...with the community, with relatives overseas and with local groups.

Flourish...by using information and advice from trusted sources to help lead a healthier life. Those with long-term health conditions (and their carers) can share information and experiences.

Shine...by trying inspirational opportunities on your doorstep to make more of your talents!

GameChanger, the public social partnership led by Hibernian Football Club, the Hibernian Community Foundation and NHS Lothian, is aimed at using the power of football to help tackle inequalities and promote social justice.

Looking after your health is very important and through GameChanger we are delighted to bring this fantastic partnership with Living it Up to our home matches for the rest of this season

Scottish Poetry Library are looking for a new Director



Could this be the opportunity you are looking for? You would have a lovely new office in the building which was refurbished only last year. Details below.

The Scottish Poetry Library is seeking an inspiring,

energetic person to lead this ambitious organisation. The right candidate will be able to communicate a passion for poetry; maintain a harmonious and creative working environment for the staff; and develop the Library's ethos of openness and accessibility while maintaining high standards of delivery.

The financial context for the arts is challenging and the SPL will require someone with strong fundraising and financial management skills as well as a compelling vision.

Salary: £35k, negotiable for an exceptional candidate, plus pension.

Start date: mid-May 2016

<http://www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk/about/jobs-opportunities>

Five things you need to know today



Edinburgh Council sets 2016/17 budget

Competition – Culinary Masterclass

Lord Darling of Roulanish makes his maiden speech

Fire Service CPR sessions

Very dear haggis!

The council held a lengthy meeting yesterday when they listened to six deputations, eventually setting the spending

guidelines for the next financial year. Despite calls from the Green Group to increase council tax the Capital Coalition proposals to live within a static council tax situation for this next year were passed.

The Capital Coalition claim that local government finance has fallen by 7% in real terms, but while it will work to protect frontline services, around 2,000 jobs will go at the council. It is hoped that the redundancies will be made on a voluntary basis with the enhanced terms that the council already announced. Since the Holyrood budget was announced last month the council has had to make more savings in this budget than previously thought, and now these savings total £85.4 million in the next financial year.

Some libraries and museums will have restricted opening hours but Finance Convener Alasdair Rankin told us he was proud that none would close.

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

The current administration will set one final budget next January just ahead of the council election in May 2017.

Our latest competition could take you to Queen Street for a foodie masterclass. Enter now!

[Read more here.](#)

We were reminded the other day that the former Chancellor of the Exchequer and MP for Edinburgh South West, Alastair Darling has now taken his seat in the House of Lords. Now known as Lord Roulanish he made his maiden speech just this week and mentioned Edinburgh during it: "The need for revision and for questioning of the Executive is essential. I live in

Edinburgh, where the Scottish Parliament is getting more and more powers. It is unicameral. It was never designed to be run by one party. As that Parliament gets more and more powers, the lack of questioning and scrutiny will become an increasing problem. We should bear that in mind."

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service want you to learn how to save someone who may be having a heart attack.

Station Manager Jonathan Miller writes:

"The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service now has instructional dvds and mannequins which can be made available to members of the public at our fire stations with a view to teaching them how to conduct CPR. This is in partnership with the British Heart Foundation and is in line with The Scottish Government's pledge to save an extra 1000 lives from out of hospital cardiac arrest by 2020.

"I aim to run two sessions a month (one at Tollcross and one at Liberton, dates to be confirmed) , also, in addition to this my crews could attend any groups interested in this input. The group would simply need a venue with dvd player and screen. The attached gives details of the initiative, and also a poster which can be displayed or perhaps put on respective NP websites. Let me know if you have any questions, thanks, Jon

Jonathon Miller/Station Manager/Response and Resilience/Edinburgh South Central/Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

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[Email-jonathon.miller@firescotland.gov.uk](mailto:jonathon.miller@firescotland.gov.uk)



[Macswéen of Edinburgh](#), pioneers of Scotland's national dish, has created the ultimate Burns Night masterpiece this year by unveiling the world's most expensive haggis. Across the globe, haggis is the star of any Burns supper, but this year Macswéen has taken the dish to a new level and created a culinary treasure fit for royalty.

With a price tag of £4,000, the gastronomic showstopper has been handcrafted to the unique Macswéen family recipe but with an infusion of rare ingredients, painstakingly sourced from Scotland and the far corners of the earth. The list includes **Highland Wagyu beef**, raised on a Perthshire farm where all cattle has its own name; **white summer truffle** from France, considered 'diamonds of the kitchen' by chefs the world over; and **black pepper (tellicherry)** from India, which can only be grown at a latitude of 2,000-3,000 feet above sea level. For extra decadence, the haggis comes with edible 24 carat gold to sprinkle on top.

The luxury haggis is available by commission only.

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Greens call upon the council to be bolder in protecting services



The city council needs to be bolder in protecting public services say the capital's Green councillors.

In the aftermath of the city council's budget meeting today Green councillors said they were disappointed but not surprised that their [package of £10m](#) to give priority to schools, social care and vulnerable children was not backed by the Labour-SNP council.



Cllr Gavin Corbett

Green Finance spokesperson Cllr Gavin Corbett said: "The council today pushed through the biggest set of cuts for almost 20 years. However, the Green budget offered the choice of softening that blow on frontline services and providing extra money for social care and schools.

"The council's own budget consultation showed over 60% support for council tax rising to support services. The organisations coming to the council today to speak on the budget urged the council to be more challenging to governments – both UK and Scottish – about cuts to services.

"Sadly, however, it seems that the council prefers to hide behind the threat of Scottish Government penalties rather than be bold enough to stand up for the capital, stand up for children and older people, and stand up for decent services."

The Green budget package, funded by 97p a week rise in council

tax, proposed £10 million of extra funding to reverse cuts in priority areas: schools, social care and vulnerable children and also to invest in school buildings and decent pay for social care staff.

Specifically, it provided funding to:

- Reject cuts of £3.85m in social care
- Mitigate cuts to business support in schools
- Reject in full the cuts to school music over all 4 years of the budget
- Reject the closure of Hillview centre for disabled children.
- Invest £1.76 million for a “Living Wage Plus” for care staff
- Invest £8.6 million extra over 4 years for school repairs
- Reverse cuts in libraries, parks, community centres, leisure centres and homelessness services
- Invest in a new sports facility at Meadowbank