

Price of one bedroom flats rise by more than a quarter



The ESPC has reported that average selling prices for one bedroom flats in areas including Polwarth, Shandon and Tollcross have gone up by 27.6% annually.

ESPC's December House Price report reveals that these three areas have shown the greatest increase in selling prices in the period between October and December 2015, when compared with the same period last year. The house selling organisation believes this could be attributed to the area becoming a popular place for first time buyers. The area is traditionally associated with students and young professionals, but it has also become a popular area for buy-to-lets.

Other areas that have shown dramatic growth include South Queensferry and Dalmeny, where the average price of a three bedroom house has increased by 20%, and Leith, the Shore and Granton, where a two bedroom flat has increased in average price by 19.1%.

For east central Scotland overall, average property prices have increased by 4.9% between October and December 2015. The increase in prices could partly be attributed to a 6.1% decrease in new homes being brought to market when compared to October and December 2014. This means there is increased competition for particular properties, driving up the prices as buyers snap up available properties.

The number of homes sold in east central Scotland between October and December of 2015 rose by 2.0% annually. This is quite a decrease when compared to a 17.1% rise in the last house price report, which can partly be explained by the seasonal slowdown in the lead up to Christmas, with less

properties on the market.

ESPC's business analysis Maria Botha Lopez said: "We've seen a decrease in the number of new homes being brought to market. But for the next few months we'll need to keep in mind that we are comparing the number of new listings with the period last year when the Land Buildings Transaction Tax change was announced, and when sellers decided to bring their properties on to the market to meet buyer demand, before the new tax rates came into place. For 2015 overall, there was a 1.7% decrease in number of new homes brought to market.

"We are seeing that properties are selling quickly as a result of competition for available stock, with properties now selling 33.5% faster when compared to the same three-month period a year ago – from 53 days down to 35 days.

"This is a good time for sellers to bring their properties to market, as they have a good chance of them being sold quickly, and meeting the Home Report valuation."



Community Council seeking new members in Leith Central



One of the city's community councils is now looking for new members to represent the interest of people in the area.

Nominations are now open for places on [Leith Central Community Council](#), which is holding an interim election.

Community council members can make a difference by commenting on licensing and planning applications, taking part in community campaigns and working with others to improve the local area.

Community Councils are represented on each of the [12 Neighbourhood Partnerships](#) established across the city. The Council, police, health, and the voluntary and community sectors work together within the partnerships to enhance the quality of life in local neighbourhoods.

Members of the public, who must be over 16 years of age and on the electoral roll for the area, are being sought to join Leith Central Community Council.

Those interested can join by filling out a nomination form by 1 February. Nomination forms can be obtained by contacting the returning officer, visiting the [Council website](#) or calling 0131 529 3402 for more details of how to apply.

Councillor Maureen Child, Convener of the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee, said: "We're looking for people who want to make a difference in the local community and to help share ideas for improving the area.

"Community Councils are a great way for participants to meet a range of local people and to work with the Council for the benefit of the neighbourhood."

Find out more about Leith Central Community Council elections on the [Council website](#).

Jimmy to chair Gardening Scotland

The Gardening Scotland event, which takes place in the grounds of the Royal Highland Centre in Edinburgh from 3-5 June, will have a new Chairman to lead the organisation towards the 2016 event.



Jimmy Gilchrist, who runs family business GP Plantscape Ltd, based in Lanark, takes over from longstanding Chairman Donald Wemyss.

Scotland's national gardening event has long been about gardens and not just gardening, offering ideas and inspiration for anyone who would like to better embrace their outdoor space and not simply those who are already knowledgeable gardeners. However, new Chairman Jimmy Gilchrist is determined that the event continues to evolve for the benefit of a wider audience.

 Speaking of his appointment, Jimmy said:

“Donald has provided me with a very sound footing and his knowledge and contacts within the sector have developed Gardening Scotland into a superb event.

“I am now passionate about pushing the boundaries and maximising opportunities to ensure that everyone feels welcomed into Gardening Scotland and that by providing a day of entertainment, education, information and inspiration, the event can change the way people see their gardens. Gardening Scotland will evolve alongside the needs and demands of the public and hopefully enthuse many more people about their gardens along the way.

Outgoing Chairman, Donald Wemyss, who steps down after 6 years as Chairman and 13 years on the Gardening Scotland Board, said: "During my years at the helm, Gardening Scotland evolved from a pure flower show to an event which promises fun for all the family and I'm proud of how I have contributed to that. I am excited to see Jimmy further develop the show and enhance its appeal to a wider range of age groups, a great diversity of garden user and a wider geography than just Edinburgh.

"The synergy we have managed to develop between Gardening Scotland and, for example, the food sector, really demonstrates how the event offers a superb day out for all the family, and the fact that much of the show has now been 'weather proofed' also means that whatever the sky throws at us, the show will go on!

"I am proud to be handing the Gardening Scotland ship over to Jimmy on an even keel and am excited to see how he further develops the show, particularly given his strong commercial skills."



Robert Black was about to be charged with fifth murder



Evil killer Robert Black who died of natural causes in Maghaberry top security prison in Co Antrim yesterday was about to be charged with the murder of 13-year-old Genette Tait who vanished from a rural lane in Aylesbeare, Devon, in August 1978. Her body has never been found.

In 1990 he was arrested and convicted of the abduction of a young girl in Stow then following an extensive investigation he was subsequently found guilty of the murders of eleven year-old Susan Maxwell from the Scottish Borders, five-year-old Caroline Hogg from Portobello and ten-year-old Sarah Harper from Morley, near Leeds following a court case in Newcastle Upon Tyne.

He was also convicted of attempting to abduct 15-year-old Theresa Thornhill from Nottingham.

Black first became a suspect in Genette Tait's murder in 1994 and was initially interviewed by Devon and Cornwall Police about it in 1996.

Detective Superintendent Paul Burgan, of Devon and Cornwall Police said today: "The reinvestigation into Genette's murder started back in 2014 following a court of appeal hearing in 2013

"We have had a team of 10 working on that extensively for the past two years.

"We were in the process of submitting a full evidential file to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), which would have been submitted in February of this year.

"In earlier indications, the CPS has said that in all probability, we would have charged Robert Black with Genette's abduction and murder.

"We were waiting for a final charging decision from them when the file went to them."

A spokesman for the CPS said: " This is a very large and complex case, with an extremely long history, and the CPS has worked closely with Devon & Cornwall Police.

"We have been in close discussions with the police about the evidence that they have submitted, and the police are now

making their final inquiries in the case, which would have enabled a charging decision to be made.”

23-year-old man jailed for numerous traffic offences in West Lothian



A man who was reported to the Procurator Fiscal for a number of road offences that took place within West Lothian earlier this month has been jailed.

Police were alerted to a Subaru Impreza being driven around the Fauldhouse area by a potentially disqualified driver on the morning of Saturday 5th January.

Following inquiries by Road Policing Officers, the car was located on the M8 motorway, near junction three a short time later and was pursued onto the M9 where it travelled at excessive speed while undertaking a number of other vehicles.

The Subaru was subsequently recovered outside an address in Torphichen and 30-year-old Sean Potter was reported for driving while disqualified, driving with no insurance, dangerous driving and failing to stop for police.

At Livingston Sheriff Court on Tuesday 12th January he was given an eight-month prison sentence and an eight-year driving disqualification.

A 23-year-old woman has also been reported to the Procurator Fiscal in connection with this incident.

Inspector Richard Latto from the Road Policing Unit said: “As part of our ongoing commitment to road safety, Road Policing Officers regularly monitor all main arterial routes throughout the country to positively influence road user behaviour, identify collision related motoring offences, target travelling criminals and bring those responsible to justice.

“Thanks to information originally provided by members of the public, we were able to trace and recover this Subaru, resulting in two people being reported to the Procurator Fiscal and one male receiving a prison sentence and driving disqualification.

“We will continue to provide a visible presence on the road network to keep motorists, passengers and pedestrians safe through enforcement of road traffic legislation and the provision of advisory information on responsible road practices.”

Four goals for Oli Shaw as Hibs beat Partick Thistle 5-3



Hibs' youngster Oli Shaw scored four times as the Development Squad beat Partick Thistle 5-3 match at the Excelsior Stadium Airdrie in the SPFL Development League.

Shaw scored three times in the first half. Dominic Doherty pulled the score back to 3-1 on 56 minutes, and ten minutes later Shaw added his fourth of the game.

Doherty converted a penalty then Mark Lamont made it 4-3, but

Jack Breen's late finish secured the victory.

After the game Shaw told the club website: "It feels good, it doesn't often happen so to score a hat-trick is good, but to score four is great – you can't beat it.

"The first two were pretty similar, Boyler has got to the line cut it back and I've tapped it into the empty net really. The third was a penalty and the fourth one was just the break of the ball.

"As a team we weren't that great and we didn't have much of the possession, we played on the counter-attack a lot. We normally do it the other way around where we don't score many and don't concede.

"Joe McBride wasn't too pleased with the performance, he said we could have played a lot better and we all agree with that.

"We know we have played a lot better, we have kept the ball a lot better, at times in the game we were rushing things. We were 4-1 up and it went to 4-3 so it was very edgy towards the end and to get that fifth goal to seal it was pretty pleasing."

Shaw, 17, made his first team debut when he took to the field against Montrose on 1 August in the Scottish League Cup First Round victory over Montrose the same day as passing his driving test.

Since then he has featured on the bench a number of times, most recently at Stark's Park in the 2-0 victory over Raith Rovers in the William Hill Scottish Cup.

He continued: "I feel like I have developed pretty well, but gradually, and I am just taking everything in my stride.

"The gaffer has obviously given me opportunities as well, and I want to keep impressing and playing for the 20s and trying to keep in the gaffer's thoughts."

Driver who died as a result of a road traffic collision on New Year's Day named



A driver who died as a result of a road traffic collision on New Year's Day has been named by police today as David Gasper.

The 20-year-old, who was from Hungary, was driving a Ford Fusion when it was involved in a collision with a Vauxhall Mokka at around 6:45pm on Murrayburn Road.

Also travelling in the same car as David was his 13-year-old cousin who was transferred to hospital for injuries to his torso but was later discharged.

The driver of the other vehicle sustained injuries to his body.

David was taken to Western General Hospital but sadly succumbed to his injuries on Monday, January 11.

Inquiries into this matter are ongoing and police are renewing their appeal for witnesses to come forward.

In a statement released through Police Scotland, David's family said: "David was much-loved and his death has left us utterly devastated.

"He had travelled to Edinburgh last September with the hope of providing a better life for his family who he loved very much and we are all so sad that he is no longer with us.

"We take comfort from the thought that he is now at peace and we would like to thank the medics who tried to save his life. We also wish to express our gratitude to the local residents who came out from their homes and supplied water and blankets to David's cousin moments after the crash.

"We are still coming to terms with losing David and we ask anyone who witnessed the crash to please make yourself known to police and assist with their investigation."

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

Police hunt cyclist who deliberately kicked a 19 month old girl



Police are appealing for witnesses after a cyclist deliberately kicked a 19 month old child on the cycle path close to Leith Links on Saturday 9th January 2016 around 4.30 pm .

The child was walking with her father and both had moved out of the way to give the cyclist room.

The cyclist is described as being white and in his mid 20's and of medium build. He is clean-shaven with dark scruffy hair and dark circles under his eyes. He was wearing dark jeans and a black hooded jacket.

He was riding a silver mountain bike.

Officers are now urging anyone who can assist with their inquiries to come forward.

Sergeant Mark Wilson of Leith Police Station said: "Thankfully the child was not seriously injured but this was still a distressing and inexplicable incident.

"We are keen to speak to anyone with information that can help us with our inquiries and assist us to trace this suspect.

"Anyone with information can contact us on 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

Herbal cannabis worth £20,000 recovered in Danderhall



Police have charged a 46-year-old man following the recovery of Class B drugs in Danderhall.

Acting on intelligence, officers attended an address in Newton Church Road on Thursday 7 January.

A quantity of herbal cannabis, with a maximum street value of £20,000, was subsequently recovered from within. A three-figure sum of cash was also seized.

A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Sergeant Stuart Aitchison said: "Drug crime is not tolerated within our community, and this was a sizeable recovery of cannabis destined for our streets.

“We are committed to acting on information we receive from the public, and would urge anyone with concerns about drug crime in their area to contact Police Scotland on 101 or make an anonymously report to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.”

Police release CCTV following Bruntsfield robbery



Police have released CCTV images of a man that officers would like to speak to in connection with a robbery in the Bruntsfield area of the city.

The incident happened around 8.55pm on Monday 26 October 2015 at the News 4 U convenience shop in Viewforth when a 46-year-old woman was working alone within the premises.

Officers believe that the man shown in the images may be able to help them with their enquiries and anyone with information that can assist with the police investigation is asked to come forward.

The male is described as being white, 5ft 9ins tall with a slim build.

Detective Constable Kevin Walls said: “While the shop worker was not injured, this was a frightening experience, which resulted in the theft of goods from her store.

“Anyone who remembers seeing any suspicious activity around

the News 4 U shop on that Monday evening should contact police immediately.”

Those with information can contact Police Scotland on 101 or make an anonymous report through the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Housebreaking suspect arrested in Silverknowes Brae



Police have arrested a 21-year-old man in connection with a suspected housebreaking in the Silverknowes Brae area yesterday.

The man was arrested after officers from the national housebreaking taskforce, Operation RAC were alerted to suspicious activity in the area.

A number of police vehicles responded and the dog handler was deployed along with PD Harper to detain the suspect from a garden. Officers are currently pursuing positive lines of inquiry in relation to one other suspect.

Inspector Neil Whiteside said: “Through Operation RAC we are continuing to use all available resources at our disposal to pursue perpetrators of acquisitive crime and put them before the courts.

“While this was another example of that strategy paying off, I would also like to urge the public to ensure they make their homes and belongings as secure as possible.

“For advice on safeguarding your property please speak to a local officer, contact Police Scotland on 101 or visit the Police Scotland website.”

Council seeking accreditation from Living Wage Foundation



The City of Edinburgh Council introduced the Living Wage for its employees in 2013 and is now looking for accreditation through the Living Wage Foundation.

The recommendation is one of a number of updates relating to the Living Wage detailed in a [new report](#) being considered by the Finance and Resources Committee tomorrow.

It also proposes the Council adopts the Scottish Government's guidance on fair work practices relating to procurement, which means the Council can take into account the way in which prospective suppliers treat their employees when it comes to awarding contracts.

Councillor Alasdair Rankin, Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee, said: “Applying for accreditation by the Living Wage Foundation is another positive sign that we value both our employees and those who provide services through contracts and grant funding. It also supports the Capital Coalition's pledge to promote Edinburgh's economic growth and prosperity.

“Research has indicated that the living wage leads to improved staff attendance, greater efficiency from workers, better

staff loyalty and increased retention rates. I, for one am delighted that thousands of Council staff have been benefitting for the past three years since we introduced it.

“By also adopting the Scottish Government’s guidelines on the Living Wage and procurement we are encouraging other organisations to show a positive approach to their workforce and demonstrate their commitment to fair work practices.”

The City of Edinburgh Council introduced a Living Wage for all employees on 1 January 2013 and continues to pay a Living Wage to all relevant staff as part of the agreed overall pay settlement for Local Government employees. The current rate of £8.25 an hour will be introduced by April 2016.

Saxophonist will celebrate the jazz pioneers



Saxophonist John Burgess is launching a series of monthly concerts in the Outhouse Bar in Broughton Street Lane to celebrate the great jazz pioneers.

Beginning on Thursday, February 4, the first three concerts will focus on Louis Armstrong, Bix Beiderbecke (March 3) and Jelly Roll Morton (April 14).

Haddington-based Burgess is one of Scotland’s most versatile musicians, having worked in music across the board and played every form of jazz from early New Orleans and Chicago styles with the Nova Scotia Jazz Band through ballads and swing with his So in Love quartet and on to free improvisation with the

Glasgow Improvisers Orchestra.

A professional since 1987, he has shared bandstands with Roy Williams, Warren Vache, Digby Fairweather, Harry Beckett, Alan Skidmore, Jim Mullen, Zoe Rahman, and Stan Sulzmann among many others and studied with George Garzone, Jerry Bergonzi and Don Lanphere.

The new series will feature the recently formed John Burgess Classic Jazz Quintet, with Burgess on clarinet as well as saxophones, Ross Milligan on banjo and guitar, Campbell Normand on piano, Bill Brydon on string bass, and Tom Bancroft on drums.

“We want to avoid idle, slavish recreations of past gems and modern reworkings of the greats,” says Burgess, whose Edinburgh Jazz Festival 2015 was one of the event’s most popular attractions. “Instead, we’re playing the music of these early jazz greats in their own way, which is something of which we think Louis Armstrong in particular would have very much approved.”

ends

Submitted by [Rob Adams](#)



New boss appointed at Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society



Sir Timothy O'Shea, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society, has announced the appointment of Shona McCarthy as Chief Executive.

Shona was Chief Executive of the Culture Company, which was responsible for leading on Derry-Londonderry's year as the inaugural UK City of Culture. She was Chief Executive at Imagine Belfast 2008, Chief Executive of Cinemagic, the international film festival for young people, and Director of the Foyle Film Festival.

More recently she's been working internationally as a freelance cultural consultant and from 2009 to 2011 she was Director of the British Council Northern Ireland. Shona was a recipient of a NESTA cultural leadership award and was awarded an Eisenhower Fellowship for Innovation 2014. She will take up the post in early March.

The Chair of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society, Sir Timothy O'Shea, said:

"I am delighted Shona will be joining the team at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society; she brings with her an exceptional resume of experience in the cultural sector and is an experienced and successful chief executive.

"The Fringe Society's role is to support and nurture the Fringe – the world's largest and best arts festival – a festival which has seen continual growth for a number of years. In response to that, and under Kath Mainland's

leadership, the Fringe Society has expanded its services for both participants and audiences. As the Fringe approaches its 70th anniversary year, I have no doubt Shona will provide the vision and leadership to continue and further develop the work the Society does, supporting the Fringe's reputation as a world leading arts festival."

Shona McCarthy said of her appointment: "I am thrilled to be appointed Chief Executive of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society, an organisation I have long admired. I have spent 25 years working in the cultural sector and have seen up close and personal the transformative power that art can have on people, on cities and on wellbeing. I passionately believe in personal and collective creativity as a force for good in a turbulent world.

"I have visited Edinburgh and the Fringe on many occasions and there is no better outlet for creative expression than the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the greatest open access arts festival in the world, and I can't wait to work with and support all those who make up such a wonderful festival.

"Kath Mainland has done a terrific job and there is a brilliant team already in place, I look forward to joining them."

Driver dies after collision on Murrayburn Road on New Year's Day



Police have confirmed that the driver of a car involved in a collision on Murrayburn Road on Friday, January 1, has sadly died as a result of his injuries.

The 20-year-old was driving a Ford Fusion and was in a collision with a Vauxhall Mokka at around 6:45pm.

The driver of the other vehicle was uninjured.

Investigations are ongoing into the full circumstances and anyone who witnessed the collision is asked to contact police on 101.

Three Edinburgh based players in Scotland Women's Under-16 squad



Pauline Hamill today confirmed her Scotland Women's Under-16 squad for a training camp at the end of January.

The squad which includes Georgia Adderley (Spartans LFC), Michaela McAlonie (Hearts LFC) and Elena Santoyo-Brown (Boroughmuir LFC) is as follows:

Goalkeepers

Jade Baillie (Celtic FC)
Shannon Burgon (Rangers LFC)
Rebecca Cameron (Dundee United LFC)
Kiera Gibson (Celtic FC)

Defenders

Georgia Adderley (Spartans LFC)
Leah Eddie (Celtic FC)
Michaela McAlonie (Hearts LFC)
Kimberley McAlpine (Central Girls Academy)
Shaney McCabe (Central Girls Academy)
Bethany McPherson (Aberdeen LFC)
Shannon Nagle (Celtic FC)
Courtney Otto (Rangers LFC)

Midfielders

Julia Dunn (Celtic FC)
Kelsey Gibson (Chelsea LFC)
Ellie Kane (Central Girls Academy)
Kirsten Laing (Celtic FC)
Kirstie McIntosh (Central Girls Academy)
Sara McWhirter (Celtic FC)
Brogan Molloy (Celtic FC)
Amy Muir (Rangers LFC)
Chloe Muir (Glasgow City FC)
Elena Santoyo-Brown (Boroughmuir LFC)

Forwards

Monica Anderson (Glasgow City)
Abby Callaghan (Celtic FC)
Morgan Cross (Central Girls Academy)
Fern Newbigging (Celtic FC)
Megan Robb (Dundee United FC)
Alise Stewart (Motherwell LFC)

Witness appeal after two women targeted by thieves



Police are appealing for witnesses after thieves targeted two women during separate incidents in the north of the city last night

The first of these happened at around 6:50pm on Pilrig Street as the 30-year-old was making her way home heading in the direction of Broughton Road.

Two males walked past her before turning and attempting to snatch her handbag. However, the woman resisted prompting the suspects to run off empty handed across Pilrig Park.

One of the men is described as white, aged between 20 and 29 years old, slim/medium build, around 5ft 8ins tall with a full facial beard. He was wearing dark or navy coloured 'Parka' style jacket with a hood and dark trousers.

No description of the second man is available at this time.

Meanwhile, a short time later, at around 7:15pm, a 31-year-old female was walking home along Dalmeny Street heading towards St Clair Street when two unknown males approached her opposite the junction with Buchanan Street.

One of the men grabbed her handbag before pushing her to the ground resulting in the woman sustaining cuts and swelling to her hand.

The suspects were then seen running southwards along Buchanan Street towards Sloan Street with the handbag before being lost from sight.

The woman was taken to the Western General Hospital to have

her injuries assessed and has since been discharged.

Both suspects are described as white, around 5ft 6ins tall and wearing dark coloured hooded tops. One of the men wore a lighter coloured top underneath the hooded top while the other had a scarf partially covering his face.

Police are carrying out various lines of inquiry in an effort to trace those responsible and are now seeking the assistance of the public.

Detective Sergeant Lynsey Thomson of Edinburgh CID said: "Given the similarities of these crimes and their proximity, we are keeping an open mind to the possibility that both incidents are linked.

"There will be an increase in police patrols in the community to provide a reassuring presence however I urge anyone who recognises the description or who has any information relevant to our ongoing inquiries to come forward."

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

Evil child killer Robert Black has died in prison



Evil child killer Robert Black has died of natural causes in Maghaberry prison, Northern Ireland.

In a statement, the Northern Ireland Prison Service confirmed

that a "68-year-old prisoner" had died at the high-security jail in County Antrim.

"While this is not being treated as suspicious, the Prison Service has informed the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) Coroner, and Prisoner Ombudsman

"It would not be appropriate to comment further at this time."

On 30th July 1982 Black abducted and murdered 11-year-old Susan Maxwell from Cornhill-on-Tweed. Her body was later found near Twycross in Staffordshire.

On 8th July 1983 he abducted five-year-old Caroline Hogg from outside her home in Portobello. Her body was later found in a ditch in Leicestershire.

In 1986 Black abducted 10-year-old Sarah Harper as she walked from a corner shop near her home in Morley, Leeds. Her body was later discovered in the River Trent in Nottingham.

A massive police enquiry involving six forces failed to identify the culprit then in 1990 Black was arrested following another abduction of a young girl in the Borders.

He plead guilty to that offence and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

In 1994 Black was convicted for the murders of Susan, Caroline and Sarah and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Subsequent investigations by the Police Service of Northern Ireland linked him to the murder of nine-year-old Jennifer Cardy near her home in Ballinderry, County Antrim, on 12 August 1981. At the time, he was in Northern Ireland working as a delivery driver for a London-based poster company.

He was later convicted of Jennifer's murder and since then he has been serving his sentence in Northern Ireland.

Liam Fontaine aiming to raise £1,000 for the Sick Kids Friends Foundation



Hibs' defender Liam Fontaine is raising £1,000 for the Sick Kids Friends Foundation, and is hoping that fans will get behind this worthy cause.

On Friday, the popular vice-captain is shaving off his trademark beard for the first time in five months, and is taking donations through his Just Giving page which is accessible via the club's website.

The Sick Kids Friends Foundation (SKFF) supports and complements the work of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh (The Sick Kids) as well as other children's healthcare settings across the southeast of Scotland and beyond. The Hibs' squad spent time at the Sick Kids hospital before Christmas on their annual visit to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children

Supporters donating to the cause will also be in with a chance of winning one of three special prizes for their generosity, with a pair of signed boots, a signed training top and personalised photo from Liam up for grabs to three winners. Supporters should donate to the page by Thursday night to be in with a chance of winning one of the prizes.

Burns Supper an' a' that!



You are invited to very special Burns Supper at the Lauriston Hall, Edinburgh on Friday 29 January 2016 starting at 19:30pm.

Whether this will be your first Burns Supper or you're someone who has always enjoyed this annual celebration of the birthday of Robert Burns, Scotland's National Poet, you are in for a real treat with a traditional Burns Supper alongside excellent speakers including David McClay, Curator of the Murray Archive at The National Library of Scotland, the traditional 'Address To The Haggis' and some wonderful scottish music from talented young people chosen from Schools in Edinburgh

Early bird tickets are each priced £25 until Monday 18th January when they rise to £30

Tickets and further information can be obtained from:

Eventbrite

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/burns-supper-an-a-that-tickets-20078068042?aff=eac2>

Submitted by [English-Speaking Union Scotland](#)

Jordon Forster joins Plymouth

Argyle on loan until the end of the season



Hibs' defender Jordon Forster (pictured) has completed a loan move to Plymouth Argyle until the end of the season, subject to international clearance.

The 22-year-old who made his debut in a 2-1 win over Hearts in 2013, has played 56 times for Hibs, scoring 5 goals and featured in the Scottish Cup Final against Celtic.

He also had spells on loan at both Berwick Rangers and East Fife

He was a regular under Terry Butcher, often playing at right back however after suffering a hamstring injury against Rangers on the opening game of the season in the Petrofac Cup, he has not started since.

Hibs have sufficient cover in central defence with Paul Hanlon, Liam Fontaine, Darren McGregor and now Niklas Gunnarsson able to lay in that position.

Plymouth currently sit top of League Two, and are managed by Derek Adams who had a spell as Hibs' Assistant Manager under Colin Calderwood.

Forster will wear the number 28 jersey at Home Park.

Photo by John Preece

20mph to be rolled out in Edinburgh from this summer



Edinburgh is close to becoming Scotland's first 20mph city after Councillors approved plans to begin rolling out the speed limit.

Members of the Transport and Environment Committee today agreed a Traffic Regulation Order enabling the implementation of changes.

It is now planned to introduce the 20mph network over six phases, beginning with the city centre and rural west in July.

The move follows a formal consultation across the city as part of the statutory process to apply the speed limit.

Transport Convener, Councillor Lesley Hinds, said: "I am pleased that we are now able to move forward to the final stages of preparation before introducing a network of 20mph routes to the city, which will deliver a range of benefits to both residents and visitors.

"These proposals, aiming to create safer, more attractive streets for all road users, follow a great deal of consultation with the public, which found that the majority of citizens were in support.

"These moves will no doubt involve a culture change for all those who live in and travel through the city, but what we want to do now is work to raise awareness and share information amongst drivers, cyclists and pedestrians to ensure a smooth transition."

Responses to the consultation process for the Local Transport Strategy 2014-19, approved in January 2014, helped to shape

the Council's approach to setting speed limits in the urban area.

Reducing traffic speeds has been proven to lower the risk and severity of accidents, which in turn it is hoped would encourage more walking and cycling, reducing congestion and pollution and improving the local environment.

A map of 20mph, 30mph and 40mph limits for the city was passed by Transport and Environment Committee in January 2015, following extensive public consultation with local communities, businesses and other stakeholders.

Elected members also agreed a detailed implementation plan for the phased roll-out of 20mph limits in March 2015, which addresses project delivery, awareness-raising, enforcement and monitoring of the proposed changes.

Find out more about plans for 20mph limits on the Council website.

Dylan McGeouch looking forward to Scottish cup derby



Midfielder Dylan McGeouch insists that Hibs players will have to be focussed if they are to progress past Hearts in the 5th round of the Scottish Cup and also reach the League Cup final within the space of eight days.

Hibs cross the city to face St Johnstone at Tynecastle on Saturday 30th January in a repeat of the semi-final in 2007 then a week later they return to the same stadium to face an

in-form Hearts.

McGeouch has quickly become a fans' favourite since his move from Celtic in the summer due to his adventurous style of play and he relishes the prospect of an Edinburgh derby before a packed Tynecastle. Last season he featured in a draw in Gorgie and also a 2-0 win at Easter Road so he knows what to expect.

Speaking to Hibs TV he said: "It will be great for everyone involved at the club and the players as well.

"There are a few new players but there are plenty in the squad who have been involved in derbies before. Obviously the hype before the game will get us going but we will be looking to go there and get a good result.

"I've played in a few. the 2-0 game at Easter Road last year was great to be involved in and for the fans there was a great atmosphere.

"Hearts are a good side, we found that out last year. The games we played against each other were good and for the people watching the games there was a great atmosphere.

The fans love it and turn up and at derby games they are very vocal.

"The Semi Final game against St Johnstone is massive for us, it's a chance to get to Hampden in the Final – so we'll be looking to get a good result there.

"A week later we are back and involved in the Derby and I think there will be a lot of hype around the game. We just need to keep our heads focussed and hopefully go there and get a good result.

"It will be massive for us. we went there and got a draw last year so hopefully we will go one step ahead and get a positive result."

Elderly woman struck by car in Corstorphine Road



An investigation is underway after an elderly woman was struck by a car in Corstorphine Road around 8.20am this morning.

The collision resulted in Corstorphine Road being closed for just over an hour between Balgreen Road and Western Corner.

The woman was taken to hospital where her injuries were found to be minor in nature.

A police spokesman said: "An elderly woman has been taken to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh with minor injuries. Diversions were in place to allow emergency services access and the public are thanked for their patience and cooperation."

Edinburgh Airport reports growth in passenger numbers



Edinburgh Airport announced December's passenger numbers showing that a grand total of 11,130,584 passengers passed through the airport in 2015 making it the busiest ever year at a Scottish Airport.

The annual total represents an increase of over 950,000 passengers from the 2014 total which the airport owners say cements Edinburgh Airport's reputation as the place where Scotland meets the World.

The success was bolstered by particularly strong international passenger figures – which in December peaked with a 19 per cent year-on-year growth.

Although its overall traffic numbers are smaller, in the west of the country Glasgow Airport has issued the highest growth in its passenger numbers in the last year.

Glasgow Airport reported that more than 8.7 million passengers travelled through its doors in 2015, representing an annual increase of 13% – over one million additional passengers.

The airport, which celebrates its fiftieth anniversary year in 2016, experienced unprecedented growth during each month of 2015, ensuring it was able to record its fifth consecutive year of growth and return its passenger numbers to pre-recession levels.

Over the past 12 months the airport announced 30 new routes and services, significantly strengthened its connections to major European cities and cemented its position as Scotland's principal long haul airport. The new services led to uplifts in both international and domestic traffic over the year – up by 16.8% and 9% respectively. The airport was also classified as one of the fastest growing airports in Europe by airport trade body ACI Europe.

More than 569,000 people travelled through the airport in December 2015 – an increase of 10.1% on 2014 figures – seeing the airport report its busiest December on record. International traffic grew by 16.4% while domestic was up by 5.3%.

Welcoming the annual passenger figures in the capital, Gordon Dewar, Edinburgh Airport's Chief Executive, said: "Last year we enhanced passenger choice by offering more routes and more destinations— and passengers responded by choosing to fly in and out of Edinburgh Airport in greater numbers than ever before.

"This unprecedented success of 11.13 million passengers through our doors highlights the draw of Edinburgh as a destination and the growing appeal that Scotland holds across the globe.

"The 2015 annual total also represents an increase of over 950,000 passengers from the previous year.

"We remain focused on delivering more success in the year ahead. In 2016 we will continue to improve the passenger experience at Edinburgh Airport with a multi-million pound investment in our check-in and baggage systems, an improved retail offering with greater choice products and we aim to expand our range of new routes and destinations in the year ahead.

"I was asked late last year how much more Edinburgh Airport can grow in a country with little over five million people; I explained that it was not the 5 million I was worried about but how the other seven billion across the globe get to visit us.

"Our international passenger figures for December show a 19 per cent year-on-year growth; this is a strong indicator of our global ambitions and gives reason to be optimistic about further growth in the year ahead."

Scottish Government Minister for Transport and Islands Derek Mackay said: "Reaching this milestone is a fantastic achievement and I congratulate the entire team at Edinburgh Airport for their record breaking efforts in 2015.

“The airport’s success brings benefits to both the local and national economies. By improving our international connectivity, we give Scottish businesses improved access to global markets and make the country even more attractive as a destination for tourists

“Edinburgh Airport already offers a wide range of destinations, but the Scottish Government’s plan to cut Air Passenger Duty will help encourage airlines to develop new routes as well as help sustain existing ones.

“I wish Edinburgh Airport continued success and look forward to working with them once again in 2016.”

More have their say on council’s budget proposals



The City of Edinburgh Council have told us that a record number of people have given feedback on the services that matter to them as part of the council’s 2016/17 budget engagement.

There were a total of 4183 responses, up 31% on last year, relating to a variety of topics such as parking charges, school music tuition, allotments, library services, waste collections and council tax.

This year, the public have been able to have their say through a variety of methods, including an online planner and the online [‘Your City, Your Say’ dialogue page](#), which let people submit suggestions and rate others’ views.

Results of the engagement will be detailed in a report to be considered by the [Finance and Resources Committee](#) on Thursday, 14 January.

These include:

- 1,086 people using the online budget planner, which this year focused on some of the key transformational topics
- 1,067 responses via email, telephone call, letter or participation in an online survey
- 153 ideas discussed on the dedicated dialogue page
- Social media: 376 comments made about budget proposals on Facebook and Twitter
- A budget question time event attended by over 50 people, viewed by more than 200 people on the live webcast and watched another 360 times using the archive.

Finance and Resources Convener, Councillor Alasdair Rankin, said: "It has been an important element of the Capital Coalition's contract with the city that we would seek your views on the decisions we make which affect you. With this in mind we have once again put our budget proposals out to consultation to ask what services are important to you in your daily lives.

"It is encouraging that a record number of responses have been received as part of the City of Edinburgh Council's 2016/17 budget engagement and that so many of you want to work with us on what are the most important decisions that this Council will make.

"It is vital that we make it as easy as possible for you to have your say on how we spend and save money. We are already carefully considering the range of feedback we've received, which will enable us to make informed decisions when setting our budget. In previous years we have amended aspects of the budget to reflect what we have heard and I'm sure we will do so this time as well."

The strength of public opinion was also demonstrated by three petitions submitted, two on proposals to introduce charges for music tuition and one on proposals to reduce hours for school crossing guides at lunch time.

This year, the range of online budget feedback tools has built on the success of an online budget planner launched in 2014.

The new dialogue tool encourages people to discuss and rate their own ideas.

Online engagement was supplemented by more traditional means of communication, including face-to-face meetings, leaflets with forms, and media.

The report will be considered at [Finance and Resources Committee](#), which will take place on Thursday, 14 January and can be watched [on webcast](#). The Edinburgh Reporter will be at the meeting tweeting and reporting live on the discussions.

Recorded Police Warning Scheme introduced



A new system of recorded warnings that will speed up justice outcomes was introduced yesterday.

The Recorded Police Warning Scheme will allow police officers to make greater use of their discretion when dealing with minor crimes. It replaces the Formal Adult Warning system and has been extended to include 16 and 17 year olds.

Developed following revised Lord Advocate's Guidelines, the scheme will address minor offending behaviour which is

currently reported to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and results in either a non-court disposal or no action being taken due to the minor nature of the offence and circumstances.

In 2014/15, thousands of cases reported to COPFS resulted in no proceedings being taken or the Procurator Fiscal issuing a direct fine or other similar disposal.

The Recorded Police Warning Scheme is the first step in a three-tiered disposal process – Recorded Police Warning; Fixed Penalty Notice; Standard Prosecution Report – and it is hoped that the introduction of the scheme will substantially reduce the number of reports being sent to COPFS. The Recorded Police Warning Scheme does not replace the opportunity for officers, in appropriate circumstances, to issue a verbal warning.

The Recorded Police Warning Scheme provides a proportionate response to minor offending whilst significantly reducing the volume of reports being compiled and submitted through the justice system

Operational briefings have been carried out across Police Scotland with a focus on operational officers, service centre and control room staff and custody officers. As with any new approach, full implementation will take some time to achieve, but the scheme provides a method to deliver an effective, proportionate and outcome focused way to address minor offending.

Alan Stubbs hails derby as

“undoubtedly the tie of the round”



Excitement is building already amongst both sets of supporters after Hibs were drawn to play city rivals Hearts in the Fifth Round of the William Hill Scottish Cup and Head Coach Alan Stubbs has hailed the Edinburgh Derby as “undoubtedly the tie of the round”

The draw was made at Hampden Park last night by former Rangers star Brian Laudrup and World Darts Champion Gary Anderson and for the second time in succession, Hibs were the last ball drawn.

The ties are due to be played on the weekend of February 6th however with Scotland playing England in the Calcutta Cup at Murrayfield and the fact that the game will almost certainly be live on TV, it is likely that it will be played on Sunday 7th February.

Coincidentally Hibs play St Johnstone at Tynecastle the week before in the semi-final of the Scottish League Cup.

Although excited about the return of the Capital derby, Stubbs insists his focus will be on the upcoming league fixtures rather than the Scottish Cup clash.

Speaking to the official Hibernian website, Stubbs said: “It’s a fantastic tie for both teams.

“With no derby this season it’s even more special – it’s undoubtedly the tie of the round. We’ll be hoping to go there and get a result – it’s two good teams in good form.

“I’m sure the excitement has started already for both sets of supporters, but we have four big games to think about before

focusing on Hearts.”

Ticket information will follow in due course.

Police name pedestrian who died in Drum Brae Drive



Police have confirmed the identity of a man who died on Saturday 9 January following a collision between a pedestrian and a red Suzuki Swift on Drum Brae Drive, Corstorphine.

He was 62-year-old Dennis Gay.

Dennis’ family have issued the following statement: “Dennis was a loving husband, father, father-in-law, grandad and brother who touched the hearts of all who knew him.

“He was the life and soul of the party who will be sorely missed.”

Hearts face Hibs in Scottish Cup 5th round at Tynecastle



Hibs will play Heart of Midlothian at Tynecastle in the William Hill Scottish Cup Fifth Round.

The draw was made at Hampden Park earlier tonight by former Rangers star Brian Laudrup and Hibs' fan and World Darts Champion Gary Anderson.

The Edinburgh sides were last out of the hat.

Ties will be played the weekend of 6 February, with ticket information to follow in due course.

Scotland face England on Saturday 6th February at Murrayfield so the game which will almost certainly be live on TV will probably be played on the Sunday.

Hibs cruised through to the fifth round with a comfortable 2-0 win over Raith Rovers on Saturday then the following day Hearts beat Aberdeen 1-0 at Tynecastle.

The last time the pair met in the competition Hibs won 1-0 at Easter Road thanks to a David Wotherspoon goal however Hearts won the previous four including a final and semi-final at Hampden.

Hibs' fans will be hoping for a repeat of the result the last time they met in the cup at Tynecastle however in 1971. Watch the goals [here](#).

The full draw is as follows:

Motherwell v Stirling Albion or Inverness Caledonian Thistle

East Kilbride or Lothian Thistle Hutchison Value v Celtic

Dundee Utd v Partick Thistle

Dunfermline Athletic or Ross County v Linlithgow Rose or Forfar Athletic

Rangers v Kilmarnock

Annan Athletic v Greenock Morton

Dumbarton v Dundee or Falkirk

Heart of Midlothian v Hibernian