

Alan Stubbs looks to the future with the signing of Otso Virtanen



Hibs' Head Coach Alan Stubbs is looking to the future with the signing of Finnish goalkeeper Otso Virtanen on a three and a half year deal.

The 21-year-old joined from Finnish Premier Division side IFK Mariehamn, and has represented the national under 21 squad on several occasions.

Virtanen will provide competition for current first choice goalkeeper Mark Oxley who has been in fine form this season but calls into question the future of Antonio Reguero who is second choice keeper.

The 6ft 5in goalkeeper becomes Hibernian's fifth signing of the January transfer window, following the additions of Chris Dagnall, Niklas Gunnarsson, Anthony Stokes and Kevin Thomson.

Head Coach Alan Stubbs said: "Otso is someone we've been tracking for a while and I'm delighted that we have concluded the deal.

"He is a keeper with lots of potential that we're looking forward to developing.

"I'm sure he'll be another positive addition to the first team squad."

Five things you need to know today



Holocaust Educational Trust funding

BINGO!

Bagpipes

Central Library

Craigmillar

Today is Holocaust Memorial Day. It was on 27 January 1945 that the largest Nazi death camp was liberated, and this is the day when the people who died there and in subsequent genocides across the world are remembered. Today is also a day for remembering survivors.

The Scottish Government has confirmed funding of £280,000 for the Lessons from Auschwitz Project which the Holocaust Educational Trust (HET) organise.

Each year they take students over the age of 16 to Auschwitz-Birkenau for a day, and also invite them to seminars when they hear the accounts of survivors from the camp.

The Edinburgh Reporter was invited along on a trip in September 2014 with HET and it was a sobering experience. Despite the beautiful sunny day and blue skies the air around the camp was quite claustrophobic.

Signing the Trust's Book of Commitment in the lead up to Holocaust Memorial Day the First Minister said:

“Last year marked the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. We also commemorated the 20th anniversary of the genocide at Srebrenica. Both anniversaries are a reminder of the consequences that can arise when people are given a license to exploit difference and encourage hatred.

“As we approach the national Holocaust Memorial Day one way of working to ensure that nothing like the Holocaust ever happens again, is to ensure that it is never forgotten. The Holocaust Educational Trust does excellent work in raising awareness among the wider public through the Lessons from Auschwitz Project.

“By learning and reflecting on the horrors of the Holocaust the Trust plays an important part in spurring us on to create a better future and a society where people respect each other no matter what their differences.”

Holocaust Educational Trust Chief Executive Karen Pollock said:

“Thousands of Scottish students have visited Auschwitz-Birkenau as part of the Holocaust Educational Trust’s Lessons from Auschwitz Project and with this renewed support, many thousands more will be able to have this life-changing experience. We are delighted that the First Minister and the Scottish Government recognise the value of this unique educational programme – with this funding, Holocaust education in Scotland is in safe hands.”



Do you know a couple living in Leith who have been married for a long time? Then Mecca Bingo are looking for them to give them a Valentine’s night out to remember.

The general manager of Mecca Leith will treat the couple to a

fun-packed evening at their local club with flowers and champagne to celebrate long-standing love and devotion.

Steve, general manager at Mecca Leith, commented: "Valentine's Day is the most romantic day of the year and an important day to spend with that special person in your life, so we thought why not invite them into our club to receive a special gift and provide everything they need for a great night out together.

"Bingo brings people together and we know that some of our members have been together for many decades so it'll be fantastic to award them or other long-standing couples from Leith with a special celebration.

"Amongst our many fun events and celebrations here at Mecca Leith being crowned our longest-married couple is just another reason to play at Mecca Bingo and have a great night out with the love of your life or even just your friends."

To enter the search to be crowned as the longest married couple in Leith, please take a photocopy of your marriage certificate to the front desk at Mecca Leith or alternatively email it to prmecca@havas.com. The search is open until Monday 8 February and your name and contact details must be included on your submission.



Have you got a set of old bagpipes mouldering in your attic? Then the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust want to hear from you.

There is a Bagpipe Amnesty appeal called Old Pipes for New Players seeking bagpipes for some new pupils who will also get free tuition.

When they have practiced on the chanter for a couple of years

the young pipers need pipes to move onto.

Donations can be made before 14 February.

[Read more here](#)



It's National Libraries Day on Saturday 6 February 2016 and the Central Library will definitely be a place for entertainment and excitement. As #artcore come together once again for an event of fun multi-arts activities accompanied by some of Edinburgh's finest new musical talent.

The library can be an area of multi-purpose use and not just somewhere pretty to read and study!

12:30 till 4:30pm



Craigmillar residents are being invited to find out more about the EDI Group's plans to enhance the town centre.

Designs for the Town Square, a community play park as well as surrounding public spaces, will be unveiled at a community information event on **Thursday 28 January from 3pm to 7pm at The White House on Niddrie Mains Road.**

EDI, through its subsidiary Parc Craigmillar Ltd, is responsible for the ongoing regeneration of Craigmillar and is proposing to deliver high quality retail and residential spaces, alongside other amenities.

A community play park is also set to be delivered on an area off Niddrie Mains Road, adjacent to the proposed new housing development, and will include a variety of play equipment and

seating for the community to relax and enjoy.

Denise Havard, Community Development Manager at EDI, said: “We are pleased to be able to showcase our proposed plans to the community which forms part of our overall vision for the regeneration of Craigmillar.

“Our aim is to create safe and inspiring spaces for residents to meet the growing needs of the area.”

To find out more details about the EDI Group, visit www.edigroup.co.uk.



Scottish Parliamentary Election 2016 – register to vote now



Today marks 100 days left before the Scottish Parliamentary Election on 5 May 2016.

Edinburgh residents will join voters across the country to elect MSPs to represent them at Holyrood.

More than 84% of the city’s residents voted in the [Scottish Independence Referendum in September 2014](#), which also attracted a record-breaking turnout across the country.

At the [UK Parliamentary Election in May 2015](#) turnout stayed high, at an average of 73% across Edinburgh’s five constituencies.

On 5 May it will be the first time that 16 and 17-year-olds have been able to vote in a Parliamentary election since the [Scottish Elections \(Reduction of Voting Age\) Bill](#) was passed last year.


While most people who registered to vote in time for the UK Parliamentary Election will still be eligible to take part in the Scottish Parliament Election in May, first time voters or anyone who has since moved house will need to register again.

Andrew Kerr, Chief Executive of City of Edinburgh Council and Returning Officer for Edinburgh, said: “We have experienced a real enthusiasm for taking part in the democratic process in this city over recent years and we want this to continue for the forthcoming Scottish Parliamentary Election.

“This is also the first time since the Scottish Independence Referendum that our 16 and 17-year-olds will be able to have their say in an election, and I would particularly urge them to use their vote. Anyone unsure about how to register, where to vote or how to vote by post can find more information on the Council website.”

Find out more about voter registration and elections [on the Council website](#).

Craigmillar regeneration plans on display this week

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Lorries overturned by high winds on A1

Photographer Jon Savage was in the right place today and took these photos of HGVs which came to grief on the A1 in the high winds.

These two toppled over on the bridge over the River Tyne

between East Linton and Dunbar. One of them was in the central reservation and it took some time today to get the vehicles moved.

This is what Traffic Scotland had to say on Twitter later this evening:

[@sambain27](#) *Hi Sam, the HGVs are recovered & route open. As far as I'm aware drivers are well. Thanks for your concern. G*

– Traffic Scotland (@trafficscotland) [January 26, 2016](#)



JON SAVAGE PHOTOGRAPHY

07762 580971

www.jonsavagephotography.com

Edinburgh schoolboy blogging for UNICEF



Jack Liddall is destined for great things according to his head teacher, Bryan Paterson. You only have to be in his company for about half a minute to realise that is indeed true.

He is a self-assured 14 year-old, but one who also manages to be modest and charming all at the same time. Passing through the corridors of Trinity Academy with him he addressed everyone by name with a cheery hello.

The Edinburgh schoolboy is aiming for straight A passes in his National 5s and he plays the piano pretty well. He is an actor (actually he didn't tell us that – the deputy Head told us that part!)

So what do you do if you can already do lots of things? You do more. He applied to UNICEF to be one of their 20 bloggers from across the world, and was chosen out of 3,000 applicants.

Jack is now halfway through his blogging internship and has about 7 more blogs to write. You can read his blogs [here](#).

We met up with him at Trinity Academy where he is in S4. He read part of one of his blogs for us at the end of the interview. We think it is pretty powerful.

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

He explained to us about the internship programme: “Every year Voices of Youth have 20 international bloggers and offer blogging internships. Thousands of people apply.

“I applied this year thinking that this was something that I

really wanted to do. I sent them some examples of my writing and my interests and I got in!

“It is a really good opportunity not only to express my own views but to hear the views of all the other 19 bloggers from across the world.

“I am being encouraged by my mentor to write in different genres at the moment. I am quite formal and informative and my mentor wants me to do more creative pieces and give my opinions and views and emotions.

“There are so many different issues that I can write about, but I am inspired by the other bloggers.

“UNICEF is trying to ensure that every child’s voice is heard and every child’s right is respected. [Voices of Youth](#) is a UNICEF initiative which was set up to get children to understand what the rights are and getting their views heard on an international level.

“I am going to New York and Washington next year on a school trip. I would love to go to the UN buildings and perhaps even meet my mentor, Mischa, face to face! I have had Skype calls with him and we have a closed group on Facebook where all the interns can talk to each other. We can all respond to each other’s blogs which is a great way of communicating.”

The bloggers range from 14 to 24 and Jack is the youngest blogger at the moment.

Jack’s family are all very excited and supportive to him about his blogging internship, although he puts most of the support down to his mother who ‘writes all the time’ and he says she is a great help to him.

Fitting the blogging in around school and in particular the recent exams was tricky, but the young writer has managed to set aside enough time for blogging on the Voices of Youth

website as well as getting some decent exam results so far.

As for his future plans? He is due to meet the First Minister at Holyrood in February to talk to her about UNICEF and his internship, so that should make for an interesting blog.

Jack is on Twitter at [@JackLiddall](#) Do follow his blogging journey there.

Voices of Youth (VOY) was founded in 1995 as UNICEF's online place for young people to learn more about issues affecting their world. Today, VOY is a vibrant community of youth bloggers from all over the world, offering inspiring, original insight and opinion on a variety of topics.

Statement From Ann Budge

Hearts owner Ann Budge today released the following statement on the club's official website.

Given that we are now more than half-way through our financial year (31st December 2015), and indeed our football season, it seems a good time to issue a brief progress statement on club performance. I will also take this opportunity to address a couple of issues that have been very much to the fore in recent weeks.

1. Business Update

I am delighted to be able to report that on the "business" side of things, we are making good progress and have had an excellent first half-year. Thanks, as ever, to the magnificent support from the fans, we have enjoyed home sell-outs for almost all of our league matches this season, along with

record-breaking figures in our various hospitality suites. This translates into real income for the club, and in turn is helping us fund the continuous improvements we are trying to put in place.

Our sponsors, our benefactors and our FOH pledgers have also been magnificent, and with their continued financial support we are making real progress with a number of our new initiatives – our memorial garden is now complete and official opening times will be announced shortly; our museum project is moving ahead strongly and we are still planning to open in Summer 2016; our community pitch project is well underway; and the plans for our new stand are also progressing nicely, with more information scheduled for release in early March, all going well.

Many of you will know that our retail franchise with SRM comes to an end this year. We have been discussing the transition back to an in-house operation for several months now and I am pleased to announce that this hand-over will take place on 31st January, 2016. I would like to take this opportunity to thank SRM Management for their services over the last 7 years, while at the same time asking all supporters to be patient while we implement this major change. Nothing much will change on day one, but please bear with us for what we see as an exciting opportunity to do things differently. Gradually, over the next few months, we will introduce some new processes, practices and indeed product lines.

While all of this is going on, day-to-day business carries on as ever. This includes, of course, the development of our Youth Academy, which is going from strength-to-strength; the development of our professional football operation, supported by our expanded coaching team which now boasts a number of new faces. This is all helping us achieve another highly successful season “on-the-field”, and equally importantly, is setting us up for continuous improvement as the club builds for the future.

In summary, therefore, I am delighted to say that things are going really well across all areas of the club.

However, as we all know, progress is rarely totally without its challenges and we continue to deal with issues as they arise.

I urge you all to read the next section carefully, and not to under-estimate the significance of successfully addressing this issue for the future well-being of the club.

2. Unacceptable Behaviour at Football Stadiums

We have made it clear over the past 18 months that unacceptable behaviour will not be tolerated by the club and have indeed gone so far as to ban a number of our supporters from the stadium. We have stressed repeatedly that we want Tynecastle to be a family-friendly stadium where all supporters can come and enjoy the atmosphere in one of Scotland's most iconic stadiums, in a safe and carefree environment.

It was, therefore, with much regret that for the third time this season, we had to call the Police...in this case to the Hearts v Motherwell game...due to rival fans fighting in the streets, in the immediate environs of the stadium...both before and after the game. I cannot begin to tell you how angry this makes me, when we are working so hard to put the club back at the heart of the community. Instead of talking proudly about the team's superb performance, or indeed our supporters' unprecedented loyalty (yet another home sell-out), I am instead having to hold meetings with the authorities regarding how we are going to address this behaviour problem.

The outcome of these meetings is quite simply that we have had to agree that we will have no Police-free matches, between now and the end of the season. This will cost the club between £40,000-£50,000.

Apart from the reputational damage that this behaviour causes the club, its employees and its supporters, this is £40,000-£50,000 that we cannot put towards our stadium and facilities improvements programme.

Allowing a tiny minority of supporters to bring the club's reputation into disrepute is something we will not tolerate. We will be clamping down on supporters who behave unacceptably. This will mean more stringent checks and more surveillance both inside and outside the stadium. While this is very disappointing, we are confident that the majority of true supporters will agree that action must be taken.

On a similar note, many of you will have seen in the media that Hearts is under formal investigation because of a number of incidents that took place during the recent Hearts v Dundee United fixture. I will, of course, robustly defend the club's position on this matter, but there is one area which I cannot defend. In particular, it would appear that excessive verbal abuse was directed at the opposition manager. While the manager (Mixu Paatelainen) was personally both understanding and pragmatic in his acceptance that "this happens", it has been reported by the match delegate that this reached unacceptable proportions. As a consequence, additional stewarding will be put in place in this area of the stadium, along with video cameras, and any behaviour of this nature, in future, will be robustly dealt with.

In summary, we will now have a police presence at all matches, along with additional stewarding... all at a significant cost to the club. I would also remind you to use the Help Text line should you feel something needs to be addressed.

3. Scottish Cup Ticket-Allocation

Finally, I would like to comment on the forthcoming derby game between Hearts and Hibs.

Firstly, thank you as ever to the circa 12,500 season ticket

holders who have once again demonstrated their support for our club and our team.

Inevitably, there will be a number of fans who are disappointed not to have secured a ticket, and to these individuals, I can only apologise. Demand has simply outstripped supply. The price of success, some might say.

On another note, however, I would like to acknowledge those supporters who contacted the club and/or myself to express their disappointment and, in some cases, their anger that they were unable to purchase their season ticket seats for this match.

I can only assure them that considerable thought went into how we could most "fairly" allocate the tickets, given that we have 13,500 season ticket holders and 12,500 seats available.

We did put out a statement prior to the tickets going on sale which aimed to explain, as clearly as possible, what we were doing and why. Not everyone who initially complained had read the statement, of course, and when the logic was explained, most were accepting of the fact that we were trying to be fair.

That said, there remains a very small number of supporters who believe they have been treated badly or have not been shown the respect they deserve for having been long-term season ticket holders/FOH pledgers/members of the 500 club, etc. To those supporters, once again, I can only apologise.

I would also take this opportunity to clarify a couple of misperceptions, however.

Not all Roseburn Stand season ticket holders are "new". A large number moved their seats and have been season ticket holders for some time. It was, therefore, felt to be inappropriate to give priority to season ticket holders in other stands... something that some complainants felt should

have happened.

A number of season ticket holders referred to "my seat" in their complaint. Can I just remind everyone that buying a season ticket entitles you to use that seat for all league games and gives you priority to buy a ticket for major games...as indeed happened in this case. However, it does not guarantee first call on "your seat". This is simply impossible if we are not to single out any specific group for preferential treatment.

Anyone with any kind of disability, which means a proposed process does not work for them, should please contact us and explain their problem and ask us to help. We will do our best to assist. We cannot anticipate every problem...but if we know about it, we will try to help.

I am aware that there will be a small number of supporters who continue to feel we have handled this badly. However, I am assured that the majority of supporters with tickets are not unhappy and will be sitting either in their season ticket seat or very close to it.

Thank you all for your continued support. The Board, the Senior Management team, the Staff and, of course, our Football Department...remain totally committed to making Heart of Midlothian a club to be proud of.

Meanwhile, Hearts have announced that tickets for their William Hill Scottish Cup tie with Hibernian at Tynecastle on Sunday week have sold out for home supporters.

Sheraton is all set for the Six Nations



The Sheraton Grand Hotel & Spa has a whole new menu, and part of it has been created just in time for the beginning of the rugby international season.

You will now find a selection of six small plates, matched with handpicked premium wines and local craft beers, called Paired, which is the hotel's new food and drink programme. The first of the 2016 Paired season kicks off with a Six Nations rugby-themed menu, launched by Scottish rugby legend, Jason White.

The hotel's Executive Chef Craig Hart drew inspiration from the six nations who participate in this exciting rugby tournament and the bar team carefully selected drinks to accentuate the flavours. The dishes include Haggis Bon Bons with a Talisker Whisky Brose paired with *Bitter & Twisted Golden Ale* to celebrate Scotland, while Italy is represented by an antipasti selection of sliced charcuterie, rosemary gordal olives, aged parmesan and gorgonzola, matched with a 2012 Chianti Classico Gran Selezione, Trambusti, Italian Wine. The Six Nations inspired plates, available daily in One Square Bar from 27 January until 19 March, are priced from £6.50, with paired drinks from £5.00.



Tristan Nesbitt, General Manager at the Sheraton Grand Hotel & Spa commented: "The Sheraton Grand Hotel & Spa is renowned as *the* gathering place during the Six Nations Tournament where guests, and many locals, meet to enjoy our fun atmosphere over a game of rugby. We are delighted to kick off this exciting

tournament with our Six Nations Paired programme, one of many exciting themes for the year ahead.”

The Paired Programme, launched by Sheraton Hotels & Resorts, is designed to stretch the boundaries of traditional pairing principles by blending ingredients in new and unexpected ways for visitors and guests. Available at Sheraton properties worldwide, Paired is the latest of many initiatives underway for Sheraton 2020, an all encompassing plan designed to solidify Sheraton as a leading global hotel brand of choice, everywhere.

For more information on One Square’s Paired Programme visit the [website](#). To book a table in One Square Bar call 0131 221 6422 or email info@OneSquareEdinburgh.co.uk

One Square, 1 Festival Square, Edinburgh EH3 9



Paired Food & Drink Menu at the Sheraton Grand Hotel & Spa, Edinburgh

England

Whitby Scampi and homemade tartare sauce £7.50

Paired with Curious Brew Lager, England £5.00

Scotland

Haggis bon bons with a Talisker Whisky Brose £7.00

Paired with Bitter & Twisted Golden Ale, Scotland £5.00

France

Café au lait crème brûlée with fruit madeleines £6.50

Paired with Moët Chandon Brut Imperial (NV) Champagne, France £12.00

Ireland

*Boxty corned beef hash cakes with a Guinness brown sauce
£7.00*

Paired with Orpens Fresh Pressed Cider, Ireland £5.00

Wales

*Black bomber Welsh rarebit on thyme bread with tomato chutney
£6.50*

Paired with Dirty Stop Out Stout, Wales £6.00

Italy

*Antipasti selection of sliced charcuterie, rosemary gordal
olives, aged parmesan and gorgonzola £9.00*

*Paired with 2012 Chianti Classico Gran Selezione, Trambusti,
Italy Wine £6.00*

Nicolson Street remains closed



[tweet_box design="default"]Nicolson Street remains closed this afternoon after an incident just after 9.30 a.m. involving a piece of masonry which fell on a bus.[/tweet_box]

We are advised by our man on the scene that it was a chimney pot which fell from the building occupied by Suruci and Subway opposite the Festival Theatre onto the bus smashing a window

and causing injury to a passenger.

Nicolson Street and Drummond Street from South Bridge are closed to traffic.

Our photos were taken at 2.30 this afternoon and you can see that the street remains closed while the roof is being checked over.

A crane with a cherry picker is being used to hoist a workman up to roof level which must be a little scary given the high winds in the city right now.



@EdinTravel are keeping drivers in the city up to date on Twitter.

NICOLSON STREET – will remain closed at Festival Theatre until further notice due to fallen masonry that happened this morning. [#edintravel](#)

– EdinburghTravelNews (@edintravel) [January 26, 2016](#)

Steven Godden of the BBC got this shot of the Number 5 bus.

Before it was driven away got this shot of chimney damaged bus. Nicolson street [#edinburgh pic.twitter.com/oT0wvFjnbl](#)

– Steven Godden (@Godden78) [January 26, 2016](#)

The Festival Theatre is closed and you are advised to try the Box Office at the King's if you need to buy tickets

The Festival Theatre is likely to be closed for the remainder of the day, if you need to book tickets in person please try the King's

– Festival & King's (@edtheatres) [January 26, 2016](#)

Bus hit by falling masonry

Roads are closed in the city centre after a Lothian Bus was hit by falling masonry on Nicolson Street just after 9.30 this morning.

A man was slightly injured in the incident and was treated at the scene by the Scottish Ambulance Service.

South Bridge will remain closed between Chambers Street and Nicolson Square until the affected buildings are assessed and made safe.

Inspector Norman Towler of Craigmillar Police Station said: "We have diversions in place along Chambers Street and anticipate this will be the case until later today.

"We are asking the public to avoid the area if at all possible meanwhile."

Five things you need to know today



feith Decides

Edinburgh Gateway Station

At The Queen's Hall

Public Realm art in Grassmarket

Sports reports

Voting will open for the 2016 feith Decides at the community event which will be held on 6 February 2016.

If you are over the age of 8 then you can vote on where local money for local projects will be spent. If you can't make it along on the day you can vote in [Leith Library](#) or [McDonald Road Library](#) from 3pm 6 Feb until 5pm 16 February. You can also vote by post. Results will be announced at [McDonald Road Library](#) at 5.30 pm on 22 Feb.

There is a new railway station under construction in the capital; in fact it is a tram/train interchange. Edinburgh Gateway Station is part of the Edinburgh to Glasgow improvement programme (EGIP) and will be completed by the end of this year.



The £41m station will allow passengers from Fife to get to the airport by changing onto the tram at Edinburgh Gateway. There will be two 265metre long platforms, 1500 square metres of walkway and concourse with a step free access bridge linking the platforms. Lifts and escalators will connect the tram stop to the rail areas.

An underpass will connect the station to the Gyle Centre.

The Scottish Government hope that this new station will be one part of future economic investment and activity in the capital.

Scottish Government Transport Minister Derek Mackay said: ““Seeing the progress on the Edinburgh Gateway rail/tram interchange is testimony to the hard work of all those

involved to date.

“December 2016 marks a pivotal milestone in our £5 billion programme of investment in Scotland’s Railway and more specifically the Edinburgh Glasgow Improvement Programme. It will also mark the opening of the Edinburgh Gateway station which will provide connectivity for Fife line services and offer effective interchange between the Scottish rail network and Edinburgh Airport offering new journey opportunities to the airport, places of work and the surrounding business development area.”

In total £742million is being spent on railway infrastructure in the central belt in the EGIP programme. Key routes will be electrified and other facilities improved.

At the Queen’s Hall this week:

In Scotland celebrating their fifth studio album launch, Cara have toured internationally since forming in 2003 and play innovative arrangements of material firmly rooted in the Irish and Scottish tradition alongside critically acclaimed original songs and tunes.

[Tickets here.](#)

A call has been put out for work from new artists to adorn the public realm areas in Grassmarket. There is also an indoor exhibition space in the Apex City of Edinburgh Hotel which has large windows to the Grassmarket, and an event space at Apex Grassmarket Hotel with the Edinburgh Castle backdrop.


Greater Grassmarket BID can help by providing logistical support with licensing, funding and site management.

Contact Callum Ross for more details.

Email callum@greatergrassmarket.co.uk

In our [Sports](#) section we have dedicated writers who report on Hearts, Hibs and rugby. If you have another sport that you would like to cover for us then do get in touch!

John Preece's photo today is from the Stewart's-Melville match last weekend. The report is [here](#).

 Sign up here for a daily email from The Edinburgh Reporter
! [mc4wp_form id="169103"]

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.

South Queensferry to get a new high school



The Scottish Government has announced £230 million of funding for 19 new schools and one of these will be South Queensferry Community High School where a new school should be completed by 2020.

Cabinet Secretary for Education visited the school this morning and made the announcement to replace the school in the Schools for the Future Programme.

Ms Constance said: "Today's announcement is fantastic news for

Edinburgh. The new Queensferry Community High School will be a fantastic, modern building that pupils, teachers and the whole community will enjoy for generations to come.

Councillor Paul Godzik, Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee, said: “This is great news for [Queensferry Community High School](#) and their local community. This funding will allow us to replace the existing school and provide first class facilities that can be used both by the school community during the day and the wider local community outside school hours.

The investment will benefit over 6,500 school pupils across Scotland, the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said today.

The First Minister said: “We are working hard to improve educational standards across the country to make sure that every child in Scotland has the ability to achieve their potential.

“Part of that is making sure that children have the right physical environment to learn in. This ambitious plan will replace older schools across the country with new, modern buildings that will bring benefits to the whole community.

“We had planned to build or refurbish 55 schools across Scotland, these new schools now take the total to 112 – more than double our original target. Since 2007, we have worked with local authorities to rebuild or refurbish 607 schools, resulting in the number of children educated in ‘poor’ or ‘bad’ condition schools falling by 60 per cent.

“This infrastructure investment programme has already generated an estimated 11,000 construction jobs and 230 apprenticeship placements. Now as these further developments begin construction we will see a further boost to the economy right across the country.”

At the October 2014 budget, Finance Secretary John Swinney

announced that a further £330 million funding was being made available for the fourth phase Scotland's Schools for the Future Programme. This brought the total investment for the programme between the Scottish Government and local authorities to £1.8 billion.

The £330 million comprised £100 million announced in June 2014 – for the first wave of schools to be supported under phase IV – with the projects to be supported announced in November 2014.

This announcement is for the second wave with £230 million being allocated across Scotland.

Welcoming the announcement Colin Keir MSP for Edinburgh Western said:

“This SNP government is working hard to improve educational standards across the country to make sure that every child in Scotland has the ability to achieve their potential. Part of that is making sure children have the right physical environment to learn in.

“Today's announcement is fantastic news for Queensferry. The new Queensferry High School will be a fantastic, modern building that pupils, teachers and the whole community will enjoy for generations to come.

“Since 2007, the SNP in government have worked with local authorities to rebuild or refurbish 607 schools, resulting in the number of children educated in ‘poor’ or ‘bad’ condition schools falling by 60 per cent.

“In addition to the educational benefits of the new school, it will also provide a boost to the local economy, creating many construction jobs and apprenticeship opportunities.”

Look out your old bagpipes



Do you have a set of old bagpipes mouldering in your attic? Then the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust want to hear from you.

There is a Bagpipe Amnesty appeal called Old Pipes for New Players seeking bagpipes for some new pupils who will also get free tuition.

When they have practiced on the chanter for a couple of years the young pipers need pipes to one onto.

Donations can be made before 14 February.

Unwanted pipes can be given a new lease of life by being handed into Crewe Toll, Liberton, Marionville, McDonald Road, Newcraighall, Sighthill and Tolcross fire stations which are supporting the *Bagpipe Amnesty*.

Trust Chief Executive Alexandra Duncan said: "We are really grateful to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for backing our campaign which will hopefully help change lots of young people's lives for the better.

"Piping and being part of a band develop a wide range of life and employability skills including teamwork, individual and shared achievement, discipline, commitment and self confidence as well as musicality. It is a shame that the vast majority of our young people are not offered the chance to learn our national instruments in schools.

“The SSPDT is helping more than 1000 children across the country to learn the pipes and drums in state schools. This includes youngsters from some of Scotland’s most deprived areas who would never have the chance to learn piping.

“But with such a big programme – and with more young people interested in piping – we need pipes to take these young musicians to the next level. Donated instruments that need some work to bring them back to life will be refurbished free of charge by Wallace Bagpipes. We are also very grateful to Genius PPT for providing a Freephone telephone line during the appeal.”





The SSPDT trustees believe there must be hundreds of sets of pipes lying unused in cupboards and attics that could be given a new lease of life.

Alex added: "We launched the Bagpipe Amnesty on Burns Night – a perfect time to try to spark awareness on the appeal.

"We want to appeal to people in Edinburgh who may have an old set of pipes in their loft or under your bed. Or you may have stopped playing them because of ill-health or inherited some that you don't use.

"Please donate them to the Bagpipe Amnesty and help change young lives for the better."

Donations of pipes can be made from February 1-14. Call 0808 281 9405 to find your nearest station or find out more information on all aspects of the Bagpipe Amnesty from www.sspdt.org.uk.

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@junipergreencc.org.uk as early as possible.



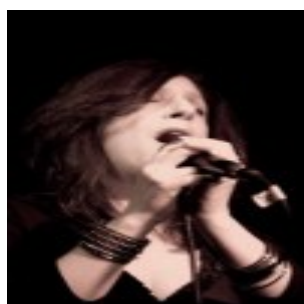
The Library Is Open! Drag Queen Poems. There is more to the world than **RuPaul's Drag Race** and lip-syncing club queens. Poets **Iain Morrison** and **Jean-François Krebs** (also known as **Wanda Isadora de Fournure**) invite you on a drag date... heels will sound and images will rise from the drag 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.



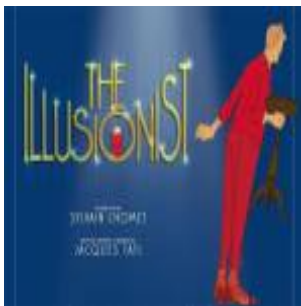
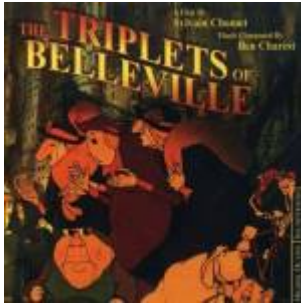
Nothing Ever Happens Here and Braw Gigs Present Optimo Espacio and Neil Landstrumm. The legendary DJ duo of **Optimo** will be taking over The Dissection Room space for a one off Optimo (Espacio) event. Renowned for their visionary and exploratory

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 unwavering 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