

Edinburgh councillor blogs – Councillor Maureen Child

✉ Dear All

The few **Syrian refugee families** Edinburgh has already welcomed to Edinburgh through the UK Government's Vulnerable Person's Relocation Scheme are settling in well thanks to a range of excellent public, private and voluntary sector partners. We expect to welcome more in the New Year. One of our key partners, very aptly named **The Welcoming**, are helping provide language classes and pathways into making friends – helping them form the kind of informal networks we all depend upon. The Welcoming have attracted a number of excellent new volunteers to help with their vital work, helping people settle in and make a real contribution to the life of Edinburgh. Find out more about The Welcoming here: <http://www.thewelcoming.org/>

You would be made very welcome to a **Christmas Light** service is taking place in '**Wellsprings**', 71 Whitehill Street, **Newcraighall** EH21 8QZ at **4pm on Sunday 20th December**. It will include; carol singing; a kids dance video, with a modern take on the nativity; kids Christmas crafts; candle lights; mulled wine/juice and mince pies. The offering will be taken in aid of Syrian refugees. More about Wellspring here: www.wellsprings.uk.net

Or you would be equally welcome in the **Robin Chapel**, for a more formal and cerebral Christmas experience with amazing choral singing: <http://www.robinchapel.org.uk/>

Several people from **Gilberstoun** have contacted me about the inconsiderate and quite **dangerous way people park right next to Brunstane Station** on Brunstane Road South. They said it was an accident waiting to happen. If you do ever leave your car near the station, do make sure the sightlines are clear for all other road users, cyclists and pedestrians. I was in touch with both local police and local roads team to see what we can do about it. I asked for cones to be put up again in the short term and more permanent measures be progressed.

I went along to a meeting of **Portobello Rotary** for the first time last week to hear Fiona Fitheridge speak about the **Thistle in Craigmillar** and all the work they do. It was the premier of a couple of short films where people talked about how the Thistle has helped them turn their lives around. Hugely impressive! This is only part of what Thistle do: <http://chronicleonline.net/2015/12/17/thistle-helping-you-manage-your-health/> Portobello Rotary is small but does great work and has a big impact. More here: <http://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=110>

The Council's **local park rangers** team do a really great job, working alongside local communities and 'Friends of Parks'. They have put a few illustrated highlights here in their annual report, which deserves to be much more widely distributed and celebrated. More here: <http://www.portobelloc.org/pccpn/2015/12/14/park-ranger-service-east-neighbourhood-newsletter-2015/>

On Tuesday I was in **St Francis RC Primary School** in Craigmillar presenting booklets to P5 children on the work they had done to develop themselves '**Agents for Change**' in

their community. This is a fabulous programme run by the Jack Kane Community Centre. It really engages the interest and enthusiasm of the youngsters in learning how to be a good member of a community and get along with people. Having met the children, I am not surprised to hear the class teacher say that this happened to be most rewarding class she had ever taught – and she clearly had quite a few years of teaching experience.

More here: <http://jackkanecommunity.org/?s=Agents+for+change+&submit=Search>

I was delighted to be asked on to this year's judging panel for S5/6 young people at Castlebrae Community High School (CCHS) presenting on a charity of their choice that means a lot to them. Not an easy thing to do! This was part of the Scotland-wide Young Philanthropy Initiative which gave each group a chance to win their chosen organisation £3000. Last year, Kids in the Street (KITS) won and we heard from Kev Finlay all the prize money last year had enabled them to do. This year, the narrow winner was The Yard, with some really fabulous runners up. The choice was not at all easy and had to be based not on the merits of the charity, but how well the youngsters presented. The people who run the YPI venture said to us that four of those CCHS presentations were the best they had ever seen. Castlebrae Community High School is doing fabulous work in building the confidence of some wonderful, caring young people.

Picture here: https://mobile.twitter.com/ypi_scotland/status/677134796074713088/photo/1

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) is appealing to the public to **stay safe this winter** by taking the necessary steps to protect their families, homes, customers and communities.

Read more

here: <http://chronicleonline.net/2015/12/14/stay-safe-this-winter/>

Nice photo of **Craigmillar Castle**, the impressive and superbly preserved, former fortified residence of Sir Simon Preston – as every child in Castlevew Primary School will be able to tell you, particularly by the time they learn all to be official tour guides for their peers in P6/7. <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=858618487589501>

From time to time I get asked – does this development have planning consent? Is it being built as approved? A refreshed **planning enforcement charter** sets out the enforcement process and how enquiries can be made. The dedicated online form ensures the enquirer provides all the information planning officers need to allow an investigation to proceed. The online form is easy to use and can also be accessed on mobile devices. The form and charter are available at: www.edinburgh.gov.uk/planningenforcement This means an improved and quicker service, with fewer delays, although paper-based enquiries are still welcome.

Planning Aid Scotland is now called simply PAS – which is confusing for those of us who use that acronym locally for **Portobello Amenity Society** (PAS)! PAS nationally offers free, impartial and professional planning advice to help people understand and engage with the planning system. pas.org.uk PAS locally can and do help local people get to grips with the planning system. I am pleased to know that both organisations are lending support to the fight to retain the **allotments at Craigentenny/Telferton**. I was pleased to meet up with two of the campaigners to give them some advice on how to get their message across.

A Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) has just gone in to the planning service for the Local Development Plan proposed **Brunstane site** and Portobello Community Council have put details up on the their website. More here: <http://www.portobellocc.org/pccpn/2015/12/17/proposal-of-application-notice-received-for-brunstane/>

To get more details on this application, or any other, do go on to the Council's website www.edinburgh.gov.uk/planning You will get full details of how to comment or get involved with any live planning application or search any planning history of sites which interest you. An application been lodged on 30 November for a **cycling facility at Hunter's Hall Park** associated with the Jack Kane Centre. The reference for this one is 15/05530/PAN.

Here's a nice picture of **Portobello Hornets** young rugby players in their smart new strips – thanks to sponsorship by **The Espy!** [Photo](#)

Boating by **Portobello Beach and Pier**, 1885: This is the picture for July in the Lost Edinburgh Calendar for 2016. The pier: fb.me/7SADG0Bih

Portobello Town Hall's next regular Monthly **Ceilidh** 8 January 2016. Start the weekend in full swing, at the regular monthly Friday night ceilidh with great live music from the Canongate Cadgers, first Friday of the month. Dancing 8pm until 11pm, no need to book. Just pay for your ticket at the door.. Pay at the door £8 (£6 concessions), organised by Cadgers Music

Factory. This Ceilidh Event suitable for all ages and abilities. All dances are explained – the band has a caller. Doors open 7.30pm (Dancing 8pm -11pm) No need to book, just pay at the door on the night. Under 16 's Free Entry. All welcome. <http://www.meetup.com/ceilidh-meetup/events/227163463/>

One of my constituents pointed out how many local roofs in Craigmillar and Niddrie now have **solar panels** retro-fitted. These may well be Castle Rock Edinvar Housing Association properties, fitted with energy saving solar panels under a scheme to tackle fuel poverty and reduce household energy bills. I am told that 105 properties in the EH16 postcode have benefitted from this investment. More here:

http://www.castlerockedinvar.co.uk/about_us/company_news/technology_trial_underway_in_£7_million_project_to_tackle_fuel_poverty.aspx

And finally – I hope you like the attached photo of our up-cycled bonsai Christmas tree (attached).

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!

Best wishes

Maureen

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

p.s. My face-to-face Councillor Advice Sessions, or 'Surgeries', are usually every **Monday at 5.30 pm** in **Castleview Community Centre**, 76 Craigmillar Castle Avenue (Phone 661 4064) and then **at 7 pm** in **Portobello Library**, 14 Rosefield Avenue (Phone 529 5558). Now also at Craigmillar Library, 101 Niddrie Mains Road, EH16 4DT, 1st Wednesday of the month, drop-in session 5pm-5.30pm, thereafter by appointment only up until 7.30pm.

Please phone me on Direct Line 0131 529 3268 or Mobile 07718 666 481, or email maureen.child@edinburgh.gov.uk to check availability, make an appointment or request a home visit.

Rugby – Edinburgh v London Irish, European Rugby Challenge Cup

Edinburgh hang on for a narrow win



Following the previous weeks hammering by London Irish in Reading, the Edinburgh side had a lot of ground to make up to keep their European Rugby Challenge Cup campaign on the rails and a narrow 18-15 win in the traditional, mid-group stage double header gave them that chance.

10 changes from the previous weekend lined up at BT Murrayfield to face a visiting side who had made a few changes of their own and from the whistle it looked to have paid off as the home side were quickly deep in the opposition half.

However, a couple of dropped passes put London Irish right back into the game and they swiftly drove up, deep into the home 22 where they scored the opener from prop, Gerard Ellis who was driven over the line by the pack. Shane Geraghty was unable to add the extras so, just over eight minutes in, the score was 5-0 the Irish.

✖ Edinburgh then came right back from the restart, driving the visitors back into their 22 again, but again, a mistake, this time by Phil Burleigh, cost them possession.

But they weren't finished with the pressure and a couple of minutes later, the hosts were once again on the offensive. Winning a ruck penalty on the left of the pitch a few metres out, Sam Hidalgo-Clyne was denied using a quick tap by the referee as he was almost a metre from the spot, so a lineout it was.

The pack mauled the ball nearer the posts and a neat offload to Tom Brown saw the winger through for Edinburgh opening points. Hidalgo-Clyne slotted home the easy conversion and, with 16 minutes played, it was 7-5 to Edinburgh.

Less than two minutes from the kick off, Edinburgh were once again mauling toward the Irish line. This time, the maul was brought to ground illegally, giving Hidalgo-Clyne his second shot at goal. His successful kick stretched the host's lead to 10-5 as the match entered the second quarter.

It was now London Irish's turn to pile on the pressure and, for the next 10 minutes they held Edinburgh mostly in their own half, but Geraghty had another shot at goal for a penalty on the 30 minutes mark and, this time, made no mistake to ✖ narrow the gap to 10-8.

With three minutes to go, the Edinburgh pack drew another penalty for Hidalgo-Clyne to have a go at, and, once again, the scrum half was on target to restore the five-point gap at 13-8.

With the half drawing to a close, the visitors put in a sustained attack on the Edinburgh line, only a fine, last-gasp tackle from Mike Allan stopping the score.

The match see-sawed back and forth for the first 20 minutes of the second half with Tom Brown and Damien Hoyland making good breaks for the hosts and the London Irish pack doing the majority of their work. And it was the Irish pack who were first to add second half points to the score board.

Winning their own lineout a few metres from the line, the ball was recycled several times through mauling and through the hands before the forwards took charge once again and fired sub, No. 17, Tom Smallbone over the line for the second visitors' try. Geraghty was, once again successful with his kick and it was 15-13 with 20 minutes left on the clock.

It proved to be a good 20 minutes for Edinburgh as several breaks forced the visiting side into desperate defence, only some last-ditch tackling stopping a score – as did a penalty miss by Hidalgo-Clyne!



With less than 10 minutes to go to the whistle, another fine run from Brown was brought to ground inside the 22. The ball was shifted out to Hoyland on the wing, but he was driven out just short of the five-metre line. From Irish's clearance, Edinburgh were once again in possession and, from the line out, flanker, John Hardie – ably 'assisted' by Hoyland and Mike Coman – went over in the right corner for the lead. Hidalgo-Clyne then missed his attempt at goal, but it was 18-15 with just over six minutes left.

London Irish pressed hard in the final minutes, but good discipline – for a change – by the Edinburgh side saw the visitors pushed back toward their own half and a final error gave the host team a scrum to finish off a hard fought win.

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

Do you know when your GP's surgery is open this Christmas?



Dr Owl, the face of NHS 24's 'Be Health-Wise this Winter' campaign is asking people if they know when their GP surgery and local pharmacy are open over the festive period and to make sure they know where to go if they need health advice over the holidays.

NHS 24's Medical Director Professor George Crooks said: "GP surgery opening times may vary across Scotland so it is vital you know when your local surgery will be available. Pharmacies can help with treatments for common complaints but again, do make sure that you know when your local pharmacy will be open.

"It's a good idea to have some over the counter medicines at home and if you are on any long term medication make sure you have enough to last over the holidays, order only what you need but make sure you get it in plenty of time."

Dr Alan McDevitt, chair of the BMA's Scottish GP Committee, says it's important people know what services are available, and when: "GPs and other healthcare staff will be working in out of hours units across Scotland, throughout the festive break, to ensure that people who become ill and can't wait for an appointment when their GP practice re-opens can get help. Be prepared by finding out when your local surgery is going to

be open, order repeat prescriptions early and stock up on remedies for seasonal illnesses from your local pharmacy.”

The 111 service run by NHS 24 will be available throughout Christmas and Hogmanay and online health advice and information can be found at www.nhsinform.co.uk.

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh



SNH looking for board members

Planning approval for Donaldson's

Holyrood in recess

Street of Light

Hairdressing for the homeless

People interested in helping to look after Scotland's spectacular nature are being invited to apply to be a member of the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) board.

SNH is particularly keen to have more women on the board to meet the Scottish Government's 50:50 by 2020 initiative and Scottish Ministers will appoint four new SNH Board members to start on 1 April 2016.

SNH's work is hugely varied, from researching and combating climate change to encouraging people to get out and enjoy nature, restoring Scotland's peatlands, battling wildlife crime, and being involved in a diverse range of partnership

projects that seek to enhance our biodiversity – from the majestic sea eagles to the more obscure woolly willow. A key aspect of our role is to demonstrate the link between our natural heritage and a range of wider social and economic benefits to society.

Ian Ross, SNH's chair, said: "You think of Scotland and immediately picture beautiful mountains, lochs and coastlines. It's SNH's role to help protect and enhance all of this, which is not only crucial to our heritage and health, but also to our economy. The work we do is incredibly important, and I'd encourage anyone with a passion for nature, and experience of either scientific conservation or business, to apply for these rewarding board openings."

"In particular, I would like to encourage women and members of minority groups to apply. At the moment, we have only one woman out of seven people on our board, but we're committed to change this dramatically to meet the Scottish Government's 50:50 by 2020 initiative."

"The Scottish Government looks to SNH for both advice and hands-on management, often working with our partners, to conserve nature for future generations. That's a huge responsibility, and a challenge that the board members take to heart. The job isn't an easy one – as board members constantly have to balance protecting our environment with the resources available and what can be very differing interests across public, private and voluntary sectors – but it is a highly rewarding one. Board members fulfil an important governance and accountability role and make an important contribution to SNH's engagement with a diverse range of groups and organisations."

Current expertise represented on the SNH board includes local authority, land use, natural resource management, renewable energy, environmental education, wildlife management, strategic planning, business, information technology,

modernising government, and bird conservation.

Ian added: "You don't need a detailed understanding of science and nature to apply for the board positions. We're looking for people with the experience and enthusiasm to help lead a large and complex public service organisation."

SNH board members receive £291.37 per day with a normal commitment of 30 days a year. Application packs are available from the public appointments website (<http://bit.ly/1QwZ07B>) with a closing date of 17 January. The appointments are for a three-year period.

Planning permission has been approved by The City of Edinburgh Council for the redevelopment of the Category A Listed Donaldson's, Edinburgh.

Working in partnership, City & Country will restore and convert the majestic Playfair building, whilst CALA Evans will create a range of contemporary homes in the surrounding grounds.

The permission allows for 115 new properties sited within the Playfair building, ranging from one to three bedrooms and 84 newly built two and three bedroom homes, designed in a crescent shape to the rear of the Playfair building. The sweeping South Lawn that faces Wester Coates will be retained as an open, landscaped area.

As part of the proposals there will be 402 cycle parking spaces for residents, whilst car parking for both the Playfair building and the new build crescent will be sited underground, totalling 364 allocated residents spaces and a further 26 for visitors.



The Scottish Parliament will be in recess between 19 December 2015 and 4 January 2016. Business will resume on 5 January 2016.

The Scottish Parliament building will be closed to visitors between 24 December 2015 and 3 January 2016. The building reopens to the public on 4 January 2016.

Only a few days left to enjoy the Virgin Money Street of Light which finishes on Christmas Eve. Have you been yet? What did you think?

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



Edinburgh College's young hairdressers are swapping salons for the streets this winter for a charity project to provide haircuts to homeless people.

Seven hair and beauty students took their scissors to the Salvation Army at The Pleasance and Cross Reach's Cunningham House hostel this week, cutting and styling the hair of around 30 clients who use the charities' services. They will be visiting the centres again over the winter to offer more haircuts.

Rosemary Martin, hair and beauty lecturer at the college, has run the Haircuts for the Homeless project for four years, and each year has a new set of students to take along.

Rosemary said: "It's not compulsory but my students are always up for it. The whole experience is really beneficial and a privilege, as they get the chance to practise the skills they've learnt in college on real people. The homeless centres

are always pleased to see us.”

Liam Fontaine determined to keep momentum going



Liam Fontaine is determined to ensure that Hibs keep the momentum going at the top of the table, with a 16 match unbeaten run at stake when they face Queen of the South at Easter Road on Saturday.

Hibs currently sit second on the table, three points behind leaders Rangers in the race for automatic promotion to the top flight and with the pair meeting on the 28th neither club can afford to drop points at this vital time of the season.

Hibs were unable to get the better of the ‘Doonhamers’ last season but have held the upper hand this time winning 3-0 at Palmerston Park earlier in the season thanks to goals from Jason Cummings, Liam Henderson and Martin Boyle.

Fontaine told Hibs TV: “We will go into the game looking to win it and looking to extend our run.

“We are confident as we have been in our previous games so there will be no difference thought process from us.

“They’ll be hard work and organised as they always are, they’ll play and it’s just up to us again to be superior and put our mark on them. Out run them, out work them and out play them and win the game.”

Family of Abdul Rehman issue statement



The family of Abdul Rehman who sadly died yesterday in a road traffic collision on Cliftonhall Road, near to Ratho, have issued the following statement through Police Scotland:

“Abdul Rehman was a loving son, brother and uncle who put everyone before himself.

“His family meant the world to him and he meant the same to us. We are absolutely heartbroken.

“We are so extremely grateful for all the kind messages and support we continue to receive from all who knew Abdul Rehman.

“We would like to take this opportunity to request privacy.

“We hope people will understand the need for us to have time alone to grieve at this very sensitive time ”

Lynne has been to the palace to get her OBE!



Lynne McNicoll OBE now has the insignia to prove she has the honour.

This morning the Edinburgh charity Chair arrived at Buckingham

Palace wearing a royal blue coat with matching hat and received the significant honour from HRH The Prince of Wales.

Lynne said: "Prince Charles congratulated me and then chatted about why I set up the charity and how tough it was to fundraise."

The founder of charity ItsGood2Give which supports young people with cancer, Lynne herself has been receiving treatment for cancer over recent months. Her energy is a wee bit limited but she was determined to enjoy her special day today to the full so it was a limo to the palace for Lynne and husband Ian.

Lynne explained to The Edinburgh Reporter : "I heard about the honour in an amazing letter and it came when I was very ill so it was good timing to boost my morale."

Lynne has raised over £2m in ten years, and of that £1.5m has been for her own charity It's good 2 give.

Witness appeal following series of break-ins in Bonnyrigg.



Police in Midlothian are appealing for witnesses following a series of break-ins in Bonnyrigg.

Four garages and sheds in Broomieknowe, Lasswade, Bonnyrigg were broken into overnight between Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th December.

A variety of property including tools and a blue-coloured pedal cycle, Whyte make, Aluminous model were stolen.

Sergeant Michele Lindsay said: "Theft by Housebreaking is a crime that significantly impacts on people's lives I would ask people to review their security in light of these break-ins and to make sure they have taken adequate steps to protect their possessions.

"I would also like to reassure the community that we have a dedicated team of officers investigating these crimes and would urge anyone who saw any suspicious activity or has any information in relation to these incidents to please contact police immediately on 101, or alternatively the charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

For further information about home or personal security, please speak to a local officer, visit your local station, call Police Scotland on 101 or visit the following pages on this website:

Police in Midlothian are appealing for witnesses following a series of break-ins in Bonnyrigg.

Four garages and sheds in Broomieknowe, Lasswade, Bonnyrigg were broken into overnight between Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th December.

A variety of property including tools and a blue-coloured pedal cycle, Whyte make, Aluminous model were stolen.

Sergeant Michele Lindsay said: "Theft by Housebreaking is a crime that significantly impacts on people's lives I would ask people to review their security in light of these break-ins and to make sure they have taken adequate steps to protect their possessions.

"I would also like to reassure the community that we have a dedicated team of officers investigating these crimes and

would urge anyone who saw any suspicious activity or has any information in relation to these incidents to please contact police immediately on 101, or alternatively the charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

For further information about home or personal security, please speak to a local officer, visit your local station, call Police Scotland on 101 or visit the following pages on the Police Scotland website:

Bogus caller warning after incidents in Newtongrange



Police are appealing for witnesses following a number of bogus caller incidents in Newtongrange.

A man attended several addresses in the Suttislea area on Wednesday 16 and Thursday 17 December claiming to be taking part in a local sporting event to raise money for a cancer charity.

The suspect is described as white, 5ft 8inches tall, with a slim build. He had a Scottish accent, gaunt appearance, and mid-length brown hair that was swept to the side. He was wearing a dark mid-length jacket and dark skinny jeans.

Sergeant Stuart Aitchison said: “Our enquiries have established that these are bogus caller incidents, and we’re appealing to any members of the local community with information that can assist with our investigation to get in touch.

“I’d like to remind all residents to be wary of unknown or unexpected callers. Don’t ever feel embarrassed by asking for identification, as legitimate callers will be happy to provide you with this. If you unsure of a caller, or are made to feel threatened or intimidated, ask them to leave and contact a trusted friend, relative or police.”

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

Alan Stubbs previews Queen of the South fixture



Hibs’ Head coach Alan Stubbs is looking forward to facing Queen of the South on Saturday after last weeks draw with Falkirk. Despite dropping two points, Hibs did not lose any ground to league leaders Rangers after coming from behind to equalise in the dying minutes with only nine men on the pitch.

John McGinn’s red card in the game has since been downgraded to a yellow meaning that he will be available for selection while there will be late fitness tests for several players.

Stubbs told Hibs TV: “We are certainly looking forward to it. we go into it buoyed from last week’s result and performance and the way it all turned out at the end.

“It was a well earned point. It felt more than that with the manner in which we achieved it in the end.

“It showed a different side to us which I knew we had We were full of energy, desire, and will not to be beat and from my

point of view and from the teams point of view it was great.

“I think it will be tough as we know Queen of the South really well. We know they have good players in the team that can contribute towards causing an upset if we are not up to our best.

“We want to put a good performance on, we want to win the game ultimately, and then move onto our next game.

“We will have late calls on Marvin (Bartley), Dylan (McGeouch) and Farid (El Alagui). Izzy (Islam Feruz) come back into the squad after missing a few days with a cold. apart from that we are where we were last weekend.

Hibs’ fans can get photo with League Cup on Saturday



Hibs’ fans attending Saturday’s game with Queen of the South will be able to get their hands on the Scottish League Cup thanks to tournament sponsors Utilita.

Hibs face St Johnstone in this season’s semi final at Tynecastle and the trophy is no stranger to Easter Road having spent some time in the Boardroom in 1972, 1991 and 2007.

The trophy will be on display in the East Stand concourse from 2pm, with Utilita accepting donations for the charity Home-

Start, a national family support charity that helps parents to build better lives for their children. They will also be handing out 150 teddy bears to supporters – so make sure you get down early with your wee Hibee for a special Christmas treat.

And Utilita are offering supporters the opportunity to win two tickets for the Scottish League Cup semi final with St Johnstone – simply get your photo with the trophy and tweet @UtilitaEnergy using the hashtag #UtilitaFootball.

A spokesperson for Utilita said: “Home-Start is an extraordinary charity bringing love, hope and invaluable, incredible support to some of Scotland – and indeed Britain’s – most vulnerable families.

“The reality is any one of us could need Home-Start’s help one day – so we are honoured to work alongside such inspiring people who amaze us daily with their work.

“We say to all Hibeers fans attending the Queen of the South game on Dec 19, with the semi-final against St Johnstone next month, come and have your pic taken with the Scottish League Cup, presented by Utilita Energy – and any spare coins into Home-Start’s collection buckets would be gratefully accepted!”

Scottish Government bans smoking in cars carrying children



MSPs have voted in favour of legislation to protect more

children from the effects of second-hand smoke by prohibiting smoking in cars with children on board.

The Scottish Parliament today passed the Smoking Prohibition (Children in Motor Vehicles) (Scotland) Bill.

When the legislation commences next year, anyone caught smoking in a private vehicle carrying someone under the age of 18 will face a fixed penalty notice of £100 or a court fine of up to £1,000.

Speaking after the Stage 3 debate Minister for Public Health, Maureen Watt, said:

“This government is absolutely committed to protecting children from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke.

“Smoking remains the primary preventable cause of ill health and death in Scotland – ultimately killing one in two long-term users. This costs the NHS as much as £300 million to £500 million each year.

“The evidence on the harmful effects of second-hand smoke is also clear, which is why last year we announced a target to reduce the proportion of children in Scotland exposed in the home from 12 per cent to six per cent by 2020 – potentially saving 50,000 Scottish children from second-hand smoke.

“This Bill will contribute to those aims, and I am delighted that it has now been passed.

“The purpose of this legislation is ultimately to achieve culture and behaviour change. Scotland has led the way with the ban on smoking in public places, the display ban and our commitment to a tobacco free generation – these have had a positive effect on public health and we are confident that a ban on smoking in cars with children will do likewise.”

Letter from Scotland



Lighten our darkness on the
Old Dalkeith Road

'Tis the season of coloured lights and cheerful dispositions. The homes around me are decorated with flashing Santa Clauses, reindeer, Christmas trees, Yule wreaths and many other glittering distractions. It's all in defiance of the winter darkness and whatever troubles the householders inside may have. Christmas is a time when we can pause and put things in context, to balance light against darkness.

Looking though my diary for the past year, I find myself saying "Thank goodness I live in Scotland and not in other parts of the world." This week, for instance, we were treated to a budget speech by our Finance Secretary, John Swinney, which outlined Scottish Government spending of some £30 billion. We are not a poor country. In fact, according to the International Monetary Fund, we are living in the 14th richest country in the world.

In this context the rows at Holyrood pale into insignificance. And there have been rows – over the cut of 2 per cent in local government funding, over Mr Swinney's decision not to use his new power to raise income tax by a penny or two in the pound, over his continuing freeze of the council tax, over the announcement of an extra tax on second homes. All of which we will hear plenty about in the run-up to the Scottish elections in six months' time.

But back to my diary. I see that 2015 began with the usual storms. A cargo ship went down in the Pentland Firth with the

loss of its 8-man crew. And the storms kept coming. We have even started naming them, American style.

The latest, Storm Desmond, caused severe flooding in the Borders and Dumfriesshire. Last year was the wettest ever recorded in Britain and 2015 is on target to exceed that. It's expected to be the windiest. But at least we are not subject to the cyclones such as the one which devastated the low-lying islands of Vanuatu in March.

Climate change, of course, has been one of the big issues of the year. We saw Nicola Sturgeon strutting our stuff at the UN summit in Paris earlier this month, boasting about Scotland's world-leading target of cutting carbon emissions by 42 per cent by 2020. Unfortunately we have missed our interim targets for the last four years. But never mind, we saw the demolition of the chimney stacks at the old coal-fired power station at Cockenzie in September and next April we will be closing down the last such power station at Longannet, which may put us back on track, despite our addiction to car travel.



The end of the age of coal,
Cockenzie power station

On the 7th of January, my diary records that the offices of the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo were attacked by two Islamic extremists. Eleven people were killed. At the beginning of February, my diary records that a Jordanian pilot was burned to death by Islamic State militants in Iraq, one of several ritual killings. In June, 30 British tourists were killed at a beach resort in Tunisia, by terrorists inspired by IS. At the end of October, a Russian plane carrying tourists home from an Egyptian resort was brought down by a Jihadist's bomb. All 244 people on board died. Then a few days later, came the Paris shootings in which 131 people were killed.

All this slaughter of the innocents has finally awakened governments in the West to the turmoil in the Middle East. There's been yet another declaration of a "war on terror" and on 2 December, MPs voted to send British planes to bomb IS targets in Syria. The SNP voted against, saying there was no overall strategy for winning the war against IS or for what should happen if IS is defeated. Since then of course Russia has entered the war and Saudi Arabia has convened a meeting of neighbouring states to edge towards a peace settlement.

European governments also had a rude awakening to the four-year long civil war in Syria when over 800,000 refugees arrived on their borders. Over 3,000 drowned in their attempt to cross the Mediterranean Sea. Around 6,000 are camped at Calais trying to cross the North Sea to Britain.

So far, Britain has only promised to take in 20,000 refugees over the next four years. The first thousand are already here, a hundred of them in Scotland. On the 2nd September my diary records the picture of 3 year old Aylan Kurdi a Syrian boy, whose body was found washed up on a beach in Turkey as his family tried to flee to Europe. It has become one of the most haunting memories of 2015.

On the economic front, this has been the year of zero, or near zero, inflation. My diary records the date as 24th March when the figure slipped to zero itself. By May, we were into deflationary territory for the first time since 1960. Meanwhile, unemployment has been falling, but only slightly in Scotland, from 5.7 per cent in January to 5.6 per cent in this month's figures. In short, the Scottish economy has not been recovering well and has slipped behind the UK as whole. In particular our oil industry has been evaporating as world oil prices have fallen to less than \$50 a barrel.

My diary entries chart the political year from the UK general election of May 7th when the Conservatives won a surprising

victory. But not in Scotland....in fact they only won one seat. So too did the Liberal Democrats. But the sensation was the collapse of Labour to just one MP – my own Ian Murray here in the Socialist Republic of leafy Edinburgh South. The SNP won 56 seats and still dominate the opinion polls to this day. Nicola Sturgeon was the star of the show even though she herself was not standing in the Westminster elections.

✖ Since then of course, we have had the young Kezia Dugdale elected to lead Scottish Labour and on September 12th, Jeremy Corbyn led his revolutionary forces to an astonishing victory in the UK Labour leadership race. Everyone, including Labour MPs, is still trying to work out what all this will mean for the Labour Party. Will it turn sharply to the left ? Will it be electable ?

And finally, to that other armchair sport...sport itself. Both football and athletics have disgraced themselves this year. Sepp Blatter and his cronies at FIFA headquarter have been hunted out of office by fraud investigators from America. And the world athletics body IAAF has been found napping over the issue of doping in sport. Its new president Lord Coe is struggling to win back public trust.

On the field, Scotland has not had a great year either. In football we failed to qualify for the European championships and in the rugby World Cup we were unlucky and knocked out by Australia in the quarterfinals. However in the unlikely sport of tennis, we won the Davis Cup, thanks to the Murray brothers from Dunblane. Who can forget that cheeky last lob by Andy Murray right over the head of Belgium's David Goffin ?

And so I close my diary for 2015. A rather frightening and disappointing year is over when we faced climate change, terrorism, political excitement and economic uncertainty. Still, it is Christmas and all is well.

Just keep the coloured lights turned on.

Good Service Awards 2015 – A Personal Top 6

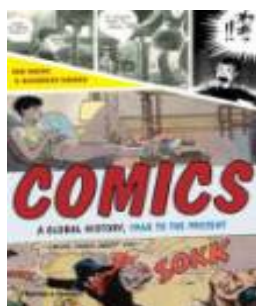


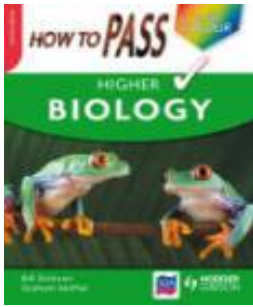
Online shopping is here to stay – why drag yourself out in the winter weather when you can sort your Christmas list with the click of a button?

Good service, that's why! If the person who takes your credit card does so with a smile, if they're polite and friendly – and prepared to spend a bit of time helping you to find what you want (and in the case of me and electronics, explaining how on earth it works...) I bet you come away with a much warmer glow than a website can give you. We're human, we like interaction, and no, those 'ask me' options that some online sellers try to fool us with are *not* real people – try asking them something that's not in their pre-programmed script and see what happens...

So here are my very personal awards for top service in Edinburgh this year:

6 Blackwell's





Bookshops are really up against it these days; you can buy any book without having to move from your sofa, and there are no worries about whether it will fit you or you'll like the colour. Why do I still shop at Blackwell's then? Because the staff really know their stuff and the shop makes a huge effort to arrange author events, book launches and reading groups. I reserve my greatest praise for the people in the **academic books department** on the first floor – they are fantastic!

If you're the parent of a school-age child, you'll probably know the misery of finding the right textbooks, how-to-pass guides and revision aides; old exam papers in particular are a minefield, especially when the format seems to change every year. Blackwell's staff will spend ages making sure you've got the right edition of the right material – and they do it all with a smile. Blackwell's won **The Bookseller 2014 Book Retailer of the Year Award**.

Blackwell's, 53-62 South Bridge; open 9am-8pm Monday to

Friday, 9am-6pm Saturdays, 12 noon-6pm Sundays.

5 John Lewis



Well, I can hardly leave them out... I *know* I'm their classic customer, I *know* they probably wish we were all a bit younger and hipper – but the joy of John Lewis staff is that they never make you feel that way.

I would never buy white goods or computers of any kind from anywhere else; only their staff will take time to explain it all, only their staff don't try to blind you with techno-speak, and only they give you a two year guarantee as

standard. There are a few things I'd like to change in the Edinburgh shop – the chaotic restaurant for one (bring back the lovely Espresso Bar!) – but John Lewis staff are wonderful and deserve every profit share they get in my opinion. So there.

John Lewis, St James's Centre; opening hours are extended over the Christmas and New Year period – click [here](#) for details.

So which are your favourites? Which shops make you feel special – even if all you're buying is a bar of chocolate? We're always looking for great places to shop, so do let us know where you've found great service in the city.

4 Maplin



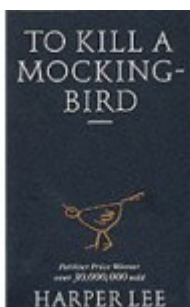


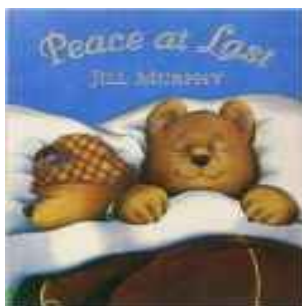
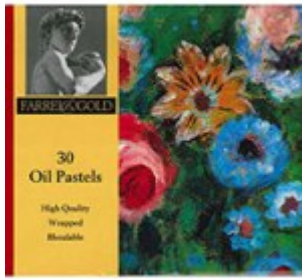
I am no lover of DIY or computer shops and I haven't the first idea what half the gadgets in Maplins are for – but every single time I go there, whether it's for a mouse or a roll of masking tape, the staff are unfailingly jolly and helpful.

I'm sure they know as well as I do that they could sell me any old thing – but they don't, they go out of their way to find what I need, and to find the best bargain. I've even been told at the till that the batteries I've chosen are on a 2 for 1 deal – and the cashier has gone back and collected the second packet for me. Excellent for anything from hard drives to drones, cables to CCTV – and, for the child who has everything, they've even got ride-on sports cars. Free delivery on orders over £10 and a one year guarantee.

Maplin, 118-126 Dalry Road; open 8.30am-8pm Monday to Friday, 9am-6pm Saturdays, 10am-6pm Sundays.

3 The Works





The staff in The Works are models of patience and self-control. Located as it is in the middle of Princes Street, this shop attracts not only people in search of good book bargains – it's also a magnet for tourists asking directions, folk wanting change for the bus and confused shoppers looking for things no bookshop would ever have, yet the staff remain friendly and helpful at all times.

Although the stock changes with alarming frequency, they go out of their way to look for anything you want, or even think you *might* have seen three weeks ago... Excellent for discounted

books, very well priced art and crafts supplies, jigsaws, souvenirs *and* that essential item of festival wear, the waterproof poncho.

The Works, 63 Princes Street; open 8.30am-9pm Monday to Sunday.

2 Fopp



I love Fopp because it's a bit like a library; you can browse through all the DVDs and CDs and come across all sorts of things you've never heard of – the documentary and foreign films sections are especially fascinating.

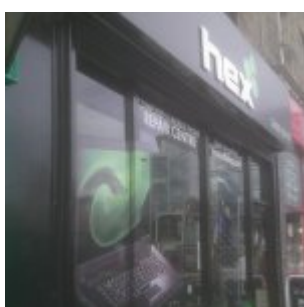
The prices are usually comparable to – and sometimes lower than – online sites. I also like Fopp because the staff are genuinely interested in what they're selling and know where even the most esoteric film can be found; they're friendly too, regardless of whether you're a highly informed film buff

or someone who remembers something they saw on TV 40+ years ago and fancies wallowing in nostalgia... I'm in the former category of course – that copy of *Children's Favourites of the 1960s* was 'For a Friend'.

Fopp, 3-15 Rose Street; open 9am-6pm daily but with extended hours in December – click [here](#) for details.

And finally...

1 Hex Mobiles *WINNER!*



I will normally do almost anything to avoid entering a phone shop. The big names fill me with fury as soon as I walk through their doors (and it's clear I fill their staff with disappointment as soon as they realise I'm not up for a fzillion per month contract deal on the latest 'must-have' gadget).

Hex Mobiles are different; they repair phones and computers

and they do it without treating you like a second class citizen – amazing! The staff always tell you what's what in plain English – innovatory!

Everyone who has ever served me in this place has been helpful; they tell you when it's not worth repairing something, they give you a written quote for any repair they can undertake, and they carry lots of spare parts (including chargers), phone cases, etc, so they can often complete the work in one day. I even forgot my purse once and although they had already put my purchases through the till, they happily held on to them while I went home and retrieved my credit card. You don't need to take my word for it – Hex has just been named **2015 Technology Retailer of the Year** at the **Scottish Independent Retail Awards**. Take yourself to Tollcross and take the phobia out of phone repairs.

Hex Mobiles, 14 Home Street; open 9am-6pm Monday to Saturday, 11am-4pm Sundays.



Five things you need to know today Edinburgh



Council reject hotel plans

Jack and Emily are most popular

Dine at Dine

Check your eyesight!

Race off to Musselburgh at New Year



After a long day at the city chambers the council's Development Management Committee voted 8-7 against the plans for a luxury hotel on Regent Road. Catch up with all the news about the decision here in our [liveblog](#) and [here](#) in our catch up article.

We interviewed the Planning Convener straight after the meeting



Jack and Emily were the most popular names for babies born in 2015, National Records of Scotland (NRS) announced. Jack was the top boys' name for a eighth consecutive year, and Emily was the top girls' name for the second year running.

Oliver rose from fourth to become the second most popular boys' name, with James falling one place to third and Lewis down one place in fourth. Alexander climbed five places to fifth. The rest of the boys' Top Ten was Charlie (up two places to sixth), Logan (down two places to seventh), Lucas (up one place to eighth), Harris (up three places to ninth) and three names which together were joint tenth: Jacob (up nine places); Finlay (up five places) and Daniel (down four places). Harris, Jacob and Finlay were all entrants to the boys' Top Ten; Noah (down seven places to fourteenth) dropped out of it.

The fastest climbers within the boys' Top Twenty were Jacob, Alexander and Finlay. There were three entrants to the boys' Top Twenty: Leo (up 11 places to 13th), Alfie (up 6 places to 17th) and Callum (up 1 place to 20th),

The top four girls' names were in exactly the same order as in 2014. Sophie was again the second most popular (having been top from 2005 to 2013), Olivia was third and Isla was fourth. Ava rose one place to fifth, and Jessica fell one place to sixth. Amelia remained in seventh place. Ella rose three places to eighth. Lucy (down one place to ninth) and Lily (down one place to tenth) made up the rest of the girls' Top Ten. Ella was the only entrant to the girls' Top Ten; Elllie (down four places to fourteenth) was the only name to drop out of it.



Dine is the newest kid on the block.

Dine with Stuart Muir, opened in the heart of the city in late November and the talented team are celebrating their first Christmas with the launch of a fresh Festive Menu. The menu offers 2-courses for £27.50 and 3-courses for £34.50 along with tea or coffee and mince pies, perfect for dinner or a chance to refuel at lunch during a day of Christmas shopping. Executive chef Stuart Muir and head chef James O'Brien have created a menu that presents fresh, modern festive flavours with a unique twist, showcasing the best produce Scotland has to offer without any turkey in sight!



Dine's festive menu includes starters such as Chargrilled pear, Lanark blue, caramelised walnuts, chicory and black truffle and Borders pork and ham rillette, whisky prunes, piccalilli, home made cream cheese; mains including Braised Borders shin of beef, pearl barley ragout and parsnip – puree, roasted and crisped, finished with desserts such as Chocolate pot, bourbon syrup and orange shortbread.

The Champagne Lounge – which features unique, tactile eel-skin wallpaper, invitingly comfortable Chesterfield chairs and sofas and warm lighting – makes the ideal place to enjoy pre- or post-dinner drinks. Bar manager, Mateo Ortiz has created a

cocktail list perfect for drinks after a hectic day at work to help get you in the festive spirit. Signature festive cocktails include Dine & Brew (£8.50) made using Bruichladdich the classic laddie, apricot brandy, honey, lemon, orange bitters and krusovice lager top; Bulletproof (£8.50) – Bulliet bourbon infused with figs, Johnnie Walker black label, lemon, cinnamon, pepper, maple syrup and the Winter Warmer (£7.50) a deliciously silky, warm cocktail made using Makers Mark bourbon, vanilla liqueur, red wine, chocolate dust, walnut and orange bitters.

Just in time for Christmas, Dine has also launched a range of gift cards which can be used both in the restaurant and bar. The ultimate gift for those who love to experience locally sourced food with sumptuous cocktails and a unique city centre setting to match.

As well as the Festive Menu, Dine will also still be offering its all-day menus – a breakfast menu, an à la carte, an express lunch menu and a bar menu, all designed using the best produce from Muir's wealth of local suppliers.

Advance bookings can be made on 0131 218 1818, restaurant@dine.scot or online at www.dine.scot/book-now.



One of the country's top ophthalmologists has urged Scottish motorists to ensure they have a safe view of the road as the shortest day of the year approaches.

The winter solstice falls on 22 December. There will be just seven hours and 49 minutes of daylight.

According to David Teenan, a senior ophthalmic surgeon based in Glasgow and UK Medical Director at Optical Express, fewer daylight hours and poor winter weather can significantly impede the sight of drivers. It is estimated that 2,900

casualties annually are caused by drivers with poor vision.

Recent figures also show that deaths and serious injuries are rising on Scotland's roads. According to the Scottish Government, there was a 16% increase in road deaths last year, with 200 people losing their lives. There were also 1,699 serious injuries on Scotland's roads last year – a 2% increase compared with the previous year..

David, fellow of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, said that taking simple precautions including wearing the corrective lenses and undergoing regular eye tests could help motorists drive more safely.

“Good sight is essential for safe driving, especially in the winter months when the weather brings unique vision challenges,” said David.

“Visual acuity and contrast are compromised when there is too little light during dull, overcast days or too much light from low winter sun. If drivers can't see clearly they risk not only their own lives but those of other road users and pedestrians.”

David added: “There are many simple things that drivers can do to improve their view of the road, such as keeping their windscreens clean and using their vehicle's sun visors. Wearing corrective lenses can also help to reduce the effects of glare, including distractive glare produced by artificial light including headlights and street lamps on long, dark nights.

“However, it is essential that drivers also undergo regular eye tests to ensure they can see clearly. Changes in eyesight are gradual and it is possible to lose up to 40% of your vision without noticing.

“Most adults should have their eyes tested once every two years but older drivers need to take greater care. As eyesight

problems become more prevalent when we get older the vision of older drivers is more likely to be impaired.”

Drivers are also being urged to have regular eye tests by national road safety organisation Road Safety GB.

Iain Temperton, Director of Communications said: “It’s essential that drivers have their eyesight checked on a regular basis and if required wear corrective lenses to ensure their safety and that of other road users. It’s also really important to make sure that the screen wash is topped up and windscreens, windows and lights are clean and free from frost or snow.”

A full range of corrective lenses are available at Optical Express. To book an eye test or find out more about corrective lenses visit www.opticalexpress.co.uk



Dedicated fun lovers can continue the festive party atmosphere into 2016 – by joining the ideal New Year’s Day event at Musselburgh Racecourse.

The annual fixture is one of the highlights of the Scottish racing calendar and is constantly growing in popularity, thanks to the reputation of the 5 star attraction just a few miles from Edinburgh.

Now organisers have promised to kick start 2016 in style and the forecast is that the January 1 event will be the best to date – not least because it marks the start of the racecourse’s landmark 200th anniversary year.

Sarah Montgomery, Senior Operations and Commercial Manager at Musselburgh Racecourse, said: “For us there is even more than usual to celebrate because New Year’s Day also marks the start of our Bicentenary year.

“We’re immensely proud to have reached such an amazing milestone so we are hoping people from Musselburgh, Edinburgh and the surrounding area will turn out in numbers to help us celebrate.

“It is a fantastic day out for families, groups of friends, sports lovers and anyone looking for a great way to bring in 2016. It’s already one of the most popular dates in our busy racing calendar and on January 1 there will be plenty for our visitors to see and do.”

Visitors to the Totepool New Year’s Day Race Meeting will enjoy the warmest of welcomes, with the first 200 guests getting a special First Foot surprise. All visitors will have the chance to purchase mulled cider and a traditional haggis roll to enjoy in the New Year’s Day heated marquee.

The raceday is one of the Feature Fixtures at Musselburgh and guaranteed to provide thrills. Indeed, the feature races – the Totepool Hogmaneigh Handicap Hurdle and Totepool Scottish Premier Steeple Chase – are broadcast live on Channel 4 Racing.

A seasonal twist to the afternoon is the chance to soak in the atmosphere of one of the most historic amateur athletic events in the world, the 147th New Year Sprint, which attracts athletes from across the country to compete for the £4000 prize money. The 110m race is the most enduring open athletics event in the UK and has been staged in Scotland annually since 1870.

Added to the wealth of attractions on the day, a number of lucky racegoers won’t even have to worry about transport on New Year’s Day – as the racecourse has laid on special First Foot double decker buses from Edinburgh city centre and from Galashiels.



(c) Wullie Marr..... 07989359845

There is limited availability and bookings are strictly first come, first served. Places can be booked online for £5 return (Edinburgh) and £10 return (Galashiels) with the purchase of admission tickets. The shuttle services will deliver racegoers to the venue ahead of the first race at 12.25pm and will depart the racecourse for the return journey following the final race which takes place at 3.20pm.

Sarah Montgomery added: "The New Year's Day fixture is always a fantastic way to usher in the New Year and this promises to be the best yet.

"For those wanting to continue the party, it is the place to be. Yet for anyone who is feeling a bit jaded by the festive excess, or for those who have made New Year resolutions, then it is also the ideal day out, offering a bracing event to blow away the cobwebs, with plenty of fresh air and inspiring sporting achievement."


Musselburgh is firmly established as one of the UK's most stylish racecourses, hosting 28 Flat and Jump meetings each year, including the hugely popular Stobo Castle Ladies Day.

The 5 star VisitScotland venue is popular with racing enthusiasts and is also firmly established with both families and corporate clients.

Events like the Totepool New Year's Day Race Meeting and the Scottish Cheltenham Trials in February are helping it attract a more diverse audience.

For further information and to book tickets visit www.musselburgh-racecourse.co.uk.



 Sign up here for a daily email from The Edinburgh Reporter
! [mc4wp_form]

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.

Tesla opens first store in Scotland (and we got to test drive a car!)

by Oliver Stephen our motoring correspondent

“A technology company that makes cars” – that is certainly the image that strikes you when you step into Tesla’s new retail store on Multrees Walk, the high end fashion area just off St Andrew Square in Edinburgh.



No need for a garage forecourt crammed full of cars: the grey industrial shop floor frames the single example of Tesla’s range – a new Model S – as well as a bare chassis showing just the engines and battery pack used to drive it; the ultra-minimalist white walls support the interactive mounted screens which allow customers to customise their selection of optional extras before ordering their car for delivery from California; and the striking stairway in the centre of the store leads to an upper floor where hot desks are populated by Tesla team members.

Tesla sells all of its own cars: there is no need for a large retail chain to sell such a unique product.

To the product and where to begin? The new 7.0 operating system accessed by a 17” tablet screen which is the dashboard, supports a groundbreaking autopilot function: it will keep

your car in lane on the motorway including round all the corners.



It will move lanes for you when you use the indicator; it will keep you at a constant speed unless someone pulls out in front of you, then it will keep you a safe distance from the car in front. For all those folk that dread the parallel park in front of an audience of pedestrians, it will also park the car for you perfectly every time. You can't quite do this while sitting in the backseat but it's not far away. The Tesla team explain the operating system updates as a feature which will mean your car actually improves with time. The operating system offers seemingly unlimited customisation to your driving experience, whether you want the steering to feel sporty or comfortable, or you want to car to inch forward like an automatic in drive or stay stationary until you press the accelerator.

On the subject of acceleration, this is where the Tesla changes from a cool piece of technology, (housed in an understated family saloon body) into a fire-breathing dragon.



In the model that I drove for The Edinburgh Reporter (Tesla Model S P90D 'Ludicrous Speed' Upgrade), the two electric motors, driving all four wheels, propelled us from 0-60 mph in 2.8 seconds.

Just think about that for a moment.

To put that in context an F1 car will only do it in 2.2 seconds, and only a handful of road cars won't be in your rearview mirror should you challenge them to a face-off at the traffic lights.

This is incredible for a fully electric car. The instant

response of the electric motors presses the driver and passengers against the backs of their sporty bucket seats and you only just manage to keep those nice pastries offered in the Tesla store in your stomach. The G-force is outrageous.



Other features include 7 seats, 2 boots, panoramic glass roof, 21" alloys and great lines. To purchase a fully loaded version will set you back well over £110k although Model S prices start from £56,200 before incentives. But if that sounds like a lot don't despair. There is a £5k incentive provided by the Government and if purchased by a business the car qualifies as a capital allowance fully tax deductible in the first year (so assuming you have the required profits takes another £20k off the cash cost). There is also only 5% Benefit in Kind (BIK) charges when the car is owned by a company. Running costs are much lower with zero road tax, an 8 year warranty and unlimited free charges at [Tesla Superchargers](#). In practice you will most likely have a government-subsidised charger fitted at home and a full 300 mile battery charge is likely to cost you about £10.

Perhaps us conservative Edinburgh folk will point to the limited range and network of rechargers, that it is a relatively new product and its components are therefore susceptible to failure, but if we set these non-specific, non-critical fears to one side and embrace the future possibilities already arriving in the form of the Model S, we will realise we have to have one.



Majority of young Edinburgh citizens support litter fines

✖ *Edinburgh young people are standing up against litter and fly-tipping.*

A recent survey shows 60% of young people support litter fines.

Today Mairi Mitchell (15) and Rhona Payne (19) from Edinburgh, joined 14 other young people as part of Generation Change – a group selected by Young Scot and Zero Waste Scotland to help tackle the problem of littering and fly-tipping in Scotland.

Generation Change has today revealed interim research which shows 40 per cent of young people would pick up litter they saw someone else drop.

The research also identified that only 32 per cent of young people believe most littering and fly-tipping is due to laziness, as the group aim to find ways of keeping Scotland's communities clean and litter-free.

✖ Generation Change has been meeting regularly over the past year to conduct research and discuss ways of combating the problem of littering and fly-tipping, particularly among young people in Scotland. The group revealed their research at an enlightening event at Glasgow's Lighthouse Centre, where they also presented their recommendations and unveiled prototypes developed to tackle the problem.

As part of Generation Change's task to identify behaviour and attitudes towards littering, a survey of 263 young people was conducted which identified that nearly half of young people surveyed (45 per cent) people have never littered before.

The group of young people taking part in Generation Change will now consolidate their findings into a report of

recommendations to combat the problem of littering and fly-tipping which will be presented to the Scottish Government in early 2016. Findings and insight will influence Scotland's future environmental policy.

Louise Macdonald, chief executive of Young Scot, said: "The Generation Change group has worked tirelessly the past 12 months to look at ways of tackling the problem of littering and fly-tipping in Scotland. Today's event was a great opportunity to voice young people's concerns and share their initial thoughts on how to change behaviour when it comes to littering and fly-tipping.

"We're confident that they'll now be able to go into their communities and spread the word of how to keep Scotland clean. It's hugely important and valuable research.

Iain Gulland, chief executive of Zero Waste Scotland, said: "We're delighted to support this fantastic initiative to stop littering and fly-tipping in Scotland. Although it's a minority of young people who litter in Scotland, the group are doing a fine job to change this behaviour. We're looking forward to seeing their work develop and help us encourage every person across Scotland to think twice before littering."

Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, said: "The Scottish Government is talking to a broad range of organisations and individuals as part of Scotland's first-ever national litter strategy, and I'm especially keen to hear what young people have to say about preventing this problem. I know how much young people care about our country and our environment and it's terrific to see them volunteering their views and ideas on how to tackle the scourge of litter. I look forward to seeing their suggestions."

Submitted by [Joe Boyle](#)



Teenager killed following one vehicle collision in Ratho



A 17-year-old man has died after his car crashed on Cliftonhall Road at Ratho close to the entrance to the

Edinburgh International Climbing Arena at 10.40am this morning.

The road was closed while police officers carried out enquiries

A Police Scotland spokeswoman said: "Police in Edinburgh can confirm they are investigating after a one-vehicle road traffic collision at Ratho this morning where a 17-year-old male sadly died."

Councillors reject luxury hotel plans for former Royal High School



It has been a long day at the City Chambers but remarkably the whole proceedings went very much according to the timetable set by the planning convener.

Everyone had their say and it is pretty clear that whichever camp you are in, the views are held very passionately.

The building in question is an important one. That point is not in doubt. The doubts arise about the proposals to turn it into a luxury hotel and whether these plans amount to over-development, with the large wings envisaged at either side. The President of Rosewood Hotels, Radha Arora, came from Hong Kong to attend the planning meeting today as an endorsement of his company's good intent to invest millions in our city.

He must have been rather put off by some members of the

committee who appeared disenchanted with the kind of people who frequent Rosewood or other luxury hotels, and who do not seem to want them in our city.

Gordon Dewar the CEO of Edinburgh Airport explained earlier that they are well used to high net worth passengers coming through their doors. He said they sell a £10,000 bottle of whisky each week in duty free.

Councillor Lewis Ritchie admitted that he had never set foot in a six star hotel. That, with some respect, was not really what he was recently elected to talk about today. The decision before all members of the committee was whether to allow a development promising inward investment and economic benefits that other cities might give their right arm for, or to accept the officers' recommendations that this building was too big and in breach of many other planning rules.

Whether or not anyone in the room, except perhaps Radha Arora the President of Rosewood Hotels, (who started off in the hotel trade as a waiter) has ever, or will ever walk through the doors of such a luxe establishment is irrelevant. What we need is a plan for the future of a building which has been empty for 47 years and which is on the Buildings at Risk register. That point was also agreed upon by many of those who spoke, both for and against.

Councillor Eric Milligan was at his most entertaining, very much playing to his role as grandfather of the City Chambers, producing a book about the school and explaining that in supporting the plans he did not want to live in a city of monuments. Read more of his and other contributions on our liveblog [here](#).

We would love to tell you who exactly voted for and against but at the end of the day our list is incomplete. Certainly Cllrs Milligan, Blacklock and Howat were in favour of the development. Councillors Ritchie, McVey, Child, Keil, Robson,

Perry, Mowat and Bagshaw were in favour of rejecting the proposal, but we are unsure about the remainder and how they voted.

Convener Councillor Ian Perry granted us the first interview following the marathon meeting which you can listen to here:

MSPs Alison Johnstone and Sarah Boyack were both very much against the plans for architectural and heritage reasons, but both were very much of the view that 'something has to be done' about the former Royal High School.

Reacting to news Alison Johnstone, Scottish Green MSP for Lothian, said:

"I'm so pleased that members of the planning committee were not seduced by arguments about economic benefit, instead recognising that much of our visitor economy is based on the carefully cherished landscape of our city: an inheritance which this development would have squandered.

"A perfectly feasible alternative is waiting in the wings in the shape of a new music school which much more respects the building and setting. and is more likely to widen public access. Let's get to that quickly."

After the meeting Sarah Boyack MSP told us: ""Today was an important landmark decision. The proposed hotel would have damaged one of Edinburgh's finest A listed buildings and the panoramic views of Calton Hill were at stake.

"The proposal represented massive over development and councillors were right to refuse it."

Commenting on the planning committee's decision to reject the Royal High School hotel development, John Donnelly, Chief Executive Marketing Edinburgh said: "With all planning applications, there is an enormous responsibility. I know the City of Edinburgh Council, working alongside Historic Scotland

and Edinburgh World Heritage, is acutely aware of its significance, and today's considered decision was not taken lightly.

"As head of the organisation tasked with promoting Edinburgh as a world leading city to visit, invest, live, work and study, I passionately believe a peaceful and symbiotic relationship between Edinburgh's World Heritage status and future developments can be found in order for our city to grow and succeed. As a global destination, Edinburgh will continue to build on our existing assets and there's no escaping that the city is in critical need of new largescale luxury five star hotels to meet demand from leisure and business visitors, especially from China and North America.

"We as a city will move forward and agree a future solution that lets Edinburgh embrace change and innovation, while celebrating our rich, vibrant heritage. We can have the best of both worlds."

So where does this leave us? Surely having invested some considerable time and money the developers will appeal the decision?

Do we allow the economic benefits of some 260 jobs when the hotel is built, countless jobs during construction and economic value of tens of millions per annum to be outweighed by retaining the status quo? Is the status quo good enough and will we just allow the building to fall down? Many of these arguments were rehearsed today during the seven hour meeting but the eventual decision was firmly to reject the application. You can watch the recording of the meeting online [here](#).

The company Duddingston House Properties under the leadership of Bruce Hare are still in the preferred developer chair as a result of the competition which they won, so will they take the plans and rehash them with a view to an appeal? Most

probably we think, although David Orr of Urbanist Group was simply too exhausted at the end of the day to offer any real plan of action to us. Watch this space.

During the day we ran a Twitter poll asking what you thought of the hotel plans and whether the council should approve them or not. There was an overwhelming majority in favour of rejecting the proposals for most of the day.

We appreciate this is not a scientific poll but it does give us an idea of what you think!

You can still contribute on Twitter until tomorrow!

Handbags worth £80k stolen during city centre break in



Police are appealing for witnesses following a high-value break-in at the Louis Vuitton shop in the Multrees Walk precinct.

The incident happened around 3.45am hours this morning when two men forced entry to the premises and stole a quantity of designer Louis Vuitton handbags before running towards North St Andrew Street, crossing Queen Street and into Dublin Street.

They were then seen entering a silver saloon car, which travelled off northwards.

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

The stolen handbags are valued at £80,000.

The first suspect is described as white, around 30-years-old, about 6ft tall with a slim build and a prominent nose. He was wearing a grey hooded top with the hood up and black beanie hat, dark trousers and black trainers. He also walked with a slight stoop.

The second suspect is described as being white, between 5ft 8ins and 5ft 10ins tall with a medium build and wearing a grey hooded top and dark bottoms.

DI Graham Grant from the Community Investigation Unit at Corstorphine Police Station said "Despite the early time of this break-in, this was an incredibly brazen incident in an area that sees regular footfall throughout the day.

"We are carrying out various lines of inquiry in the area in an effort to trace the suspects and are now appealing to the public for their assistance.

"It is believed these males have travelled there on foot and so I would appeal to anyone who has seen these men, their vehicle, before during or after this incident, or who has information on the whereabouts of the handbags is asked to contact police on 101 or alternatively the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

Safety advice to people buying 'hoverboards'



The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) has urged people

who have bought 'hoverboards' to heed Trading Standards' advice after a huge number of the self-balancing scooters imported from abroad were assessed as unsafe and detained at the border.

National Trading Standards revealed more than 17,000 of the devices were examined at UK entry points in recent weeks and over 15,000 of these were seized.

Concerns include significant safety issues with plugs, cabling, chargers and batteries as well as with cut-off switches meant to prevent the devices overheating.

Assistant Chief Officer Lewis Ramsay, the SFRS director of prevention and protection, said: "Electrical items containing flaws of this kind pose a serious fire risk so it's important people are vigilant and heed the excellent advice from Trading Standards.

"We understand many of these devices will have been bought as Christmas gifts and so people may be tempted to think the safety issues won't actually result in a fire happening to them. That really could be fatal mistake."

He continued: "A fire in the home can be absolutely devastating and sadly there is often a peak in house fires over the winter holiday period.

"Electrical items are one of the factors we know contribute to this rise and if people do have hoverboards that don't meet the required standards then they are putting themselves and others in danger."

Some hoverboards have been known to come supplied with plugs that are not designed for use in Britain – these plugs do not have fuses and are at risk of overheating.

The fuse is an essential safety feature that will 'blow' if an appliance develops a fault, cutting off the electricity.

Without a fuse, or if the wrong fuse is fitted, the result could be a fire that devastates a home and threatens lives.

Anyone who has purchased a hoverboard should have received instructions with the device, detailing which fuse should be present in the plug and the advice from SFRS is to make sure the correct fuse is present.

People should also check the voltage of products is 230V, 50Hz (the UK's usual domestic voltage) and that they are fitted with a three-pin UK plug or charger that is marked as conforming to British Standard BS 1363.

Unsafe electrical devices are just one of many potential fire hazards in the home and SFRS is clear people need to consider the risks and take small steps to prevent festive tragedies.

ACO Ramsay added: "Electrical items, cooking and smoking materials all pose significant dangers and fire really can happen to anyone.

"If it does strike then having working smoke alarms could be the difference between life and death. They are absolutely essential devices that no home can ever afford to go without.

"We want people to consider the advice that's available from ourselves and our partners and if anyone needs our help, or knows someone who might, then please get in touch with us so we can provide that support."

If a fire involving an appliance does break out people should switch off the mains electrical supply if it is safe to do so and immediately get out of the property.

Closing the door where the fire is behind them as they go will help to protect the escape route and prevent the fire spreading quickly.

As with any fire, the advice from SFRS is for everyone to get out, stay out and dial 999. Further advice on emergency escape

plans can be found at www.firescotland.gov.uk.

Where electrical devices are likely to be used by children parents should make sure that everyone in the home is aware of safety practices regarding charging the device.

Free home fire safety visits are available from SFRS by calling the freephone number 0800 073 1999, by texting 'FIRE' to 80800 or by filling in an online form at www.firescotland.gov.uk.

John McGinn wins 'red card' appeal and is available to face Rangers



John McGinn's red card from Saturday's 1-1 draw with Falkirk has been downgraded to a yellow meaning that he has avoided a two-game ban and is free to face Queen of the South and Rangers.

The 21-year-old midfielder was sent off following a challenge with Mark Kerr after losing control of the ball inside the penalty area.

McGinn appeared at Hampden this morning to give a personal account of the incident, and the SFA disciplinary panel agreed with the Edinburgh Reporter and the majority of fans inside Easter Road by deciding that the tackle did not merit a red card.

The Scotland Under-21 captain has become a fans' favourite

since his summer move from St Mirren, scoring twice in 19 appearances and producing a number of excellent performances.

Witness appeal following disturbance in Broomhouse



Police are appealing for witnesses after a disturbance on Broomhouse Street North at Broomhouse Medway last night.

The incident happened around 6.15pm when a man was seen chasing a small black car along the road. He appeared to strike the car with a pole or similar object, causing some damage.

Officers are now urging anyone with information to please get in touch.

Detective Inspector Roddy Hardy said: "We believe this was a disturbance involving a group of males, some inside the car and some on the road, and we are keen to establish their identities.

"We are especially keen to speak to the man who chased the vehicle as he may know the identities of those involved and assist us to trace them.

"Anyone who witnessed this disturbance or who has information that can help us trace the individuals involved is asked to contact police on 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

Where to get your real Christmas tree this year in Edinburgh



So everyone is now beginning to realise that Christmas is just next week and it may be time to go out and buy a real tree to decorate your house.

Then you ask yourself: "Where will I buy a real Christmas tree in Edinburgh?"

The answer is that there are lots of places to go and buy your tree! Here are some of our own suggestions.

We know that we have not found them all so please do tell us about the ones we have missed out. Add your suggestions below.



You will find [Crimbotrees](#) at the landmark Jenners Depository, with easy access and free parking on Balgreen Road, this could be the ideal location to purchase your Christmas tree in the capital.

Simon Hodgson of Crimbotrees explained: "We grow and source only premium quality Scottish grown Christmas trees, and we make sure all our trees have the key ingredients right. The best land, the best soil and the best seeds to ensure your Christmas tree from [CrimboTrees.co.uk](#) is the best available in Edinburgh."

Christmas opening hours from Thursday 26th November 2015 to

Wednesday 23 December 2015 are:

Monday – Wednesday: 12 noon to 6pm


Thursday – Saturday: 12 noon to 8pm

Sunday: 12 noon to 6pm.



The Jenners Depository
140 Balgreen Road
Edinburgh, EH12 5XQ
Tel: 0131 346 9539
info@CrimboTrees.co.uk




 David McMillan is selling trees in the car park of the **Eric Liddell Centre** at Holy Corner (Morningside Road). Larger trees over 6 feet are £60 and there is a £5 delivery charge. **Gorgie Farm** on Dalry Road have a dedicated [Facebook](#) page for the sale of their [Christmas](#) trees.

They offer free delivery too, and Father Christmas is there sometimes (although clearly he is a bit busy elsewhere at this time of the year!)

Thats our Christmas tree site now fully open lots of fresh cut and potted trees in stock.Free delivery All trees...

Posted by [The gorgie farm real christmas tree site](#) on [Monday, 30 November 2015](#)

In Stockbridge there is a site selling Christmas trees behind the Raeburn Hotel which is well signposted from Raeburn Place.

 On Broughton Road just next to Tesco there is a pop up called **Canonmills Christmas Trees** on the site of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Club.

[Green Fir Christmas Trees](#) sell Norman Fir Christmas trees online. Their trees are described as “bushy and full, right to the tip and are very even all the way up.” Contact them on 0131 618 2875 and do mention us when you call.



Seafield Christmas Trees Tel 0131 555 4882



In Seafield on the main road next to the Seafield Crematorium there is a temporary site selling Norway Spruce, Lodge Poles, Noble Fir or Scots Pine.

✗ On Leith Links at 8 Claremont Park there is a pop up which calls itself 'Christmas Trees Edinburgh'.


In Portobello you can buy your Christmas tree at Porty Hardware, Portobello High Street.

[Caring Christmas Trees](#) use the sales to generate funds for Bethany Christian Trust's Edinburgh Winter Care Shelter. They sell the trees from a variety of locations across the city. Click on the link below to find your nearest outlet or the Tree Order Hotline is 0845 111 8733, and the lines are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Their website explains: "Caring Christmas Trees are great for the environment, they produce oxygen when they are growing and when recycled after Christmas via a kerbside collection or at your local recycling centre they are as near to 100% Carbon Neutral as you'll ever get."



In Corstorphine there are three outlets:

On the main road next to the Harp Hotel there is a drive in which allows you to go in choose your tree, get it put into a  net and then drive off.





Corstorphine Christmas Trees are at 11 St Ninian's Drive. Tel 0131 312 6901 or 07340 336 584 and you can find out more on their [Facebook](#) page.

✖ Further along St John's Road just past the Zoo on the way into town there is another Christmas tree outlet which is conveniently drive in/drive out.

[Dobbies](#) have several outlets around the city, and they offer real and artificial trees. Melville Nurseries Lasswade Midlothian EH18 1AZ Tel: 0131 663 1941

So that is our list – where did you get yours? And do tweet us a photo of it! [@EdinReporter](#)



TERLive! Council's planners

decide this morning on former Royal High School



The council's planners have recommended refusal of the application to form a five star hotel in the former Royal High School building. The council's Development Management committee meets this morning to take the final decision and we will be following proceedings live here.

Digital agency announces record results



LEWIS, the award-winning digital and design agency, has revealed record annual results, with an increase in turnover to £1.6m

The figures, for the period 2014 – 2015, come as the fast-growing firm enters a new chapter in its four-decade history. Having grown steadily over recent years, LEWIS has outgrown its base in Leith, prompting a move to larger offices overlooking the waterfront and the creation of three new jobs. The agency has also unveiled a fresh new brand complete with new website.

Over the last year, LEWIS has expanded its portfolio with new clients including Dynamic Earth and National Museums Scotland.

It has continued its ongoing relationship with top brands including ScottishPower, Santander and Royal London.

The team also took on one of its most thought-provoking projects yet; joining forces with See Me to launch a digital campaign to raise awareness of mental ill health and challenge misconceptions to end stigma and discrimination in Scotland.

LEWIS was founded in 1974 in the Scottish Borders and grew to provide design and marketing services to the fashion and knitwear industry. The business relocated to Leith in 1999, offering digital services for the first time and to a wider range of customers. Its first digital client, Scottish Provident, remains on its books and the agency now employs over 25 people across design, technical and client services.

✖ David Lewis, managing director at LEWIS, said: “They say that life begins at 40 and I’m pleased to report that the past year has been our best yet. Our new offices will give us the freedom to grow and we are going to be bigger, brighter and bolder than ever. As part of the move we will create three new jobs straight away and we have plans to expand further over the coming year.

“Increasingly we are working with brands based in London and the south east so we have created space in our new premises where clients will be able to work when they are visiting Edinburgh. Scottish agencies are bursting with talent and creativity and Edinburgh is becoming well known as a hub for creative technology so we want to make it as convenient and appealing as possible for companies to choose us.”

LEWIS has relocated from its old offices at Quayside Mills in Leith to a new, modern base just five minutes away on Rennie’s Isle.

David Lewis says: “We have been in Leith for over 15 years so I’m delighted that we have been able to find such a fantastic

space within walking distance of our previous offices.”

LEWIS is a full service digital and design agency, working with its clients to deliver web development, branding, digital and print design, strategy, search engine optimisation and analytics, app development and email marketing.

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh



Planning decision on Royal High due today

Last chance to have your say on council budget

Random Acts of Christmas

Paolozzi beer launched

Council appoints lawyers for next two years



The council's planning committee have a decision to make today on the future of the Royal High School. The proceedings begin at 10.00am and you can follow online [here](#).

The meeting is expected to last most of the day and the sole topic of discussion is the application to turn the former school into a five star hotel.

Here are the papers for the meeting.




Loading...



Taking too long?

↻ Reload document

|  [Open in new tab](#)

[Download \[162.00 B\]](#)



Today is the last chance to comment on the council's budget consultation. The council has to make savings of £126 million over the next four years and they have drafted their proposals on what they will spend the revenue budget on. These proposals can still be changed depending on comment from the public. If you have not yet read any of the council's ideas then you still have time but the budget consultation will end today.

One of the council's statutory duties which it struggles to fulfil is the provision of allotments in the city. One of the suggestions to solve this problem is to sell off one of the city's golf courses. There are all manner of comments and you can add your voice by registering your email address and speaking up.

[Read more here.](#)



Aldi's Random Acts of Christmas tour paid a special visit the Winter Care Shelter in Edinburgh this week to say a festive thank you to staff for all their hard work this year, especially over Christmas and the New Year.



Photo: Rob McDougall

www.RobMcDougall.com

07856 222 103

info@robmcDougall.com

Staff at the Winter Care Shelter enjoyed a variety of delicious party foods and drinks from Aldi. The tour – that marks the end of an incredible year for Aldi, including celebrating 25 years of retailing in the UK and being crowned Which? Supermarket of the Year – celebrates the festive season and the great work undertaken by people such as those at the winter shelter that helps homeless and disadvantaged people across Scotland.



Paolozzi lager, the first serving from a new Edinburgh-based micro-brewery, was officially launched last month with a 'pop-art party' at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art Two.

Edinburgh Beer Factory, newly-founded by John Dunsmore, ex-CEO of Scottish & Newcastle and C&C Group, held the huge event to launch the new lager and honour the inspiration behind its name and brand, Leith-born artist and sculptor Eduardo Paolozzi.

Over 200 invited guests, including members of Paolozzi's family, attended the event and the entire frontage of the gallery was swathed in stunning projections of some of Eduardo Paolozzi's most famous works.

Speaking at the event, John Dunsmore said: "It's an exhilarating experience to be launching our inaugural beer in such a unique venue. A big thank you is owed to the whole team who have worked incredibly hard to help us reach this milestone.

"At the heart of the Edinburgh Beer Factory is a family-owned business based on strong values and a long term perspective. We're so proud of our inaugural lager and raise a toast to the great Eduardo Paolozzi who we're sure would love to be here enjoying a glass with us."

A reinvention of a beer often overlooked, Paolozzi is a 5.2% lager created with contemporary Italian brewing technology. The result is an exceptionally refined beer with a perfect bitter-sweet balance and fabulously sparkling appearance. In Paolozzi's words, it's something "sublime in the everyday".

Paolozzi is already available in some of Edinburgh's most popular bars and restaurants and is a tribute to the man who helped to create the pop-art phenomenon. Last week it picked up a SIBA award, winning best Scottish bottled premium lager.

✖ Eduardo's artwork 'Illumination and the Eye' is displayed on the bottle and fount, and Edinburgh Beer Factory will be showcasing other artworks at the brewery when it opens next summer to the public. The beer is endorsed by the Paolozzi Foundation, and a charitable donation for every bottle and pint sold will go to promote Paolozzi's work and ideas to the general public.

Housed in a converted industrial unit in west Edinburgh, Edinburgh Beer Factory is a modern, urban micro-brewery. John's wife Lynne and daughter Kirsty are also founding members of Edinburgh Beer Factory. They're joined by fresh brewing talent from local Heriot-Watt university, Head Brewer David Kemp and Mike Meletopoulo; ex-Tennent's and Harviestoun sales manager Gregor Harris; and colleague from HotHouse investments, Rosie Nicholson, herself from the family behind the historic Sunderland-based Vaux Breweries.

✖


Paolozzi lager is launching in Edinburgh and Glasgow with plans to expand across the UK over 2016. Edinburgh Beer Factory will open to the public in time for summer 2016, providing a visitor attraction for Edinburgh locals and international tourists, local employment and brewery-fresh beer.



The City of Edinburgh Council has re-appointed Morton Fraser to provide its commercial, planning and property, litigation and employment legal services for the next two years, with the option to extend the contract for a further two.

The top-ten Scottish law firm secured appointment to all four of the lots for which it qualified from The City of Edinburgh Council's Legal Services Framework, which have an estimated combined value of £2.1m. The Framework is also accessible to Stirling Council and West Lothian Council.

Morton Fraser's public sector team, one of the largest in Scotland with over 80 specialists and more than 100 clients, has worked with The City of Edinburgh Council for five years after first being appointed for legal services in 2010.

 Rory Alexander, Partner and Local Government Lead at Morton Fraser said: "We are absolutely delighted with our re-appointment and are very much looking forward to continuing our relationship with the City of Edinburgh Council at an important time for local government. It follows our appointment to provide legal services to both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils earlier this year, and provides us with the opportunity not only to work with the City of Edinburgh Council but also with both Stirling and West Lothian Councils.

"The win is also our third from three public sector opportunities that we have tendered for in recent months, which is testament to the strength of our public sector team. We are trusted to provide best value and clarity in difficult circumstances and we are seeing a sustained period of growth for the firm as a result."



 Sign up here for a daily email from The Edinburgh Reporter

! [mc4wp_form]

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.

Harley the cocker spaniel slims down



Animal charity PDSA has helped six year-old Harley the Cocker Spaniel to shed over 15% of his bodyweight.

Bullmastiff Kayla (7) from Glasgow lost nearly a third of her body weight and beat off competition from 14 other super slimmers to be crowned Pet Fit Club Champ 2015!

Each year PDSA recruits the UK's fattest pets to undertake a six-month diet and exercise competition. Supervised by the charity's vets and nurses, Pet Fit Club helps them back into shape and creates awareness of the serious issue of pet obesity, which affects millions of household pets.

Six months ago Harley, from Edinburgh, weighed 4st 4lbs (27kg) – nearly 60% more than his ideal weight. He lost 9lb (4kg) during the competition but his battle with the bulge was hampered by some unfortunate twists of fate.



Harley, the Cocker Spaniel, with PDSA Representative Laura Meiklejohn. Image by Guy Hinks.



Before....



After.....

Owner Lisa (42) said: "Harley developed an ear infection and was on steroids for six weeks which made things really difficult. To make matters worse I became seriously ill and was in and out of hospital for about two-and-a-half months meaning we had to miss a few veterinary appointments.

"When I was in hospital my son and daughter were looking after Harley but due to work commitments he was being fed at different times and wasn't getting as much exercise as normal."

Despite the setbacks Harley is on the way to reaching his ideal weight and Lisa said she is determined to keep going with the diet.

She said: "He's already much healthier and he looks better. He's so alert and he loves running around and playing with my two cats."

However, the family have to keep a close eye on Harley who has shown his crafty side on a few occasions during his diet. "To stop Harley getting our cats' food we feed them on the worktop. The trouble is that now he's fitter he can get his paw onto the worktop and knock the food off onto the floor. It doesn't seem to matter how far I put it back he can still get it. On another occasion Harley stole an entire pepperoni pizza that my daughter had left on a table."

St Johnstone Development Squad 0-0 Hibernian Development Squad



Hibs' Development Squad drew 0-0 with St Johnstone on Tuesday evening in the SPFL Development League.

Despite it being a home game for the Perth side, the game was played at the Excelsior Stadium in Airdrie.

After the game the Hibernian's U20 Development Coach Joe McBride told the club website: "The first half I would say 0-0 was a fair reflection, there was a lot of energy from both sides, but not a lot of quality. The second half was probably the best we played all season, in terms of being on the front foot, being aggressive, winning second balls and on top of that we played some really good football.

"The only thing that was missing was the goal. I was absolutely delighted last night, especially with the second half. We finished the game again with three under-17s on the pitch.

"One played the full game, I thought he was terrific, so it was a really positive night. The only thing missing was a goal or two."

"It's maybe taken even the full-time lads a bit of time to get used to the different age group and the Development League, but the last three or four games, even the defeat at St Mirren, has been a real improvement.

“We’ve not scored a lot of goals, but we’ve only lost one goal in the last three games, so that side of it is better, we just need to start hitting the net a bit more.”

Hibernian Development Squad: Brennan, Dunsmore, McGregor, Campbell, Waugh, Watson, Smith (Breen, 65), Sinclair (Scott, 65), Duthie, Trialist (Murray, 60), Shaw.

CCTV released following serious assault in capital



Police have released CCTV images of a man they wish to trace in connection with a serious assault of a 34-year-old man.

The incident happened at around 7pm on Friday, September 4, within Newsbox, 86 South Clerk Street, Edinburgh.

Detectives are eager to trace the male pictured in the image, as they believe that he may be able to assist with their enquiries.

The man is described as white, 5 ft 11 inches to 6ft tall, in his late 20s, with a medium build and shaved/bald head. He was wearing a blue colored polo shirt, blue jeans and white trainers.

Detective Constable John McShane said: “We are keen to establish the identity of the man pictured in the CCTV images and would urge anyone who recognises him, or who has any other information which can assist with our investigation, to contact police as soon as possible.

“It is believed the male has the nickname of ‘Scooby’ and is believed to be from the Edinburgh area.”

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