

Bus drivers raise objections to tram extension



Bus drivers are in open revolt against Edinburgh's plans to extend its tram line into a system.

A Facebook group called Stop the Edinburgh Tram Extension has been set up by bus drivers, and counts many drivers among the group which has quickly escalated to just under 3,000 members.

The city council recently voted in favour of extending the system from the east end of the city centre to Newhaven. The route was originally to take this route but the Leith section was scrapped as the costs and delays of the project spiralled.

To pay for the extension, which is set to cost £144million on top of the original £750m cost, council-owned Lothian Buses will be asked to pay £20m over four years from their profits which have regularly been around £8m per annum in the recent past.

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Crimestoppers offer reward for information about Pauline

Flett

✖ Crime-fighting charity Crimestoppers is offering a reward of up to £2,000 for information which leads to the arrest of Pauline Flett.

The 31-year-old, originally from Buckie, is wanted in connection with a string of crimes across Edinburgh, Glasgow, The Central Belt and the North of Scotland.

Between October 2006 and March 2015 she is alleged to have defrauded individuals of large sums of cash and other items.

Crimestoppers is now offering a reward in the hope that she will finally be brought to justice.

Angela Parker, National Manager for Crimestoppers Scotland, said: "Flett is believed to be involved in a number of crimes that have seen innocent victims scammed out of large sums of money.

"These victims deserve justice and it is vital that Flett is found to ensure that she cannot strike again.

"There are people out there who know where she is and I would urge you to do the right thing and contact Crimestoppers anonymously.

"We don't take personal details, we can't trace calls or information given online. No-one will ever know you contacted us. We don't want to know who you are, just what you know."



Flett is believed to avoid detection by altering her appearance and travelling around Scotland. She has lived in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Grampian.

She is described as around 5ft 6inches in height with a medium

build, blonde hair and a bat tattoo on her left arm. She has also been known to use the alias Pauline Campbell.

If you have any information, please contact Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111** or through our Anonymous Online Form at crimestoppers-uk.org/give-info.

The reward will only qualify if information is passed to Crimestoppers' 0800 555 111 number or anonymous online form at www.crimestoppers-uk.org. Information passed directly to police will not qualify for the full amount.

Photos courtesy of Police Scotland

Reducing waste at Christmas time



Scotland will throw away over 50,000 tonnes of food and drink in December, including 280,000 turkeys, 240,000 Christmas puddings and 3.5 million mince pies.

Scotland's Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and the Environment Richard Lochhead – who recently announced his intention to introduce a formal food waste reduction target for Scotland – teamed up with Scottish celebrity chef Tony Singh to urge people to plan ahead, resist the temptation to over-buy and help to cut the amount of food they throw away over the festive period.

The advice comes as part of European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR, 21 – 29 November), which encourages people throughout Europe – including public authorities, private companies and

the general public – to arrange activities which promote the importance of reducing waste. In Scotland, over 100 EWR events have been scheduled, demonstrating the crucial role that waste reduction plays in reducing carbon emissions and boosting the economy.

Environment Secretary Richard Lochhead said: “In October, I announced the very encouraging news that since 2009, avoidable food waste in Scotland had dropped by almost eight per cent, representing an annual saving of around £92 million for households throughout the country. There’s so much more to be done, however, particularly during the festive period – when we’ve previously seen a spike in food waste figures as people admit to throwing away more food at this time of year than any other.

“Planning ahead for the party season is easy to do. It’s crucial that we all play our part to reduce food waste and appreciate the very significant environmental and economic impact it has. Tony Singh is widely recognised as one of the country’s top chefs, and I know he shares my passion in terms of helping Scotland to work towards becoming a zero waste society. He is a fantastic ambassador for Scotland and I’m delighted that we’re able to make the most of his expertise as a seasoned chef and restaurateur during European Week for Waste Reduction.”

Tony Singh – perhaps best known for his many appearances on the BBC’s *Great British Menu*, as well as one half of the duo *The Two Incredible Spice Men* with fellow chef Cyrus Todiwala – partnered with Scottish Government-funded organisation, Zero Waste Scotland, to provide his top five tips for planning ahead effectively, during the party season:



Tony's tip 1.

*"You can keep waste to an absolute minimum when cooking Christmas dinner – as well as avoid putting people off their dessert – by **calculating and controlling portion size**. Do a few simple calculations based on your Christmas Day guest numbers.*

"In the restaurant trade, we create recipes around a basic adult or child size portion. You can do this by applying a

simple formula of 140g turkey (100g for a child), two tablespoons of carrots (one for a child), two florets of cauliflower (one for a child), four brussels sprouts and one parsnip (1/2 for a child), to each portion. Multiply that quantity by the number of guests you're entertaining and you will be able to accurately work out your requirements and therefore cut down on your food waste very easily. The key thing to remember is **don't be tempted to overload your guests' plates**. Being presented with too much food can be off-putting and can end up wasted – it's far better to allow people to ask for more if they want it."

Tony's tip # 2.

"Don't worry if you overestimate slightly and make a bit too much on Christmas Day itself. You can continue to plan ahead for the days following Christmas by keeping your **festive leftovers aside** to make some very quick, easy and healthy **recipes** that I've created exclusively for this campaign. Let's face it – no one can really be bothered cooking on Boxing Day and, in any case, people are usually looking for something a bit lighter. My noodle & turkey broth, healthy veggie & tomato curry or turkey and slaw baguette are the perfect day-after antidote to a heavy Christmas dinner!"

Tony's tip # 3.

"Only attempt a Christmas shop if you're first of all armed with a **very specific shopping list**, based on your pre-calculations. That way, if you're tempted by one or two additional special offers, they're less likely to go to waste since you're not buying an excess of the other essentials. Remember to check your cupboards first too, as you may already have a lot of the ingredients you need. It goes without saying that you should **check the use-by dates on fresh items**, and buy the freshest you can find on the shelves, usually stocked towards the back. Make a conscious decision not to get sucked in by the glossy advertising, marketing and special offers

around Christmas time. Stay focused and only buy what you need on your list.”

Tony’s tip # 4.

“Think ahead about your **guests’ preferences**. If you know you don’t have any Christmas pudding fans, don’t buy any! Instead, base your dessert choices around the things you know your guests will enjoy, and if you don’t know, ask! Be creative – perhaps a chocolate yule log or a simple trifle would be better-received, and again, calculate the quantity needed by multiplying the number of portions by the number of guests. Leftover cheese needn’t be wasted either – it freezes very well and can be kept frozen until you need it later, perhaps at New Year.”

Tony’s tip # 5.

“**Think like a professional chef**, save time and reduce the hassle on Christmas Day by **preparing** as much **in advance** as possible. By washing, chopping, bagging and freezing your veg in advance – such as sprouts and carrots – you can save a lot of time and they will retain the same nutritional value as if you prepared them from fresh.”

Tony’s tip # 6.

“**Buy local produce** wherever possible – it’s a good idea to place an advance order with your local grocer or butcher for exactly what you need by a specific time, so that you’re not tempted by last-minute bargains during a panic-stricken trip to the shops, which may otherwise end up wasted. And don’t throw out your leftover mince pies – check the use-by date, and if you know you’re not going to eat them, save them and take them into work for your sweet-toothed colleagues post-New Year!”

Tony Singh commented: “It’s great to be working with the Scottish Government and Zero Waste Scotland on this fun and festive food waste reduction campaign – and I’m delighted to have provided some festive leftover recipes to keep the cooks inspired after the big day.

“I hope that by sharing some of the experience I’ve gained in over 25 years of working in the restaurant trade, I can really help people to reduce their food waste at Christmas, as well as to save a considerable chunk off their festive food bill.”

For the post-Christmas feast leftovers, Tony has created a set of exclusive lighter, healthy and delicious recipes to re-energise revellers, which make the most of ingredients like roast turkey and vegetables.

TONY’S FESTIVE LEFTOVER RECIPES

1. Egg Noodle and Turkey Broth

This is such a simple but delicious recipe, and can be done with any type of leftover meat you have. You can either make the stock yourself, or just use a stock cube on its own. Either way it’s an absolute winner with the kids, who unwittingly wolf down the leftover sprouts in this great winter warmer.

For the stock:

Ingredients

Leftover roast turkey bones – pick off as much meat as you can and chop or break up the carcass as small as you can

Vegetables – just use whatever raw veggies you have, such as one large onion, one large carrot and a stick of celery

1 stock cube – veggie, chicken or beef

Method

Select a pan large enough to accommodate both the bones and the vegetables and add the stock cube.

Fill the pan with just enough cold water to cover the bones and veg. Bring to a simmer and cook gently for an hour, but if you can do two, that's better.

Strain and use in the broth below, or freeze and use from frozen whenever needed.

For the soup:

Ingredients

Leftover roast turkey stock (as above)

2 tsp garlic puree

1 inch piece of ginger peeled and grated

1 onion, thinly sliced

1 pepper, quartered and thinly sliced

140g medium egg noodles

Leftover turkey meat, shredded

Leftover Christmas veggies – especially the sprouts

1 bunch spring onions, sliced

1 small bunch of coriander, chopped

Soy sauce to taste

Chilli oil to taste, recipe below. (You can also buy it in supermarkets – it's a great store cupboard ally and helps make

any leftovers taste great)

Method

Bring the stock to the boil and throw in the aromatics – the onion, garlic and ginger.

Simmer together for four minutes, then add the noodles and simmer for a further three minutes. Stir in the leftover turkey and veg, then simmer for another two minutes.

Season with chilli oil and soy sauce to taste.

To serve, ladle into bowls, scatter the spring onion and coriander on top and drizzle with a little chilli oil as desired.

2. Chilli Oil

Ingredients

100g chilli flakes

20g Szechuan peppercorns, crushed

200ml rapeseed oil

Sea salt

Method

Place oil in a deep, medium pan.

Place the pan on a high heat for about four mins. Check if it's hot enough by dropping in a couple of flakes – if the oil is ready, the chilli should sizzle.

Take the pan off the heat and add the other ingredients. Stir

well, pop a lid on and leave to one side for about an hour.

Use when cool – the flavour will develop and deepen over time.

3. Leftover Turkey-filled Bánh mì.

A super tasty Vietnamese street food-inspired baguette with homemade slaw, stuffed full of delicious roast turkey. You can use any type of bread you have handy – a well fired morning roll also works well!

Ingredients

2 small baguettes

Leftover pâté from your Christmas feast (don't worry if you don't have any)

3 inch piece of peeled & de-seeded cucumber, thinly sliced

2 big handfuls leftover turkey – a mix brown and white meat, shredded

Butter (for spreading)

Mayonnaise – enough to mix to your taste

1 chilli, chopped

Fresh mint (small bunch), chopped

Fresh coriander (small bunch), chopped – including the stalks

Salt & freshly ground pepper

For the slaw

1 chilli (with seeds), chopped

2 small carrots, coarsely grated

150g white cabbage, thinly sliced

150g red, white or spring onion, finely sliced

2 inch piece of ginger, grated

1 tbsp vinegar (any type)

1 tsp sugar (adjust to taste)

Juice of 2 limes

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp fish sauce (adjust to taste)

Method

To make the slaw, mix the carrots, cabbage and onion into a bowl.

In another bowl, mix the ginger, vinegar, lime juice, sugar and fish sauce together with the chilli and taste it – you're looking for a balance of hot, sweet, sour and salty. Pour the sauce on to the vegetables and toss together. Set aside.

Meanwhile mix the leftover turkey in a bowl with mayonnaise, chopped chilli, salt and pepper. Halve the baguettes lengthways, then spread the butter followed by a generous layer of pâté over the bottom half. Top with the slaw, cucumber and turkey mixture, then sprinkle over the mint and coriander leaves. Serve.

4. Mixed Leftover Veg and Tomato Curry

Ingredients

2 large onions, sliced

1 tin chopped tomatoes

2 tbsp tomato puree

3 tbsp rapeseed oil

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp cumin seeds

2 tsps garlic puree

2 inch piece of ginger, peeled & finely chopped – or you can use pureed ginger

$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp turmeric

1 tsp chilli powder

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsps ground coriander

1 tsp garam masala

Salt to taste

1 pint water

Method

Heat the oil in a pan on a medium heat. Add cumin seeds – as soon as they begin to change colour, add onions and sauté until well-browned.

Add garlic paste and ginger paste and continue sautéing. Add turmeric and mix. Add tomatoes and stir. Add tomato puree and salt.

Mix and add chilli, coriander, garam masala. Sauté on a medium heat till oil begins to separate.

Add the water, bring to the boil, then simmer for 20 minutes to allow the mixture to reduce a little. Keep an eye on the mixture to ensure it doesn't burn, stirring once in a while.

The, add all the leftover veggies, bring back to the boil and simmer for a further 10 minutes. Serve with rice.

For more advice and tips on how to plan ahead for Christmas and cut down on your food waste, visit www.scotland.lovefoodhatewaste.com

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REVIEW – Stiff Little Fingers at Liquid Rooms



Photo by Ian Rook

Stiff Little Fingers have toured widely, playing to many punk-adoring crowds for years.

They play the Glasgow Barrowlands on St. Patrick's Day every year and manage to sell it out, and they still play a mixture of major and lesser-known cities worldwide to ecstatic audiences. However, seeing the candid Northern Irish band is a first for myself, and I have to say probably the last.

The first time I heard of the band was while watching the film *High Fidelity*. In the record shop which Rob Gordon (John Cusack) owns, one of his staff tries to get a girl interested by exhibiting his diverse taste in music.

The character, by the name of Dick, sticks on Stiff Little Fingers' *Inflammable Material* where the first song is the frenetic 'Suspect Device'. Dick claims that alongside The Clash, Stiff Little Fingers are a big influence of Green Day. Immediately after sticking the needle on the record and blaring it on the store's speakers, a customer naively asks if it is Green Day's new album, while the flirting couple giggle at the question. (Green Day is probably something a Stiff Little Fingers fan will not want to be associated with.)

The point is that in every movie, a song sounds faster. When I heard 'Suspect Device', it sounded hyperactive in an infectious way – and that got me into Stiff Little Fingers and their phenomenal early material. All thanks to *High Fidelity*.

In fact, those first few albums by Stiff Little Fingers are under-appreciated works of punk rock. But that's 35 years ago, when intense energy was routine to the then young outfit.

There's no disputing that their live shows are still full of intense moments. The only difference now is that everyone is 35 years older, and essentially reliving their youth – including Stiff Little Fingers. Even though they released a new album through the support of fans on Kickstarter last year, it verges on cheesy car chase video game background music. When these songs from the previous effort *No Going Back* appear in the set, which dominates the first half, the crowd dies down to a pulp. It's no wonder the majority of attendees are there for the epochal primary efforts.

Where the first half doesn't tick all the boxes, the last few songs are most definitely going to. The band shift all the crowd-pleasing numbers to the end and then perform a cover of The Specials' 'Doesn't Make It All Right' to keep fans on their toes.

Inflammable Material and *Nobody's Heroes* take up slots at the rear end of the set, but these songs have lost some of

the intensity and vigour that they once had. It's predictable, of course, that this would happen to a band over 60. Their fans of the same age are struggling to dance to these songs any more – the few crowd members of a younger generation have to do that for them.

Before almost every song, frontman Jake Burns discusses the story of each. One of particular interest is the song 'When We Were Young', which was influenced by a conversation Burns had with Thin Lizzy member, the legend that was Phil Lynott.

The two both had troubles with their respective bands and attracted regular criticism from the music press, who suggested that they should call it a day.

However, over a night of drinking, Burns and Lynott both decided to "stuff the music press" and continue anyway.

Sadly, Lynott died a few years after, but Burns lives on while touring the group's ancient punk albums.

Maybe he should relive that exchange with Lynott and call it a day – Stiff Little Fingers may have made their point.

A Bright Night in Muirhouse



The North Edinburgh community of Pennywell shone in a whole new light last night as residents gathered for an evening of entertainment at the unveiling of a new art installation designed for the local area.

The event 'Bright Nights', was held at Muirhouse Shopping Centre attracting people of all ages from around the area to

the opening of the first exhibition of its kind.

The event was organised by North Edinburgh Arts and supported by regeneration developer Urban Union and the City of Edinburgh Council.

✖ The art installation was created by artist Alice Betts and was set up to transform the area around Muirhouse Shopping Centre. It also aimed to help local residents get more enjoyment and use from a community space that was previously left vacant and abandoned.

As well as the artwork and colourful lights, there were performances from local choir The Timebank Temptations, a series of painting with light workshops with top photographer Kenny Bean and a surprise flash mob who gave a very lively performance.

Members of the local community were also caught on camera and will help form part of a new short-film being made about Pennywell directed by Angelica Kroeger.

Kate Wimpless, director at North Edinburgh Arts, said: “Last night’s winter arts event at Pennywell was a great success with residents gathering to see this very special installation. The ‘Bright Nights’ event provided the opportunity for local residents to celebrate the beauty of their local community and to look at a previously run-down shopping centre in a whole new light.

“We hope that as a result of last night’s celebration that everyone will use this space more in the future for creative and community activities.”

The event was part of an overall arts strategy supported by The City of Edinburgh Council.

It marked the beginning of a seven-year plan also supported by Urban Union and Creative Scotland, incorporating opportunities

for the local community – new and arriving – to come together to draw, play, grow and perform.



Councillor Cammy Day, The City of Edinburgh Council said: “The Bright Nights winter arts event was a fantastic example of what we are hoping to create in Pennywell – a close-knit community living in good quality and modern homes. Last night’s event was a great opportunity for people to have a look at what’s been completed so far on site. I hope that this is the start of many other similar, community-based events at Pennywell.”

‘Bright Nights’ was just one part of Urban Union’s regeneration programme at Pennywell Living, which aims to create new public open spaces, apprenticeships for local people and a community benefits programme providing a range of activities and events for local people as part of the overall regeneration plan..

Craig Kidd, from Urban Union, said: “Urban Union regards art as an integral part of how we develop and grow the Pennywell area.

“Through working with North Edinburgh Arts, we can encourage residents to take pride in their surroundings and further build on the well-established community. The ‘Bright Nights’ event was a great way to get this started.”

The development of the Pennywell area is a result of a major investment of £42 million by The City of Edinburgh Council’s 21st Century Homes programme, delivering 356 new social and mid-market rent homes for the Council, alongside 363 new properties for private sale.

Photos Greg Macvean – 07971 826 457

Letter from Scotland



May the spirit of St Andrew be with you.

According to the Gospels, it was St Andrew who suggested Jesus might like to feed five thousand people with a wee boy's lunch of five loaves and two small fishes. Earlier in the week we witnessed a similar miracle from the Chancellor George Osborne as he suddenly produced £27 billion from nowhere to give us all, or nearly all, a St Andrew's holiday treat.

So here in Scotland, both the SNP and Labour have been let off the hook of explaining how they would reverse the tax credits the Chancellor no longer plans to impose. But it will be revealing to see if the SNP government follows Mr Osborne's lead and increases stamp duty on second homes and allows local councils to charge a "precept" to pay for social care.

But let's not lose sight of St Andrew because the Scottish Government says this year's St Andrew's Day (30th and the weekend before it) is to be the biggest celebration ever. Over 400 museums, galleries, grand houses, public events all over Scotland will be offering free tickets. On Saturday in Dundee there's to be a "Fusion Festival" promising African drumming, Bollywood dancing and Ceilidh band music. On Sunday, St Andrew Square in Edinburgh will stage a festival of Scottish music, poetry and dance. And, of course there will be the usual spread of St Andrew's Night dinners all over the world, where, we are told, 50 million people claim Scottish descent.

Poor old St Andrew would turn in his grave, wherever it is. All we know, or at least legend tells us, is that St Andrew was born in Syria and became a fisherman and then an apostle

in Palestine. He ended up being crucified on an X-shaped cross at Patras in western Greece. In 345AD St Regulus brought his bones (five and a tooth) to the western edge of Europe for safe keeping and the town of St Andrews was founded. The Pictish King Angus then added the blue and white Saltire flag to the legend when he saw it in the sky just before the battle of Athelstaneford in 832. And this weekend, the same flag flies high on all public buildings in Scotland.

But let's not lose sight of the Chancellor either. He's given our own Finance Secretary and Deputy First Minister, John Swinney, plenty to think about for his budget speech on 16 December. Mr Swinney told MSPs on Thursday that, despite Mr Osborne's apparent generosity, the age of austerity continues with a 6 per cent real cut in Scotland's current budget over the next five years. However there will be more money for capital projects and, emboldened by this, Mr Swinney announced the go-ahead for 10 new schools and two new health centres at a cost of £330m. Apparently this will not count as "public spending" under the new "Hub" arrangements devised by the government's Scottish Future Trust. It all sounds a little irregular to me but it's been approved by the EU and the Office of National Statistics.

The SNP had its own brush with alleged financial irregularity this week when one of its newly elected MPs Natalie McGarry had to withdraw from party membership while the police investigate the affairs of "Women for Independence", the organisation Ms McGarry set up during the referendum campaign. Her lawyer says she's entirely innocent and is co-operating with the police inquiry. She is [the second MP](#) to withdraw from the party whip since being elected in May.

The SNP was on firmer ground at Westminster when it challenged the other parties on the renewal of Trident nuclear weapons. The cost of the four submarines went up again this week to £31bn with another £10bn set aside for "contingencies." The total cost, when missiles and maintenance is added in, goes up

to £180bn. But this didn't put the Tories off, or about a dozen Labour MPs, and the SNP motion was defeated by 330 to 64.

And still not losing sight of the Chancellor, his autumn statement included an increase in funding for defence in general – including a new squadron of reconnaissance aircraft for Lossiemouth and eight new frigates to be built on the Clyde. But in a little noticed message to the stock exchange, he also announced that the £1bn prize for carbon capture technology was being withdrawn. It was a bitter blow for Shell and SSE who were hoping their gas power station at Peterhead would win it. It's also a rude message to send to next week's UN summit on climate change.

A rather more generous message was sent this week by one of Scotland's most famous businessmen to one of Scotland's most famous life-boat stations. Boyd Tunnock, owner of Tunnock's Biscuits – yes, those life-buoy-shaped cookies with the red and silver paper – has given a donation of £250,000 to buy a new lifeboat for St Abbs, the fishing and diving village on the Berwickshire coast. The station was closed down by the RNLI because they said its area could be covered by the Eyemouth lifeboat. But the brave folk of St Abbs launched their own appeal to continue operating as an independent station, keeping a century-long tradition alive.



Luke Robertson going for Pole

I want to end by mentioning another brave act by a Scotsman. Luke Robertson has left the comfort of a Scottish winter to trek 730 miles across the Antarctic wastes to the South Pole. He hopes to become the first Scot and the youngest Briton to walk alone and unsupported to the Pole. As if this wasn't brave enough, Luke (30) is fitted with a pacemaker because of a heart problem, and he has recently recovered from major brain surgery to remove a cyst. While in hospital he was so

impressed by the work of Marie Curie nurses that he is donating all his sponsorship money to the charity.

May the spirit of St Andrew go with him.

Photo of stained glass window featuring St Andrew courtesy of Texas Scottish Heritage

Three drugs related arrests in Broomhouse



Three people were arrested and charged after police recovered significant quantities of drugs and a firearm in the west of the city.

As part of the ongoing commitment to tackling serious and organised crime, officers carried out a search of an address in Broomfield Crescent yesterday.

Cocaine, diazepam tablets and heroin with a combined estimated value of £140,000 were seized within the property.

A shotgun and a five-figure sum of cash were also discovered inside.

Two men aged 29 and 32 will appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court today together with a 34-year-old woman.

Detective Chief Inspector Martin MacLean from Edinburgh's CID said: "The recovery of these drugs, cash and a firearm reiterates our commitment to tackling serious organised crime


and sends a clear message to those involved that we will not tolerate their illegal activities in Edinburgh.

“These arrests are an excellent example of an intelligence-led police operation supported by information provided by the public in Edinburgh who do not want organised criminals ruining their communities.

“Communities in Edinburgh should be reassured that we will and do act on information provided to us, and any reports of criminal activity we receive will be treated with the utmost sensitivity and discretion and will be investigated thoroughly to bring offenders to justice.

“I urge anyone who has information about those involved in organised crime, or regarding drugs, firearms or cash that has no obvious or legitimate source, to please contact us on 101 or make an anonymous report to the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.”

One World Shop opens this weekend

 Edinburgh's flagship Fair Trade company, One World Shop is launching its spacious new shop at Nicolson Square this weekend.

Timing nicely with Scotland's Climate March and the start of the country's first festival of ethics, the shop is being opened this Saturday morning by the Rt Hon Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Donald Wilson and Sarah Boyack MSP, spokesperson for environmental justice.

Environment and ethics have been synonymous with the One World Shop since it started as a small stall in 1983 at St John's Church in the west end. The shop specialises in Fair Trade and ethically sourced products from farmers and craft workers in the global south.



The shop has expanded over the years to meet the growing interest in social and environmental justice, global citizenship and a thirst for an antidote to the unchecked commercialism associated with **Black Friday**.

Manager Rachel Farey said: "We're delighted already with the response to our new shop. We refurbished the shop with Crowdfunding money and generous donations from customers and supporters across the city.

"This has enabled us to expand the range of products and services we offer, including school visits and talks to groups of all ages ensuring people can understand how Fair Trade

really benefits communities. We're excited about our opening day, and calling it **White Saturday!**"

McQueen Legal advise on the cost of buying your new home



Angela Laird is the Property Manager at McQueen Legal and with her experience of the whole process she is well placed to advise you on all the costs you need to think about before buying your new home. The firm's available properties can be found [here](#).

When you are buying a property, it is necessary to use a solicitor to carry out the required legal work or conveyancing. You might approach local firms of solicitors and/or ask friends and relatives to recommend a suitable firm. Before making your choice of solicitor, you should ask for estimates of their charges for buying a property.

You should:

- check whether the figure quoted is a fixed fee or is determined by how much work is involved or the level of the purchase price
- check that the figure includes Land and Buildings Transaction Tax, search fees, registration dues, (registering your title at land register) expenses and VAT and get a breakdown of these costs
- check the charges include noting interest and submitting offers
- check what charges, if any, will be made if your

purchase falls through

Conflict of Interest

You cannot use the same solicitor as the seller because the solicitor cannot act for both buyer and seller. It is an advantage to use a solicitor who has a good knowledge of the local housing market who can advise you on what to look for when you are viewing a property and give you sound advice on pitching your bid in the current market.

Lender

If you already have a mortgage lender you may need to check if the solicitor you choose is on your lender's panel of solicitors. Some lenders have their own panel of solicitors and if your chosen solicitor is not on their panel, then they cannot act for the lender and this will add to your costs.

Home Reports

Once you have found a suitable property you wish to note interest or offer on, the selling solicitor or agent will provide a copy of the Home Report which can be requested through the selling agent or through ESPC.

The Home Report is a document comprising the single survey, a questionnaire completed by the seller and an Energy Performance Certificate. The surveyor who produces the single survey has a legal responsibility to provide accurate information to both the seller and the buyer.

You should consider getting your own survey as well as the seller's single survey especially if you have any concerns about the condition of the property. If you are buying the property with a mortgage, the lender may insist on having a survey for mortgage assessment carried out, to be paid for by the buyer. There are three main types of survey, or inspection which you can get:

- Mortgage valuation report (scheme 1 survey). A mortgage valuation is the least expensive type of inspection and provides a valuation of the property for the purposes of getting a mortgage
- Home buyers report (scheme 2 survey). The home buyers report will consider not only the value of the property but will also examine the structure of the property and should identify any existing or potential problems
- Full structural survey (or buildings survey). A full structural survey is expensive but provides a thorough and detailed inspection of the property.
- If the surveyor reports that there are some problems with the property, you will have to consider whether you still want to go ahead with the purchase. In some cases it may be necessary to ask specialists to estimate the cost of carrying out necessary repairs.
- Always ask advice from your solicitor if there is anything at all you are concerned about in the Home Report as your offer will be subject to a satisfactory report. You may find for example the surveyor has noted some damp in the property, therefore your offer should be subject to a Damp contractor carrying out a further inspection before you progress further with your purchase.

Contact McQueen Legal [here](#)

Five things you need to know

today



Auld Reekie Roller Girls ready for the Grand Final

Book Club for younger children

Eyre Place

VisitScotland publish coffee table book for Christmas

Twelve Closes

Tomorrow 28 November Edinburgh's own top ranked roller derby league, Auld Reekie Roller Girls' 2015 Home Season will come to a dramatic conclusion with an epic double-header Grand Final. ARRG's three home teams; the Cherry Bombers, Leithal Weapons and Skatefast Club have battled it out in three fast and furious games, all of which will culminate in Saturday's grand final which will take place at Meadowbank Sports Stadium.

The Skatefast Club had a decisive win over Leithal Weapons in the first game of the Home Season, before the Leithals rallied with a win against the Cherry Bombers in the second game. Following a rollicking game in early November in which Skatefast Club beat the Cherry Bombers, a dramatic finish to the season is in store as the Leithal Weapons take on the Skatefast Club, juking it out for supremacy as Home Season champions. The grand final will be a double-header, with the third-placed home team, the Cherry Bombers, taking on guest team – The Rolling Bones.

Saturdays' Home Season Grand Final provides an excellent opportunity to support Edinburgh's own Auld Reekie Roller Girls as they showcase top-class skills and athleticism in what promises to be hugely exciting day of derby. The day is set to have carnival feel, with additional activities throughout the day, including a local vendors market, home-

baked goods, a fully licenced bar, children's craft corner, half time entertainment, raffles, merchandise and much more. A great day for the whole family.

Doors open at 1pm before the first game begins at 1.30pm.

Tickets are £6 in advance, £8 on the door, available on Brown Paper Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2252540>

ARRG has introduced new prices for unwaged and Senior (over 65's) fans at £5 per ticket, as well as free entry for disability leisure card holders and a carer.



Literary Littles Free bookclub for ages 2–9

The Fruitmarket Gallery Bookshop is collaborating with Tate Publishing, Walker Books, and Bloomsbury press to present three Saturday mornings of book readings.

Lesley Barnes: Jill & Dragon

Sat 28 Nov, 10.30am. Free

Ages 2–8 [Book now](#)

Glaswegian author and illustrator Lesley Barnes reads her sumptuously illustrated book Jill & Dragon.

Vivian French: The Most Wonderful Thing in The World

Sat 5 Dec, 10.30am. Free

Ages 3–9. [Book now](#)

Author and Edinburgh resident Vivian French reads her most recent book The Most Wonderful Thing in The World. Illustrated by Angela Barret, this is a classic tale of a king, a queen, a princess, legions of suitors, and a treasure hidden in plain sight.

Debi Gliori: Alfie in ...

Sat 12 Dec, 10.30am. Free

For toddlers. [Book now](#)

Author and illustrator Debi Gliori from East Lothian reads books from her Alfie series and draws the sweet bunny and his adventures. Alfie the rabbit is a delightful character created for toddlers that celebrates their irrepressible imagination.

Watch out on [Eyre Place](#) , today Friday 27 November 2015 where the council is undertaking remedial works to the lines on the street.



A galaxy of Scottish stars are featured in a glossy new coffee-table book, celebrating their homeland in words and pictures.

With imagery and research provided by VisitScotland, My Scotland by its Famous Sons and Daughters has been released just in time for Christmas.

It showcases interviews with 58 celebrities who talk about how their nation has shaped their lives and careers. These run alongside full-colour photos of their favourite places in Scotland.

Rory Bremner, Irvine Welsh, Sir Jackie Stewart, Nicola Benedetti, Denis Law, Billy McNeill, Judy Murray, Donovan, Katherine Grainger and Midge Ure are just a few of the celebrities to share their memories of Scotland.

Two of Hollywood's biggest Scottish stars, Brian Cox and Dougray Scott, also share their favourite places.

Brian Cox said: "When you're from Dundee the first thing you become aware of is water – the sea, the River Tay and what they both represent. To me they opened up the rest of the world. The river was something to be crossed, to see what's on the other side, to get away and to explore – but always to come back.

Dougray Scott said: "My travels with my father gave me a great early love of Scotland. My favourite place is the Mull of Kintyre – so good Paul McCartney wrote a song about it! It's a great journey from Glasgow to get there, past Loch Fyne and down the peninsula with beautiful views of Gigha and Jura. I love it."

Two of the most poignant sections centre on music hero Jack Bruce and legendary singer Jean Redpath in last major interviews about the place they called home before both passed away in 2014.

And fabulous views of the Highlands, islands, mountains, lochs and urban landscapes from Shetland down to the Borders are also featured.

Ninety per cent of the book's profits will be donated to Scottish charities, chiefly the Children's Hospice Association Scotland, as well as some hand-picked charities close to the hearts of some of the sons and daughters taking part.

The book was produced by writers Anne Graham and Michael Hamilton whose affection for Scotland spurred them on to compile the 240-page hardback.

Anne said: "We've always loved Scotland and its people and we recently moved to an island near the Scottish Borders so the time seemed right to write about it.

"We were delighted that so many great names gave us their time and took part with such enthusiasm."

Mike Cantlay, Chairman of VisitScotland, said: "This is a wonderful publication in which some of our best-loved celebrities share treasured memories of their favourite Scottish places. These tales of our bustling cities and hidden gems will inspire potential visitors from all over the world to discover the locations that make Scotland a hit with its famous sons and daughters."

Donovan, who is celebrating his 50 years in the music business this year, is one of the celebrities featured. He said: "It's a lovely piece of work – I approve of it wholeheartedly."

And, inspired by the book, he even wrote a short verse:

"My Scotland will always be ours,

"Wherever we roam,

"Scotia, she is always our home"

My Scotland by its Famous Sons and Daughters is published by Kingfisher Reach Publishing and is available in bookstores and online at www.my-scotland.org




Edinburgh World Heritage has announced a major initiative to transform twelve Old Town Closes, with a demonstration lighting event in Bakehouse Close.

The initiative will see a series of bespoke improvements to the selected closes, including new artwork, lighting and interpretation, to encourage greater use by the public. Local communities will play a crucial role in the project, researching the history of the closes to provide ideas and design inspiration for their presentation. The EWH project aims to change perceptions, transforming closes that currently feel under-used, unloved or unsafe. The project will reveal the closes' atmospheric charm, share their rich history and reclaim them as useful pedestrian links across the city.

The demonstration event is being run in collaboration with Edinburgh Napier University, with the aim of showcasing a range of alternative lighting approaches, demonstrating how artistic and architectural lighting can have a dramatic effect in Old Town closes. The views of residents, businesses and the wider public will be gathered, and hopefully the demonstration event will inspire people to become involved with the project.

The Old Town's network of closes and wynds are a key element of the city's World Heritage status, and date back to the medieval beginnings of the city. Today there are still 74 closes, forming an integral part of the fabric of the Old Town, and home to residents, businesses and many city institutions.


Adam Wilkinson, Director of Edinburgh World Heritage said: "Historically the closes were the secondary routes through the medieval city, however they have long been underused and in some cases neglected spaces. We hope that with the help of residents, students, artists, local businesses and the City of Edinburgh's street lighting and neighbourhood teams we will be able to create something of beauty and enchantment in the closes. We hope to encourage people to explore these neglected historical spaces, improving the quality of the spaces for the residents, and supporting businesses by encouraging footfall".

 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.



Council may still cut school lollipop patrols

 A Green bid to reject controversial cuts to school lollipop crossings has been knocked back by the Council's Finance Committee today.

Green councillor Gavin Corbett argued that the proposed removal of lunchtime crossings to save £104,000 in two years, should be taken off the table.

His proposal, at Finance and Resources Committee, was backed by all opposition councillors but the ruling Labour-SNP coalition decided that the proposal should remain.

Cllr Corbett said: "This proposal to cut lunchtime lollipop services has come late in the day, 2 months after consultation on the budget started. The very least I would have expected is that the proposal would have clear evidence of the case for cutting the service.

"But there is no attempt to estimate the number of children using the crossings. Nor is there any assessment of what it will mean for hiring and keeping lollipop staff if current workers lose £120 a month off their already meagre pay packets.

Lothian Green MSP Alison Johnstone added: "I'm astonished that Labour and SNP councillors did not seize the opportunity to kick this cut into the long grass. Rather than waiting until late January when the council sets its budget, the council could have spared staff and parents two months of anxiety and made a clear decision now.

"Road safety for school children must be a top priority."

Another Christmas ad...



Are Christmas ads taking over from the Christmas single?

We have had the John Lewis ad which is a bit of a tearjerker.

Now it's Aldi's turn for a spoof of that Man in the Moon offering.

Which is your favourite ad? Do tell us!

Find your nearest Aldi store [here](#).

City Car Club win sustainability award at VIBES



Edinburgh based City Car Club was today declared a champion of business sustainability at the 16th annual Vision in Business for the Environment of Scotland (VIBES) Awards.

The car club was named winner of the Transport Award, sponsored by Lothian Buses, at the ceremony held in Edinburgh's Sheraton Hotel. This year, nine businesses took the coveted green title in front of more than 300 people from a wide range of Scottish companies.

The VIBES Awards is Scotland's leading environmental awards scheme which recognises and rewards businesses that contribute to the country's sustainable development by taking significant steps to improve or reduce their impact on the environment.

Following a record number of entries, 27 Scottish businesses were shortlisted for the 2015 awards. A rigorous judging process was undertaken, including a programme of site visits, to assess the environmental practices of each of the finalists.

The awards aim to encourage efficient use of resources, enhance business competitiveness, improve environmental performance and support wider sustainable development goals. Awards were presented for each of the eight categories: Management (Large and SME), Environmental Product or Service, Transport, Co-operation (joint award), Hydro-Nation and Circular Economy and Micro Business (a full breakdown of winners is detailed in the notes to editors).

Gillian Bruce, Chair of the VIBES Awards, commented: "We would like to congratulate all our 2015 winners and finalists. The standard of entries this year was very high with many companies demonstrating how putting sustainability at the heart of their business operations can also benefit the bottom line.

"The winners impressed the VIBES judges throughout the process with their commitment to environmental excellence. We have had a great day celebrating their achievements and hope many more companies will be inspired to follow their example by recognising the benefits of sustainability in business."

Dan Gursel, managing director of **City Car Club**, said: "Winning a VIBES Award is an incredible achievement for City Car Club, and one more big step for what has been an important year for our business.

"Earlier this year we were acquired by Enterprise Rent-A-Car with the remit to develop and grow our capabilities to deliver a better and more sustainable service for local communities across the UK. We're already seeing electric vehicles in Edinburgh and around the country, as well as business car clubs that are helping local authorities and companies to reduce their emissions and travel costs. Winning this award is vital recognition that we can make a real difference to communities and the environment."

Each of the 2015 VIBES winners is now eligible to enter the

2016 European Business Awards for the Environment (EBAE). In 2014 six out of the 12 entries representing the UK were chosen from previous VIBES Awards winners. Edinburgh-based Vegware and Stonehaven's Bay Fish and Chips were selected as the only UK finalists in 2014, putting Scotland firmly on the map in terms of sustainable business practices in Europe.

The VIBES Awards is a strategic partnership between Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Government, Scottish Water, Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Zero Waste Scotland, Energy Saving Trust and the 20:20 Climate Group. The Awards are further supported by CBI Scotland, the Institute of Directors, the Federation of Small Businesses and Bright Green Business.

Sponsoring the awards this year are Scottish Government, ScottishPower, Zero Waste Scotland, Brand-Rex, EMEC, Pernod Ricard Chivas Regal, Lothian Buses, Centre for Sustainable Practice & Living and The University of Stirling Management School.

The Awards are accredited by the RSA Environment Awards Accreditation Scheme (www.rsaaccreditation.org).

Baby Elephant takes up position at 'Binns Corner'



Edinburgh's West End has welcomed an exotic new resident as

part of a drive to establish the city's 'plinth' for public art.

Baby Elephant, by Scottish sculptor Ronald Rae, has been installed on the corner of Hope Street and Princes Street, (formerly Binns' corner) which has been earmarked as a space for visiting art by the Council.

The three-tonne, life-sized sculpture follows close on the hooves of the Kelpies maquettes, [which occupied the corner in the summer.](#)

Rae, who also created the Lion of Scotland in St Andrew Square, loaned the Baby Elephant to Edinburgh to highlight the endangered status of the Asian elephant, of which there are only around 2500 left in the wild.

Transport Convener, Councillor Lesley Hinds, said: "This generous loan from Ronald Rae will provide a welcome addition to the city's vibrant West End, which recently underwent a series of improvements.

"It is our intention to bring the area to life with even more art and sculpture in future, so I would encourage anyone visiting or living in the city to pay 'Edinburgh's Plinth' a visit."

Councillor Richard Lewis, Culture and Sport Convener, said: "Public art, and outdoor sculpture in particular, is a cultural activity everyone can enjoy and engage with, and by creating a dedicated 'plinth' for visiting sculpture we are opening art up to a whole new audience.

"We are grateful to Ronald Rae for this loan, which will not only brighten this corner of the city up, but raises awareness of a serious issue."

Jock Miller, Chair of the West End Community Council, said: "The West End Community Council is delighted to see the Baby Elephant following the success of the Kelpie Maquettes. It is hoped the baby elephant will bring enjoyment to the residents of the West End, the wider Edinburgh community and tourists alike."

Ronald Rae is currently holding an exhibition of granite

sculptures at the Falkirk Wheel, including a 10-tonne Elephant Family.

He added: "I am delighted to see my Baby Elephant in the city centre. The West End plaza is a perfect place for outdoor art where the public can engage with sculpture as they pass by or sit with a coffee. This endearing work has a message – to make people think about the plight of elephants and to care for all creatures in the wild."

Find out more about the Council's [Public Realm Manifesto](#) online.

News from The Royal High School – 3 to 88 Xmas panto

The Royal High School puts on an annual free Xmas panto sponsored by their local Tesco.

"The kids from the feeder nurseries come up to the school and this year we are having residents from Strachan House for our very first 3 to 88 panto."

Santa will be there and so will pupils and parents of the cast and other helpers. (It is not open to the public but we hope they might send us some 'elfies' so that we can show you what they looked like!)

They are putting on two shows, one at 10:30 and one at 13:30 in the school's Assembly Hall.

Submitted by [Frank Lagan](#)

Waldorf Astoria Roll of Honour restored



Today the Roll of Honour listing all those who served in the Great War and worked at the then Caledonian Station Hotel was given pride of place within the Waldorf Astoria Edinburgh – The Caledonian following its restoration.

The artwork lists 70 names and the search is now on to find friends and relatives of those named.

Dale MacPhee, General Manager of the luxury five-star hotel at Edinburgh's West End, said: 'Having found this wonderful piece of history, we would now love to find friends and relatives of those who are named.'

'The Roll of Honour is a lasting memorial to staff at 'The Caley' and we are delighted to be able to display it proudly in our Peacock Alley. The Caley has been one of the most iconic buildings in the city since it was first opened and I am sure that staff named on our memorial was as proud to work here then as we all are today.

'Our hotel has a well-documented history of welcoming Royalty, Prime Ministers and celebrities alongside international visitors to Edinburgh. This memorial allows us to write an additional chapter paying tribute to those who worked here. In fact, I do wonder if it is fate that we've found it now, 100 years on from the Great War and at a time when that is the focus of commemoration.

'I am thrilled that we found this Roll of Honour and that we have been able to have it conserved with the help of War Memorials Trust and the Scottish Conservation Studio here in

Edinburgh. We can now share it with hotel guests visiting locals all year round and tell them the story behind it with pride.

‘Our memorial has not hung in the hotel for more than thirty years. As it reclaims pride of place this formal unveiling is very fitting and it is appropriate that we try to learn any stories behind the names.’

The artwork was conserved with support from War Memorials Trust.

Frances Moreton, Director, performed the formal unveiling of the piece. She said: “War Memorials Trust is delighted to have supported the repair of the plaque unveiled today. This is a wonderful example of a custodian ensuring their war memorial is in fit condition to mark the centenary of World War I.

‘This is just one of the huge variety of projects across Scotland supported through the Centenary Memorials Restoration Fund which has £1 million available to fund war memorial repair and conservation. Money is still available and we encourage communities across Scotland to follow the example of the Waldorf Astoria and get in touch to ensure the war memorials remembering the fallen of their local communities are fit for the centenary events and services which will culminate on 11th November 2018.”



Pic: The work was undertaken by Helen Creasy at the Scottish Conservation Studio

The work was undertaken by Helen Creasy at the Scottish Conservation Studio, she said: ‘I was delighted to be asked to conserve the Roll of Honour. The project was a challenge as the work had become quite damaged, with dirt, tears and holes, stains, and flaking paint.

‘The fabric-backed paper was loose on the wooden stretcher;

the surface had been wiped with a damp cloth – which had smudged quite a lot of the lettering. The treatment was very carefully planned, and we were able to gradually progress through all the steps that were needed in order to clean and flatten it, repair the tears and fill all the losses, before retouching the areas of paint that were missing.

‘A frame was made for the Roll of Honour which not only protects it against future damage, but really does justice to such a special piece. It was very rewarding to take the work from being damaged, and un-displayable to something that is close to its former glory and which can deservedly take pride of place at The Caley.’

The Roll of Honour will hang in Peacock Alley. Anyone recognising a name should contact marina.cruz@waldorfastoria.com with details of their family connection.







Photos Ian Georgeson

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Enjoy some Whisky Enlightenment in December



Coinciding with Virgin Money's Street of Light which begins on Monday and which will light up the Royal Mile with 60,000 LEDs, the Scotch Whisky Experience is to host a Whisky Enlightenment Tour.

Launching on St Andrew's Day and running until Christmas Eve, the Whisky Enlightenment tour and tasting experience is

perfectly timed so visitors can either begin or end their visit to Street of Light with an illuminating whisky experience.

Visitors will warm up with a delicious winter toddy on arrival, before taking a light-hearted look at the world of Scotch Whisky, where they can sample a specially selected single malt matched with chocolate. Guests can then enjoy a relaxed viewing of all 3,384 bottles in the World's Largest Collection of Scotch Whisky.

Susan Morrison, director and general manager of The Scotch Whisky Experience, said: "Christmas is a very special time of year in Edinburgh but much of the buzz is often concentrated in Princes Street Gardens and the annual markets. This year, we're really excited to bring some attention to the Royal Mile with Street of Light, and being so close to the action, we thought it would be a great idea to welcome people in from the cold and warm them up with a dram!

"Visitors can either join us before their walk through the illuminated arches, or stop by afterwards, as we've timed the Whisky Enlightenment tour to coincide with Street of Light's twice daily performances."

The Virgin Money Street of Light is a breathtaking new event which is set to light up Edinburgh's Old Town this Christmas. An architectural installation comprising 26 arches, it will run along the Royal Mile, from City Chambers to the Tron Kirk, creating a stunning canopy of light which will rise into the wintry skies. Running twice per evening, the experience is accompanied by music and songs from a variety of Edinburgh choirs, all of which will be synchronised to the lights.

The Whisky Enlightenment tour lasts for one hour and runs Monday to Saturday at 7:15 p.m. and Sunday at 6:15 p.m. The price is £15.00 and the tour is for adults only.

Booking – www.scotchwhiskyevents.co.uk

Missing person appeal



Police in Inverness are appealing for information regarding the whereabouts of Sherigail (Gail) Glorioso, aged 42, who was reported missing from the Merkinch area of Inverness on Sunday 22 November 2015.

She is described as being 5' 5" in height, of average build, with black shoulder length hair, tanned complexion. She was last seen wearing blue jeans, purple vest top, a jumper and carrying a handbag.

Sherigail was last seen in the Inverness area on Friday 6 November but it is believed that she may have travelled to the Edinburgh area.

Contact with Sherigail has been ongoing, however recently this contact has diminished and police are seeking to confirm her wellbeing.

If anyone has information as to Sherigail's whereabouts they are asked to contact Police Scotland on 101.

What's On In Edinburgh? Forgotten Christmas needs

your help

✘ Among the many great charities that try to make Christmas a little better for homeless people, there is one whose approach is a bit different.

Most of us remember the excitement of not knowing what might be in all those parcels under the tree, and many of us are still lucky enough to get mystery gifts from our nearest and dearest, even if they do turn out to be reindeer jumpers.

Forgotten Christmas not only raises funds for care packs for people living rough, it distributes them in a way that aims to recapture the surprise element of the festival – but **it needs your help, financial and practical, to reach as many people as it can.**



Stirling-based **Steven Tyrie**, who runs the charity along with **Andrew Moodie** and **Naomi Ross**, explains that, despite popular misconceptions, a **Salvation Army study** has shown that **the main reason for homelessness is relationship breakdowns** and that this accounts for a massive 43% of cases. Other major factors include physical or mental health issues (13%), job loss (10%) and debt (6%). Many people, says Steven, expect drugs and alcohol to account for most of the homeless people living on our streets, but while substance abuse is undoubtedly a problem for homeless people, it is often a result of being homeless rather than a cause of it. What's more, **armed service veterans** account for **one in ten** rough sleepers across the UK; their situation is often further complicated by mental and physical disabilities stemming from their experiences while serving the nation.



Forgotten Christmas buys as many good quality care packs as its funds allow; Steve has negotiated a fantastic discount with **Mountain Warehouse and Go Outdoors**, who have both agreed to further reduce their prices after initial sale discounts have been applied, specifically to help the charity's money go further. This year the packs will consist of robust Mountain Warehouse **rucksacks containing a sleeping bag, travel pillow, Thermos flask, hat, scarf, gloves & socks, waterproofs, toiletries and a packed lunch**. To save money, Forgotten Christmas volunteers make all the packed lunches themselves, and even include a chocolate Santa if there's enough money left to buy some.



The packs are all distributed on two days – **12th December in Edinburgh and 19th December in Glasgow** – and the charity has a very special way of handing them over. Steve, Andrew and Naomi place great emphasis on taking some time to talk to the

homeless, listen to their stories and let them know that people are thinking of them and that they haven't been forgotten. As Steve says, 'if you sat on a street corner day after day with hundreds of people walking past without acknowledging you, I'm sure you'd end up feeling forgotten too'.

So, on 12th December, the group looks for suitable people; four people from a large group approach an individual with only the food package, introduce themselves and capture that person's name. One of the four people slips back to the rest of the group and writes the name on a pre-written card containing the names of everyone who has donated. While this is happening, the three other people who made the initial approach talk away to the homeless person while also giving them their food package. Then comes the big surprise; everyone else approaches and the card and full care package are presented.

'We need people who are prepared to help distribute the gifts on the day, but more importantly, take the time to **talk to these people, hear their stories, listen to their problems** and take a genuine interest. Everyone involved last year felt that this was the thing that had the biggest impact, not just on the people we met, but on us as well'.

Forgotten Christmas **needs your help NOW** to make all of this happen. To date it has raised **£900 of its £1,500 target**. The deadline for donations is **4th December – that's next Friday** – and it really shouldn't be beyond the people of Edinburgh to come up with another £600 between them. If you would like to donate, you can do so here www.gofundme.com/forgottenxmas. Please note that this is the *only* way that the charity can accept donations, as this enables it to leave an auditable financial trail.

Forgotten Christmas also needs **practical help**; in early December they'll need many hands to help **gift wrap the**

presents, and on the day itself to help **distribute the packs and talk to the recipients**. If you would like to volunteer, whether beforehand or on 12th December in Edinburgh or 19th December in Glasgow (or all three!), please email **forgottenxmas@gmail.com** with your contact details and times you may be free; **everyone is very welcome** to come along. There's also lots of information on the charity's **Facebook** page [here](#) and **website** [here](#), and its **Twitter** account is [here](#). Steven asks that as many people as possible also share the message, 'An email round your office or talking to friends and family about it – any help will be greatly appreciated. Be creative!'



Last year many volunteers were moved by their conversations with the people they met. One, **Fiona** said this;

'Wow! A very emotional day with Steven and other volunteers with the homeless in Edinburgh. Every single one had a story to tell as to how they had ended up on the streets. I will NEVER EVER walk past a homeless person ever again without so much as a backward glance. To Daniel, the British soldier, to Tyler, a young 18 year old who had been sleeping rough for 9 months, to Sean, his wife died in July and he lost his home as it was a flat for a disabled person and they wouldn't let him take it over, to Paul and the many others we spoke to, not once did they ask for money, Tyler made me cry as he asked for food, Paul only wanted a wee hat and thermals. They were so grateful and I felt humbled by their sheer gratitude. A big THANK YOU to everyone who has donated and supported this, these stories will stay with me for a long time'.

So go on, dig deep for Edinburgh's homeless this year. Everyone needs help sometimes; everyone has their story.



Book Week Scotland takes to the trams this Friday



Passengers on Edinburgh Trams are in for a literary treat tomorrow lunchtime 27 November when two acclaimed authors jump on board for a special reading.

Cathy Renztenbrink (*The Last Act of Love*) and Douglas Lindsay (*The Legend of Barney Thomson*) will be sharing selected passages from '*Journeys*' – featuring stories from writers across Scotland.

As well as the readings, which take place on a tram travelling from the airport to the city centre between 1pm and 2pm, passengers will be able to get a free copy of the book, which has been published by the Scottish Book Trust. The free event is part of celebrations taking place all over the city for Book Week Scotland 2015 and has been set up by The City of Edinburgh Council in partnership with Edinburgh Trams.

Councillor Lesley Hinds, Transport and Environment Convener for the City of Edinburgh Council, will also be attending the event. She said: "We are delighted to support Book Week Scotland, and the chance to combine reading with a tram journey is a great way to promote it. This week, Craigmillar Library was announced as one of Scotland's four new Reading Communities, and I'd encourage people to pop into their local library and find out just how much they've got to offer."

'*Journeys*' is a collection of short stories from budding writers across Scotland that tell the tales about a journey – physical or emotional – in the authors' lives, of a day they

stepped out into the unknown.

Ian Craig, Chief Executive of Transport for Edinburgh, said: “As a smooth, quiet, comfortable way of travelling around the city, trams are also perfect for catching up on a good book. And it’s very fitting that the authors should be sharing a collection of stories about journeys, given that we help many thousands of people get around Edinburgh every day. We look forward to welcoming Cathy and Douglas on board and hope they, and our passengers, enjoy this special trip.”

✖ Book Week Scotland is a week-long celebration of books and reading that takes place every November. During Book Week, people of all ages and walks of life will come together in libraries, schools, community venues and workplaces to share and enjoy books and reading. They will be joined in this celebration by Scotland’s authors, poets, playwrights, storytellers and illustrators to bring a packed programme of events and projects to life.

Marc Lambert, CEO of Scottish Book Trust, said: “To truly embed a love of books in people right across the country, we need to create a culture of reading at every level in society. That is why Book Week Scotland events like this are so fantastic – by bringing books and authors to places where people least expect to see them, we can challenge traditional perceptions of reading and, crucially, encourage people to try something new.”

To see more Edinburgh Library free events during Book Week Scotland, go to www.edinburghreads.eventbrite.co.uk

Five things you need to know today



Police appeal for witnesses after robbery

Pennywell Bright Lights tonight

At the National Museum of Scotland

Hibs launch new play room at St John's Hospital

Outdoor learning for Wester Hailes students

Police in Edinburgh are appealing for witnesses after a teenager was robbed in the city.

The incident happened around 9.15pm on Tuesday 24 November 2015 in South Gyle Crescent.

A 17-year-old woman had left her work and was at a nearby bus stop when a male approached and demanded her handbag.

A short struggle ensued before the male managed to pull the bag from her grasp and make off from the area.

The victim was not injured during the robbery and contacted police to report the matter.

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

The suspect is described as white, in his mid twenties and 5ft 8ins to 5ft 9ins tall. He was wearing a black scarf over his lower face, a red hood, dark/khaki jacket, dark tracksuit bottoms and white trainers.

DC Joyce Gunderson of Corstorphine CID said: "Thankfully the

young woman was uninjured, but this was extremely distressing for her and she was left deeply upset at the theft of her handbag.

“I would ask anyone who works in the area and who saw or heard suspicious activity around the time of this robbery to get in touch with police immediately.”

Anyone who has information that might assist with this ongoing effort is asked to contact police on 101 or alternatively, the charity Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.



The North Edinburgh community of Pennywell will be helping to shine a light on all that is great about their neighbourhood as it welcomes crowds to see unique artworks inspired by and designed for the local area.

‘Bright Nights’, tonight from 6pm-8pm, is an event being organised by North Edinburgh Arts and supported by the City of Edinburgh Council and urban developer Urban Union, which is hoping to attract young and old from around Pennywell and Muirhouse to the first exhibition of its kind.

The installation will be accompanied by unique reflective dressings which will decorate nearby trees. The whole project has been created by Artist Alice Betts and is set to transform the Muirhouse Shopping Centre area as well as helping local residents get more enjoyment and use from a community space that has previously been forgotten.

As well as the artwork and colourful lights there will be performances from local choir The Timebank Temptations, a series of painting with light workshops with top photographer Kenny Bean and a few other top secret surprises.

The local community will also be given the chance to get in front of the camera or to be interviewed as part of a new

short-film being made, by Angelica Kroeger, about Pennywell.

Kate Wimpess, Director at North Edinburgh Arts, said: “The focus of the ‘Bright Nights’ event is to present to the public this very special art installation which has been specifically designed for the walkway area at Muirhouse Shopping centre.

“The idea behind this creation is to provide something that will help encourage local residents to look at this space differently and to hopefully use it more for community activities.”

The activity is part of an overall arts strategy set up by the organisers in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council. The event marks the beginning of a seven year arts plan supported by Urban Union and Creative Scotland, incorporating opportunities for the local community, new and arriving, to get together to draw, play, grow and perform.

Councillor Cammy Day, Housing Convener for the City of Edinburgh Council, said: “Events such as “Bright Nights” are a fantastic example of what we are hoping to create in Pennywell – a close-knit community living in good quality and modern homes. This will be a great opportunity for people to have a look at what’s been completed so far on site. I hope that this is the start of many other similar, community-based events at Pennywell.”

‘Bright Nights’ is just one part of Urban Union’s regeneration programme, Pennywell Living, which will create new public open spaces, apprenticeships for local people and a community benefits programme providing a range of activities and events for local people.

Pennywell Living is the result of a major investment of £42 million by The City of Edinburgh Council’s 21st Century Homes programme. It is delivering 356 new social and mid-market homes for rent from the Council alongside 363 new properties for private sale throughout the area.

Craig Kidd of Urban Union said: “Through working with North Edinburgh Arts, we can ensure that art is an integral part of how we develop and grow the Pennywell area.

“We want to encourage residents to take pride in their surroundings, demonstrating the existence of a tight-knit community. The ‘Bright Nights’ event is a great way to get this started.

“We look forward to welcoming everyone on the night and seeing how the installation plays a part in bringing people into the centre over the coming weeks.”



Spotlight On: The Silversmith’s Art Today. The Collection of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, London at the National Museum of Scotland

Date: Tuesday 1 December

Time: 2-3pm

Cost: Admission Free

The Goldsmiths’ Company’s Art Director and Curator, Rosemary Ransome Wallis, will give a talk on the Company’s role as a guild and leading patron of modern silver, showcasing its beautiful collection of innovative studio silver featured in *The Silversmith’s Art: Made in Britain Today* exhibition. Hear about the silversmiths’ inspirations, unique practices and learn the stories behind their compelling modern masterpieces.

For more information and to book a place, call 0300 123 6789 or visit <http://www.nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-scotland/whats-on/spotlight-on-the-silversmiths-art/website>.



Hibernian Football Club stars joined staff and patients at St John's Hospital in Livingston to officially launch the newly refurbished space-themed play room within the hospital's children's ward.

Club Captain, David Gray and player Liam Fontaine, were among those who joined the St John's team to officially cut the ribbon on the new interactive play room funded by the Sick Kids Friends Foundation (SKFF).

The players took time out of match preparations ahead of the Ladbrokes Championship home fixture versus Livingston, to drop into the hospital and officially lift the wraps off the exciting new play space which will be used by hundreds of sick children who visit the hospital each year.

The children's ward play room – based within the hospital – received a major refurbishment introducing the newest technology including Xboxes, Game Cubes, space themed lighting and an interactive floor projector, making the room a modern and child-friendly place for its patients.

New books, paints and a 3D TV means the play room now appeals to a variety of ages and is a welcome addition to the unit which keeps children distracted while they are waiting for their appointments. Portable DVD players were also introduced to keep children entertained in both the hospital waiting area and the wards.

The Hibs stars stayed on following the opening to meet and chat with children and parents, sign autographs and have photographs taken.

David Gray said: "I attended St. John's Hospital some time ago with my daughter Ivy due to illness. When I returned for the opening of the playroom I was immediately struck by the difference in the room.

"The playroom is now a light and bright space which is

welcoming to children and their families. I particularly like the games area and I know Ivy would love the interactive projector. It's fantastic that the Sick Kids Friends Foundation has been able to fund this improvement which will benefit so many children and their families."

Jordon MacDonald, play assistant at St John's Hospital, said: "We are delighted with our new play room – the artists have really done us proud with their space themed work.

"It was lovely to be able to invite people in to show them the space and the new play equipment will help make children feel more at ease while visiting the hospital. We would like to thank Hibernian FC and the Sick Kids Friends Foundation for making the refurb possible."

Roslyn Neely, chief executive of the Sick Kids Friends Foundation, said: "The team at St John's have worked so hard to bring the new play room to life and we are delighted to support such a worthy addition to the hospital.

"For children, visiting the hospital can often be a daunting experience however, with a new play room full of the latest in technology we hope visits to the hospital will be a more positive experience for them and their families."

For more information on the Sick Kids Friends Foundation visit www.edinburghsickkids.org or visit us on Facebook at [Edinburgh Sick Kids](https://www.facebook.com/EdinburghSickKids) or Twitter [@EdinSickKids](https://twitter.com/EdinSickKids).



Students from Wester Hailes recently took part in innovative outdoor learning 'taster' sessions on the Crown Estate's Whitehill Estate in Midlothian.

The Wood Skills Team project, initiated by The Crown Estate and supported by legal firm Anderson Strathern, has been led


by social enterprise Earth for Life, to give young people a grounding in woodland management and ecology and to teach them practical conservation skills. Ten students, aged between 13-15 years, used forest at Whitehill near Rosewell as their outdoor classroom. The project was also supported by Scottish Business in the Community which helped to bring partners together.

During the sessions the teenagers learnt about tree species and woodland types, practiced using tools for clearing invasive and non-native species and practiced survival skills such as safe fire-lighting and building shelters to stay warm and dry.

Alasdair Taylor, director of Earth for Life said:

“Wood Skills allows pupils to tackle learning in a much more hands-on manner, and allows them to develop life and vocational skills away from the classroom. The sessions are designed to be enjoyable, and being skills-based they will increase individual’s confidence in their abilities.”

Three sessions took place at Shiel Burn Wood, on The Crown Estate’s Whitehill Estate during November.

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REVIEW – James Morrison at The Queen's Hall



James Morrison was until recently a forgotten pop star who had three platinum albums nearly four years ago.

The singer-songwriter has just returned with a new album, *Higher Than Here*, and times have changed.

He's a father who says he has spent the last few years "mowing the lawn" and now has to compete with new pop stars who were not around when he was in his prime.

Stars like Sam Smith and James Bay have all shot to stardom in the interim, so it is little wonder that his new album slipped under the radar.

Apart from a few low-key London dates, the show at The Queen's Hall was officially the first of the tour, and Morrison was more than overjoyed to be back on stage.

He high-fived audience members and jumped about the stage with an acoustic guitar held up so high that he could have been Chris Martin.

A full backing band and three singers to accompany Morrison through his gravelly soulful vocals were on the stage. The full band may appear unrequited, but they certainly made the sound a bit more forceful than the studio versions.

If you thought you the old songs a bit dreary, then my view on the new ones is that they are on an even higher pedestal of vapidty.

I found little interesting about them except that like every other James Morrison track it is his voice that makes the song

more appealing.

The choruses for the songs on the new album lack their normal potency. I felt that the audience were scarcely enamoured with numbers from the new album, and instead missed the old hits like 'Please Don't Stop The Rain', 'Better Man' and 'You Make It Real'.

All the hits which Morrison penned in the last decade may now be ancient pop history, but his fans have stuck with him because of them. At the Queen's Hall recently they patiently endured a set which chiefly included tracks from *Higher Than Here* which may not have pleased them too much.

Book now for the Edinburgh College Christmas Fair



Students bring all the fun of the Christmas fair to Edinburgh College

Edinburgh College students hope to spread festive cheer by organising Christmas fairs at the college's Sighthill and Granton campuses, and invite local craftspeople, staff and students to take a stall.

A group of Retail Management students are organising a Christmas fair and fashion show at Sighthill on Tuesday 1 December from 10am-3.30pm. This valuable experience in organising an event is part of the student's course work. The public can hire a stall for £15 and students who wish to have a stall can make a donation to the British Heart Foundation.

All funds collected from stall hire at the Sighthill fair will go towards fundraising for the Events and Retail Management students' end of year summer ball. All funds raised through a raffle and auction on the day will go to the British Heart Foundation. If you would like a stall, please contact the student project manager Gavin Reekie at gavin.reekie123@gmail.com.

The Granton group, A Team events, are from Access courses and are arranging a fair in the Graton Campus Hub on Wednesday 9 December. The fair will run from 10am to 2pm and the students have attracted a variety of stallholders. All funds raised on the day will be donated to the charity Crisis. If you would like to take a stall, please contact the student team on ateamevents@hotmail.com.

Photo caption: The Retail Management students behind the Sighthill Campus Christmas fair. Left to right: Back row: Aamir Chaudry, Gavin Reekie, Zain Ashfaq. Middle Row: Donna Murray, Daisy Kleescenogova, Bella Irvine, Gavin Wardrop. Front: Roger McDougal.

Five things you need to know today



Juniper Green Farmers' Market

Balerno Green Belt

Scottish Power donates to Cancer Research UK

Grants available to target litter

The Ethical Christmas Fair

The wonderful fruit and veg stall which took shoppers by storm last month will return to Juniper Green Farmers' Market on Saturday 28 November 2015, 9am-1pm at the Village Hall on Baberton Avenue along with:

C&B News *the local newspaper*

FairTrade stall *with a range of ethically sourced goods*

Pie Not? *a selection of fresh, prize winning, hand made pies*

Molly's Cafe *tasty breads and baking treats, made in Juniper Green's own local bakery*

Dollop and Scoff *delicious preserves – made in small batches for the best flavour*

Zeespresso *hand roasted fine coffee in a choice of strengths, all made just for the market*

Ruth Shannon *selection of hand produced baking and treats*

Hot food and drinks on the day from:

Scoff Street Foods *with a selection of tattie wraps including a great breakfast version! plus hot filled rolls and hot and cold drinks too.*

*The **community stall** will be taken by the Friends of the Pentlands and Juniper Green Parish Church.*

The Friends of the Pentlands, is an all volunteer charity. It will be selling copies of the recently published The Pentland Way: A Walk with History by Bob Paterson which examines the route way-marked by the Friends from Dunsyre in the South West to Swanston in the North. Also on sale will be the 2016 calendar with photographs of various scenes in the Pentland Hills along with the book Pentland Place Names: An introductory guide. Free leaflets will also be on the stall.

Members of Juniper Green Parish Church will be on hand to sell advent calendars,, Fair Trade gifts and provide details of

Christmas services.

You can keep up to date by using these links:

JG Market: <https://www.facebook.com/Junipergreencc>

JGCC: <https://www.facebook.com/junipergreencouncil>

JGCC website: www.junipergreencc.org.uk/



Balerno Green Belt campaign for Balerno and Lanark Road and in particular to try to save the green belt in the area. This is what they say on their website about a new planning application at Newmills:

“In a twin pronged attack on the Green Belt, developers CALA and Barratt have simultaneously submitted planning applications for major developments in our local area.

Residents have until Friday 4 December 2015 to comment on the proposals.”

[Read here about how to have your say.](#)



Mass Spectrometer unveiling at University of Edinburgh

CRUK research centre

Neil Hanna Photography

www.neilhannaphotography.co.uk

07702 246823

ScottishPower – as part of its charity partnership with Cancer Research UK -announced it has donated more than half a million pounds towards life-saving research at the Cancer Research UK Edinburgh Centre. The vital funds, donated over the past three years as part of a wider partnership which has raised over £8 million for the charity, have helped upgrade the centre’s research equipment and provide support to PhD students.

More than £150,000 of the funding helped purchase a new mass

spectrometer machine for the centre in Scotland's capital. This sensitive piece of equipment can measure the amounts of a wide variety of different molecules in samples – including blood, urine and tumours. Scientists are looking for molecules, or patterns of molecules, that could give doctors important clues as to what treatments are likely to benefit a patient the most. The machine could give doctors the ability to track a patient over time to understand how their cancer is responding, as well as helping researchers spot potential new therapeutic approaches.

The rest of the machine's cost was match-funded via a grant by the Medical Research Council and £400,000 raised by ScottishPower has helped fund three scientists undertaking PhDs in cancer related treatment research while supporting one scientist researching treatments for lung cancer.



Organisations in Edinburgh and the Lothians are being urged to take advantage of new grant funding to target litter prevention in their area.

Applications are now open to public, private and third sector groups to help tackle littering through grants of £500 to £10,000, being made available by Zero Waste Scotland.

Research conducted by Zero Waste Scotland earlier this year suggests a number of factors contribute to littering behaviour in local areas. These include location, time of day, social situation and perception of different types of litter.

Building on the findings of this research, Zero Waste Scotland has produced a range of innovative design materials which aim to tackle litter problem areas. The designs can be used to make a number of communication tools to deliver suitable messages to prevent littering in different locations.

he grants will be used to cover the costs of producing these

materials aimed at litter prevention in busy public areas such as beaches, town centres, residential areas, parks, schools and sporting facilities.

Iain Gulland, Chief Executive, Zero Waste Scotland, said:

Scotland's national litter strategy, *Towards a Litter-free Scotland*, focuses on preventing litter being dropped in the first place, to reduce the need for clean up or enforcement. We want to use this grant funding to support organisations to deliver real impact in their areas, and build on our recent litter insights work in order to target littering behaviour before it starts.

"A great deal can be achieved when we look beyond clean up and work to prevent the problem occurring in the first place.

"For that reason, we strongly encourage organisations to look at any problem areas in their community that could benefit from this funding. By tackling the problem at its origin, we can help to make Scotland's communities safer and more pleasant places to live."

Funding is open to all sectors including local authorities, community councils and local businesses.

Applications should be made online at www.zerowastescotland.org.uk

A brochure is also available which showcases a range of materials and messages developed by Zero Waste Scotland on preventing litter. This can be viewed on the Zero Waste Scotland website.

Potential applicants are encouraged to contact Zero Waste Scotland to discuss possible projects to determine eligibility and for further information.

The final deadline for applications will be 5pm on Friday

18th December 2015. It is expected successful applicants will be informed during the week commencing 4th January 2016.



Running from **28 November until the 24 December – The Ethical Christmas Fair** opens with a wide range of exhibitors coming from Zambia, Kenya, India as well as local Scottish and Edinburgh based arts and crafts producers including Crafts South Africa, One World Shop, Shea Aroma Company and Gecko Galleries.

This event provides shoppers with the opportunity to buy Christmas gifts for families and friends with the benefit of each purchase supporting the people who make the products from some of the poorest countries.

Watch out for the Ethical Fair **“Green” Santa**; local community choir **Wildfire** and **Edinburgh Got Soul Choir** and guest appearances from local dignitary Rt Honourable, Lord Provost Donald Wilson on Saturday 28 November and Fairtrade Ambassador, Hardeep Singh Kohli, on Sunday 29 November amongst the ongoing celebrations with a chance to meet the stallholders.

Tania Pramschufer, event organiser, [Hand Up Events](#) said: “We are delighted to have The Ethical Christmas Fair and The Real Scottish Fair at Ocean Terminal this year, both will complement the already incredible shopping experience at Ocean Terminal.

Michelle McLeod, marketing manager at Ocean Terminal added, ‘Ocean Terminal this Christmas season is all about creativity and giving customers a unique experience. The Ethical Christmas Fair brings creativity from around the world into one retail space. We have unique gifts from three continents, as well as more locally produced crafts from Scotland. It’s a bit more than shopping, we are doing our bit to bring people

together, to share stories, as well as products, from many different cultures. One creative world in one retail space'

The Real Scottish Fair runs in tandem with The Ethical Christmas Fair at the entrance of Ocean Terminal alongside Edinburgh's much loved community owned Gorgie City Farm.

Check out www.handupevents.co.uk for more details.



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What's On In Edinburgh? Bandages and Boycott



'If we only give them bandages, we become part of the problem'



Dr Mads Gilbert is a Norwegian doctor and activist with experience of working in **Al-Shifa** hospital in **Gaza, Palestine**. He has become one of the most prominent supporters of Palestinian rights, and in his new book '**Night in Gaza**', he describes the difficulties facing the doctors and nursing staff as they struggle to cope with casualties, in particular

during last year's 51 day assault on Gaza;

'Nobody with a heart AND power could ever walk away from a night in Shifa without being determined to end the slaughter of the Palestinian people.'



The **Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign** is hosting Dr Gilbert in a series of public meetings and lectures this month. In addition, SPSC asks people to support Palestine's call for boycott, disinvestment and sanctions, and for an end to Scotland's arms trade with Israel. During his visit, Dr Gilbert will speak in Glenrothes, where **Raytheon** manufactures the components of weapon guidance systems supplied to Israel.

Dr Gilbert will speak at **Lecture Theatre A, David Hume Tower, University of Edinburgh, George Square** at 7pm on **Thursday 26th November**. The event, ***Bandages and Boycott***, is free and open to all, but booking is required via eventbrite [here](#).

The **Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign** may be contacted by calling 0131 208 1948 or emailing campaign@scottishpsc.org.uk.



FLASH COMPETITION – Win tickets for Edinburgh Rugby!



The Edinburgh Reporter has teamed up with Specsavers, sponsor of the GUINNESS PRO12 match officials, to offer readers the chance to win tickets to see Edinburgh Rugby's game against Dragons this Friday 27 November at 7.45pm at Murrayfield.


We have four tickets for one lucky winner **but get your entry in now as the competition closes on Wednesday 25 November at 2:00pm. Good luck!**

Error: Contact form not found.

Specsavers has stores across Edinburgh and the surrounding areas – Shandwick Place, Cameron Toll, Fort Kinnaird, Morningside, Musselburgh, North Bridge, The Gyle and Leith and Dalkeith



Edinburgh's Christmas – Circa : Beyond

 As part of Edinburgh's Christmas there is an exceptional programme of circus, comedy and cabaret in the Paradiso Spiegeltent with performances from Circa, reviving Beyond, the hit show of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2014. What they can do with sheer strength and balance has to be seen to be

believed!



At the press afternoon the performers from Circa put on little snippets of their show for us, and it looks thrilling as well as entertaining.

Other shows include the legendary Camille O'Sullivan, Puddles, the cabaret sensation of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015, Austentatious, Abandoman and Frisky & Mannish.





This festive season also includes the return of Stick Man, the adaptation of Julia Donaldson's magical best-selling book. Read our review [here](#).

A continuation of the EH discount offer, where holders of an EH postcode receive a 20% discount on all shows, rides and events. In 2014, 97,512 tickets were sold with the 20% discount.

[Book your tickets here.](#)



Hungry for Books challenge running in Edinburgh this week



The Edinburgh Reporter went along to Dalry Primary School this morning to find out about the latest project they are involved with. Donating children's books to be distributed in the run up to Christmas is the latest phase of the City of Edinburgh Council's pioneering child poverty campaign.

The 'Hungry for Book's challenge is part of the council's '1 in 5: Raising Awareness of Child Poverty in Edinburgh' campaign currently running in five primaries and one secondary school.

It is taking place during Book Week Scotland and the main aim is to highlight links between child poverty and low literacy.

The public are encouraged to donate high/good quality children's books all this week until Friday 27 November and the pupils will then ensure these go to food banks or other organisations in time for Christmas.



Councillor Paul Godzik with the four clan chiefs from Dalry Primary School

Each school will be a hub for donation of books in different areas of the city – Broughton High School (north), Royal High Primary School (east), Sciennes Primary School (central), Gracemount Primary School (south), Dalry Primary School (west)

and Hillwood Primary School (south west).

Councillor Paul Godzik, Education, Children and Families Convener, said: "The 'Hungry for Books' challenge is a positive way of trying to help more children living in poverty access the type of books other children enjoy. It is well-documented that children from poorer backgrounds lag behind at all stages of education so it's important we do all we can to close the attainment gap.

"Donating books for children to read, both on their own and with their parents, is a positive way for the public to play their part in achieving this.

The Council will continue the great work of our '1 in 5' campaign to ensure every child in Edinburgh is given every opportunity to have the best possible start in life."

Dalry Primary School Head Teacher, Grant Gillies, said: "The '1 in 5' project has had a significant impact on the life of our school and the decisions we make because the children and families in our school community face real challenges. It is our job to equip them with the skills and aspirations to overcome these.

"More than that though, as a school we have social responsibility to ensure opportunities are for all and they are inclusive. That's why pupils are very excited about being part of this Hungry for Books Challenge.

"Another good example of the impact of raising awareness within our school project is when we planned for our whole community outing at Christmas. We spoke about the way we charged for it in the past and this year we have a price structure that means bigger families pay less. It is these small things that make a difference.

"Small changes in our approaches make for big changes in our children's lives."

The '1 in 5' project aims to raise awareness of the impact of child poverty and identify best practice and changes that can be introduced to make school more affordable for families on low incomes. The project involves working with children, staff and parents to challenge the stigma that affects children living in poverty.

Last week a poster competition was launched at Hillwood Primary School where pupils took part in creative art workshops led by artist Heather Lucchesi to design images which highlight some of the issues faced by children whose families live on or below the poverty line.

Winning images will be incorporated into a poster to be distributed to primary schools across the city along with guidelines for schools on how best to support families living on low incomes including actions to reduce the costs associated with school such as school uniform, trips and resources.

Councillors on the Education, Children and Families Committee heard last month that just over 21% of children in Edinburgh live in poverty and this figure is forecast to increase significantly by 2020.

Every area of the city is affected with each Council ward having child poverty rates of over 10%. It's estimated that the cost of delivering services to address the impact in the Capital is around £156m a year according to the Child Poverty report which outlined various actions being taken by the Council to lessen the impact. Key areas identified include:

- Developing more flexible and affordable good quality childcare to meet the needs of families on low incomes
- Improving attendance at schools and early years establishments, and the attainment and achievement of young people
- Reducing the attainment gap between lowest achieving

pupils and their peers across the city

- Identifying and developing more safe places to play

Other actions include increase breakfast club provision and further develop family engagement with a focus on strong home-school partnerships.

The report also highlights the importance of income maximisation to raising attainment. Research has shown that the level of household income plays a major role in attainment levels with more initiatives needed to increase wages, encourage take up of unclaimed benefits and other finance-related poverty costs.

Hibs youth recruitment structure boosted



There was more good news for Hibs' fans today with the announcement that the youth recruitment structure has undergone a redevelopment and has been given a boost as an additional 30 members have been recruited – bringing the total staff number up to 40.

Following a drive for new staff, 30 people have joined as youth player ID scouts, recruitment administrators and lead scouts who will oversee key parts of the process and who will help to drive the flow of information on talented young footballers to the footballing staff at East Mains.

Graeme Mathie, Head of Player Identification and Recruitment,

was pleased to see the number of people who put their names forward for the roles, and was delighted to see the numbers involved swell in the past few months.

He said: "Hibernian has had a long tradition of producing young footballers and that is something we all want to see continue. To assist this, we wanted to expand the youth recruitment structure a recruitment drive was launched and it was pleasing that so many people wanted to be involved.

"It shows that people care about youth development in Scotland, and that, as a football club, people are willing to help us reach our goals. I can't stress the importance of all involved in the process, they are a massive help and are doing a good job.

"We now have units of people working together to oversee the identification and recruitment process at specific age levels in the Edinburgh area, and teams of people in other geographic areas highlighting players of note. The scouts are tasked with providing graded written reports to local administrators who highlight players of particular interest to be monitored or invited to train with the Academy.

"We don't invite huge numbers of players to the Academy – ultimately we want to recruit a small number of very talented young players who have a genuine opportunity to progress through the development process and potentially play in the First Team."

Mathie's drive also saw the re-recruitment of Mike Meechan from Dundee United and Charlie Kivlin has also joined the pool from Celtic.

This is something he is thrilled by and is excited at the work these two are going to undertake on Hibernian's behalf given their prior experience, as well as the hard work everyone else has already contributed.

Mathie said: "Mike Meechan re-joined the Club last year from Dundee United. He watches and reports on around 300 games per year at youth, development and first team level – which is incredible for someone who doesn't drive a car! He is also well known in the Edinburgh area and brings with him positive relationships with youth club coaches which fits well with the ethos we are looking to promote within our structure.

"Charlie Kivlin has also recently joined from Celtic and he will lead the recruitment function at the upper Academy ages, leading into the Development Squad which is a new position at the Club and is key to ensure we identify and recruit the best possible players to join the Club in a full-time capacity.

"All new staff have already shown a real willingness to get out in all weathers, watch youth games and gain contacts in their local areas – and there shouldn't be many youth games taking place in the Edinburgh area on a weekly basis without a Hibs scout in attendance."

Mathie and the team he has assembled are looking to build strong relationships with local clubs and coaches to ensure that a proper pathway into the Hibernian Academy is established.

The group have already seen a modicum of success with a partnership with Kennoway Soccer 7s in its nascent stage.

Mathie said: "We have already seen some tangible success in this regard. We have opened this way of working further afield and have engaged strongly with Kennoway Soccer 7s in Fife to assist our scouting unit there to identify young players with potential.

He cites the quality of the staff involved as key to improving, including Amit Moudgil – a supporter representative on the Hibernian Board of Directors.

"The number of people now out and watching games on a weekly

basis is very pleasing, and the strength of our structure will be in the quality of people involved across the board.

“Amit combines his role as fans rep on the board with a recruitment administrator role within the structure, and he becomes the key communication link between the Club, and local youth clubs when we write training requests or signing requests.”

Despite the improvements and redevelopment that have taken place, Mathie is still looking towards the future and further enhancements that can be made to the structure.

“It’s a simple process that we have implemented but there’s already been a significant increase in the numbers and the quality of players being recommended for Eddie May and the coaching team to assess.

“It’s an ongoing process and there is still a lot of work to be done to refine the structure and make continued improvements but the Club has a motivated team of people, performing different roles within the overall function, and all working hard to uncover a potential first team player of the future.”

CCTV images released following assault and robbery in Grassmarket





Police have released CCTV footage of a group of men they wish to trace in connection with an assault and robbery in the city centre last year.

A 43-year-old man was in the Grassmarket, opposite the Apex Hotel, at around 3.30am on the 12th October 2014 when he was subject to an unprovoked attack by a number of individuals.

During the incident, the victim fell to the ground and his Omega Seamaster watch was stolen.

Inquiries have been ongoing to trace those responsible and officers are now asking anyone who recognises the men pictured in the images to come forward.

Detective Sergeant Lynsey Thomson from the Violence Reduction Unit at Gayfield Police Station said: "This was a random assault, which left the victim with some painful injuries and resulted in the theft of his watch, worth several thousands of pounds.

"We are keen to trace the men within this CCTV footage as part of our investigation and would ask that anyone who can assist with our inquiries to contact police immediately.

"In addition, anyone with any further information relevant to this incident should also get in touch."

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