

# Five things you need to know today



**Scottish Government ready for refugees**

**New coach for Edinburgh's diving stars of the future**

**LUSH Charity Pot Fundraiser for Scottish Pen**

**St Giles at Six**

**At the Edinburgh International Festival 2016**

Scotland is expected to receive around one third of the total number of Syrian refugees due to arrive in the UK before Christmas, Minister for Europe and International Development, Humza Yousaf, has announced.

The refugee taskforce set up to co-ordinate Scotland's practical response to the humanitarian crisis met this week ahead of the first arrivals.

Mr Yousaf, who chairs the meeting, has offered to visit local authorities expected to receive refugees to discuss their arrangements and preparations, and engage with local communities on the importance of their role in the integration process.

The Minister said: "Scotland's response to the humanitarian crisis has been phenomenal and we have been working to ensure we provide a very warm welcome to those who come to Scotland seeking protection, safety and security.

"Of the refugees expected to arrive in the UK before Christmas, Scotland is expected to take around one third, and this is testament to the work of the taskforce, local

authorities and many other partner organisations to ensure we are ready – and we are ready. It is a great symbol of our compassion that Scotland is expected to take a third of refugees arriving before Christmas, while making up only 10 per cent of the UK population.

“I realise that local authorities have already gone to great lengths to prepare themselves but I will be looking to visit them to discuss their arrangements and offer them support and advice if they feel it beneficial.

“It has been heart-warming and inspiring to see the positive reaction from people all over Scotland and local communities will play a crucial role in the integration of these refugees. We cannot underestimate the importance of local engagement in response to what is an international crisis.

“Scotland is a caring and compassionate country and we have worked with our partners to provide a welcoming environment for those refugees.

“Areas such as local government, housing, health services, language support, transport and social services are crucial to this, and the taskforce has worked to ensure these services are ready.”



One of Edinburgh's own diving stars is to help inspire children with Additional Support Needs (ASN) at a dedicated new class.

European Games Gold winner James Heatly will visit the new class at the Royal Commonwealth Pool, where he has been coached by Edinburgh Leisure since he was a young child.

It is hoped the new diving classes will provide children with a range of ages and abilities the opportunity to discover the

joys of diving and its many fitness benefits. The addition of a 1m platform to the world class diving facilities has made it possible to specifically launch coaching for children with a wider range of needs.

Part-funded by Sport Scotland, the new 1m platform joins Olympic Standard facilities including 5m and 10m platform, and three 1m springboards.

The venue in the heart of Edinburgh played host to the commonwealth games diving event in 2014, where James – the grandson of the late diving champion Sir Peter Heatly – competed before the eyes of the world.

Vicki Tomlinson, Diving Coach for Edinburgh Leisure, said: “We are delighted that the arrival of the brand new 1m diving platform has allowed us to launch diving coaching for children with additional support needs.

“Diving is just such an amazing sport which allows children to build strength and agility, as well as grow in confidence.

“That’s why it’s great to be able to see children of all ages and different abilities and needs get a chance to enjoy diving.

“The children will also have the opportunity to work towards certificates and, although it’s early days, we hope to connect with clubs across the UK and eventually participate in tournaments.

“We’re really pleased that James has kindly offered to share his expertise and passion for diving with the class. It will be really inspiring for the children to meet a diving star who has been coached here in our own Royal Commonwealth Pool.”

A wide range of coached diving classes are offered at the Royal Commonwealth Pool for adults and children of all ages and abilities.

Diving is just one of a wide range of sports offered by Edinburgh Leisure's hugely popular coaching programme.

For further information about all coaching and activities offered visit [www.edinburghleisure.co.uk](http://www.edinburghleisure.co.uk)



**LUSH Charity Pot Fundraiser for Scottish Pen: Writers at Risk.** This afternoon Scottish PEN are teaming up with LUSH Edinburgh for a fundraising event on behalf of PEN's campaigns in support of imprisoned writers.

They are hosting a fundraising party at LUSH to raise money for their **Saudi Arabia** campaign, highlighting the cases of **Raif Badawi**, blogger, sentenced to 10 years in prison and 1,000 lashes, and **Ali Mohammed al-Nimr**, sentenced to crucifixion. The '**Charity Pot Party**' is a chance for PEN to 'take over' LUSH's charity pots, which are pots of hand and body lotion dedicated to a specific charity. With every purchase of a Charity Pot, LUSH donates 100% of the price (minus the taxes) to small, grassroots organisations that could use a helping hand to continue the incredible work that they do. Charity Pot supports organisations that align with LUSH's ethics in the areas of environmental conservation, animal welfare and human rights.

Join PEN today at [LUSH, 115 Princes Street](#), to talk about how to support free expression all over the world. This event will run from **12-6pm** – drop in and say hello!



**St Giles' At Six:** tonight the **Scottish Romance Orchestra**, conducted by **Robert Dick**, will play a programme including **Delius On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring**, **Ravel**


*Pavane pour une infante défunte*, **Ravel** *Bolero* and **Dvořák** *Slavonic Dances*. 6pm, [St Giles' Cathedral](#), High Street. Free admission; retiring collection. All welcome.



The Edinburgh International Festival will present Vincenzo Bellini's *Norma* with a newly prepared critical edition, restoring the originally intended vocal colours. Cecilia Bartoli performs the iconic role as Bellini originally envisioned it, for a mezzo soprano, with a stellar cast including: Rebeca Olvera, John Osborn, Péter Kálmán, Liliana Nikiteanu and Reinaldo Macias.

The production by Moshe Leiser and Patrice Caurier modernises the story, setting it in occupied France during the Second World War. Since it opened at the Salzburg Whitsun Festival in 2013 it has become one of this decade's greatest opera productions.

Priority booking opens [here](#) from Wednesday 11 November.  
On sale for everyone: Saturday 21 November. Cheapest tickets are £30.

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# Impressive Hearts Win Again



**Heart of Midlothian 2 Hamilton Academical 0**

**Ladbrokes SPFL Premiership, Saturday 7 November 2015 – Tynecastle**

Hearts recorded their fourth league victory in a row with a hard-fought win over Hamilton Academical at Tynecastle on Saturday. Prince Buaben and Arnaud Djoum scored in the first half and this was enough to ensure Robbie Neilson's side remained in second place in the Ladbrokes SPFL Premiership and close the gap on leaders Celtic to three points – at least until Sunday when the champions visit Ross County.

Neilson made a couple of changes to the team which romped to victory at Partick Thistle last week – Blazej Augustyn returned from suspension at the expense of Juwon Oshaniwa while Morgaro Gomis replaced Danny Swanson and wore the captain's armband.

It was an unusually quiet start to a game at Tynecastle but Hearts finally burst into action in the seventh minute when Callum Paterson crossed for Arnaud Djoum who headed wide.

The last time these two sides met it was a somewhat controversial affair with the aforementioned Paterson sent off (wrongly as it transpired) and the Accies ending Hearts unbeaten run. There seemed to be some unfinished business from that game with tousy challenges and bookings for the visitors. Tagliapietra came close to scoring for the Accies when he was left unmarked at a corner but, thankfully for the home support, his header went wide.

After 26 minutes Hearts went ahead. There seemed minimal danger when Prince Buaben collected the ball thirty yards from

goal but the midfielder fired in a low effort which visiting keeper McGovern appeared slow to react to and another packed house at Tynecastle celebrated.

The dangerous Tagliapietra nearly drew parity when he connected with a free-kick inside the Hearts penalty box but home keeper Neil Alexander saved splendidly.

Accies were to rue that chance as Hearts doubled their lead seven minutes before half-time. The pacey Sam Nicholson broke forward and crossed towards Osman Sow. The Swedish striker was given time to chest the ball down before taking it round keeper McGovern before unselfishly passing for the impressive Arnaud Djoum to poke home.

### **Half-time Hearts 2 Hamilton Accies 0**

Djoum almost made it 3-0 early in the second half when he just missed getting on the end of a brilliant cross from Nicholson before Callum Paterson forced a fine save from McGovern with a free-kick.

Djoum limped off with a hamstring injury to be replaced by Miguel Pallardo. The substitute broke free to set up Osman Sow whose effort on goal produced another fine save from McGovern.

With 15 minutes left, it looked again like goal number three when Buaben and Sow linked well in the Accies penalty box before the Swede pushed the ball goalwards only to see it go wide.

Gavin Reilly then had a chance for the home side in injury time but his shot on goal up was pushed over the bar by McGovern.

Robbie Neilson was a satisfied man after the game

“I thought we played really well in the first half and obviously we got a couple of goals on the back of that.

"The second half was a bit scrappy but overall we competed well and played some good football at times.

We'd like to try to sustain it for as long as possible but there's going to come a dip. We're not going to go through the season winning every game. To be where we are is fantastic, but we have to continue to work hard and try to stay as high up the league as we can," the Head Coach told BBC Scotland.

"The players are confident that every game they go in to they can win, but we have to prove it and at the moment we're doing it. I've got a good squad. The aim is to get top six. If we get that it's another progression from getting promoted, being stable in the top flight, and if we get higher than that it'll be a fantastic season.

"We're ahead of where we want to be as a club. The plans were to get out the Championship at the second time of asking. To get out at the first time of asking was great. To be where we are just now is great."

Although the impressive Arnaud Djoum limped off injured he is expected to be fit for Hearts next game against Dundee in a fortnight.

"Arnaud is fine, it's just a tight hamstring" said Neilson. "He's played a fair bit recently so he'll get a break now and he'll be fine once we return to league action."

Another impressive win for Hearts and another clean sheet. This was Robbie Neilson's 50<sup>th</sup> league game in charge with a remarkable record of 38 wins, 6 draws and 6 defeats. That's a mighty fine record.

**Hearts:** Alexander, Paterson, Augustyn, Rossi, McGhee, Gomis, Buaben, Djoum (Pallardo, 68'), Nicholson (Swanson, 79'), Sow, Juanma (Reilly, 67').

**Hamilton:** McGovern, Gordon, Kurakins, Imrie (Nade, 75'),



Turner (Longridge, 46'), Kurtaj, Morris, MacKinnon, Docherty, Tena (Sendles-White, 37'), Tagliapietra.


**Referee:** Bobby Madden

**Att:** 16,121

**Top man:** Sam Nicholson

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## Cats Protection announce £5 neutering campaign

 The UK's leading feline welfare charity, Cats Protection, is planning to launch their £5 Neutering Campaign in all EH postcodes in Spring 2016.

The campaign aims to encourage all cat owners to come forward and get their cats neutered by raising awareness in local communities of the importance of neutering as part of responsible pet ownership.

A spokesman for the charity said: "We will be providing subsidised neutering vouchers for those who meet the following eligibility criteria: those on a low income and those in receipt of benefits.

"The cat owners would pay £5 towards the cost of neutering which saves a lot of money as a female can cost between £80-£120 and a male between £60-£80.

"We are very keen to engage with local communities, whether this is coming along and giving some informal talks/sessions with adults or children, setting up an information/advice

stall somewhere in the community, handing out leaflets/posters at community events and would love to hear from any community groups who can help.”

More information from the charity on neutering here.




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# Five things you need to know today



**Get your wedding dress at the Wedding Fair**

**Rock the Easel**

**Teenage Cancer Trust Ceilidh**

**Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament Annual Conference**

**Fakes and Forgeries Seminar**

Brides on a budget can still look beautiful on their big day thanks to some help from Capability Scotland.

The disability charity has launched a bridal department in its Stockbridge shop in Edinburgh stocking a fantastic range of pre-loved and new dresses available at a fraction of the cost of an average wedding dress.

Now the department is taking the dresses on the road and is looking forward to meeting brides-to-be and their friends and family at The Edinburgh Wedding Fair at the Corn Exchange on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of November.

[Read more here.](#)



**The Velvet Easel Gallery** in Portobello opens a new mixed exhibition today; ***Rock The Easel*** will feature many new and interesting artists as well as superb new work by artists already popular in the gallery. Everyone is invited to come along and enjoy drinks and nibbles any time between 10am and 5pm. The Velvet Easel was established in 2013; it aims to assist artists at all stages of their careers to achieve success by offering a warm and welcoming space to show case their work and a relaxed and enjoyable viewing experience for all. A broad range of mediums are represented including **painting, sculpture, pottery, ceramics and jewellery**, and the gallery also stocks a range of high quality limited edition **prints and artistic greeting cards**. So why not have a trip to Portobello? **The Velvet Easel** is at 298 Portobello High Street – handily close to one of our favourite cafe/bars, **The Skylark** at no 241 – and of course Portobello has lots of other excellent shops and a wonderful beach too; perfect for a Saturday morning jaunt.





Want to Strip the Willow this evening – and help a great charity too? **The Teenage Cancer Trust** invites you to its fundraising ceilidh at the St Bride's Centre, Dalry; music will be provided by the excellent **Robert Fish Band**, and there'll also be a fundraising **raffle** with some fabulous prizes. Around seven young people between the ages of 13 and 24 are diagnosed with cancer every day in the UK. They need expert treatment and support from the moment they hear the word 'cancer'; The Teenage Cancer Trust is the only charity dedicated to making this happen – so dust off your dancing shoes, open your wallets, and get yourselves down to [St Brides, 10 Orwell Terrace](#). Doors open at 7.30pm with dancing from 8pm to midnight. Tickets cost £10 and are available [here](#).



The **Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament** holds its Annual Conference today at **St Columba's by the Castle Church**, Johnston Terrace. Speakers will include **Thomas Nash** and **Brendan O'Hara MP**. Thomas is the director of UK not-for-profit organisation **Article 36**. He has worked for the New Zealand and Canadian foreign ministries and as Coordinator of the **Cluster Munitions Coalition**; his particular expertise is in how the experience of prohibiting land mines and cluster munitions can be applied to eliminating nuclear weapons. Brendan is an award-winning TV producer and this year became MP for the **Argyll and Bute** constituency which includes **Faslane**. He is the defence spokesperson for the **Scottish National Party**. Registration will begin at 10.30am this morning, with the conference starting at 11am and closing at 4pm. For more information please call Scottish CND on 0141 357 1529.



## **Fakes and Forgeries Seminar**

**Date:** Wednesday 18 November 2015

**Time:** 10am-4pm

**Cost:** £65, £60 National Museums Scotland members and concessions

The Goldsmiths' Company Assay Office, London will be presenting its renowned **Fakes and Forgeries Seminar** at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh on Wednesday 18 November.

This exclusive event, aimed at silver specialists, auctioneers, independent dealers, insurance valuers, as well as private collectors, provides an invaluable opportunity to gain first-hand experience in the identification of fake and forged antique silver. The possibility of mistaking a fake or forged piece of silver continues to challenge experts, curators and collectors. This seminar aims to answer common


questions by combining educational lectures with table session where attendees can handle examples of authentic and counterfeit objects:

- What physical characteristics are indications of an altered piece of plate?
- How are counterfeit or transposed hallmarks identified?
- What clues are there that an article is an illegal cast duplicate of an authentic original?
- How do the experts come to their decision on an object's authenticity and legality?
- What actions are taken when an object is identified as a fake or illegally altered?

**Keynote speaker:** Mr Alastair Dickenson, Liveryman of The Goldsmiths' Company, antique silver dealer and silver expert on the BBC's *Antiques Roadshow*. This full day includes lunch and a certificate of attendance. Delegates are also given the opportunity to visit *The Silversmith's Art: Made in Britain Today*, which celebrates the exceptional artistry and skill that make Britain a world leader in modern silver.

**Further information and bookings:** <http://www.nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-scotland/whats-on/fakes-and-forgeries-seminar/>



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# Letter from Scotland



Remembrance Sunday always stops me in my tracks. I see the names on the war memorials, I see yellow leaves on the green grass, I see the familiar ceremonies on television and I wonder at man's stupidity. Why are we unable to see the madness of war coming before we are drawn into it ?

The First World War is the most haunting for me, because of its mystery and for its huge impact on every town and village in Scotland to this day. My grandfather served in the Royal Army Medical Corps, my great uncle was killed at the second battle of the Somme. We are still connected to this most awful of wars. It was only six years ago that the last British soldier to serve in the trenches Harry Patch died, just short of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Second World War is easier to understand, with its clear-cut conflict between good and evil. My grandfather and my uncle both served in this war and survived. But the losses were six times those of the First War and most of the casualties were not soldiers at all but innocent bystanders.

Despite these two catastrophic conflicts, we have not been able to shake off the contagion of war, a disease peculiar to our species. Since the First World War, Britain has been involved in 30 major wars. And throughout the world, as I write, there are 35 wars going on, four of them major wars, in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Boko Haram war in West Africa, each of which resulted in more than 10,000 people killed last year. And still we sell arms to the evil tyrants causing these wars and we mock the efforts of the UN and the EU to bring them to an end.

This week, The Scottish Parliament debated the renewal of Trident nuclear weapons, which can either be seen as a costly example of this war madness, or as the ultimate guarantee of peace between the major powers. Scottish Labour, newly converted to the anti-Trident cause, voted with the SNP,



against any renewal of Trident. This week we learnt that the cost had gone up yet again, to £25 billion plus 6 per cent of the annual defence budget for maintenance, which would put the final bill at £167 billion.

Another of the Scottish Labour Party's innovations this week was to come out strongly against the Chancellor's cuts to tax credits, which they said would leave a quarter of a million low-earning households a thousand pounds worse off each year. The party leader Kezia Dugdale said Labour in Scotland would reverse these cuts by not cutting Air Passenger Duty and not raising the threshold for the upper rate of income tax.

Until Wednesday, the SNP maintained that the Scottish Parliament did not have the power to make these changes but then Alex Neil, the social justice secretary, admitted he'd been reading the new devolution bill again and, lo and behold, he'd found that Holyrood will indeed have such powers from next year. This left the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon simply promising MSPs, at question time, that the Scottish government would come up with a "realistic and affordable" scheme to compensate those affected by the tax credit changes – if the Chancellor can't be persuaded out of them.

Oh dear, the Scottish economy is not doing as well as expected. The number crunchers at the Fraser of Allander Institute now say our annual growth rate for 2015 is likely to be 1.9 per cent, not the 2.5 per cent they had confidently predicted in the summer. This comes on top of last month's bad news from the oil and steel industries and the rise in unemployment to 6.1 per cent. We are now relying on the building trade to drive growth in the economy. And, of course, there will very soon be the Christmas stampede by the ever brave Scottish shoppers who have kept our heads above water throughout the recession.

The off-shore wind industry is also doing its bit to keep the economy afloat. This week the world's largest floating wind farm was given permission to launch 25 miles off the coast of Peterhead. There will be five floating turbines, anchored to the seabed, capable of powering 20,000 homes. It's a

pioneering project for deep sea energy production. It's just a pity it's being done by enterprising Norwegians from Statoil, rather than a Scottish energy company.

I end with a Boy's Own tale. Poor Susie Wolff, the Scottish racing driver, is a girl. This means she is not welcome in the boy's world of Formula One racing. She announced this week that she is retiring from the sport after 20 years of trying to break through the glass ceiling. She wrote revealingly: "I fought very hard to make it onto that starting grid (for the Williams Team) but events at the start of this year and the current environment in F1 the way it is, it isn't going to happen."


Perhaps she is just too sensible for the mad world of motor racing. To me it's a crazy mixture of micro-engineering, dubious big money, kamikaze drivers, ghoulish blood sport, celebrity, television and childish fantasy. You may have gathered that I don't like it.

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## **John Lewis Edinburgh have extended hours for Christmas shopping (and a new ad!)**



It is a week or two since we were invited to go to the John Lewis Edinburgh Christmas party and even though it was early, we had a great time!

 They gave us a lovely goodie bag filled with the kind of things that will make it onto your shopping list we are

sure.

And elsewhere in the store we spotted a really nice old-fashioned phone.



The major department store has all the best gift ideas and extended opening hours over the Christmas period. From now on the shop is open on Friday 27 November 8am – 8pm, Saturday 28 November 9am-7pm and Sunday 29 November 10am – 6pm.

They have four Christmas themes in their Christmas shop on level one but better than that perhaps – here is the ad.





The Christmas ad was released earlier today tells a story of a young girl sending a present to the Man on the Moon. Get the tissues out!

The department store is partnering with Age UK to #showsomeonetheyreloved this Christmas time. If you wish then you can donate [here](#).

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## COMPETITION – Win tickets for Beans on Toast



BEANS ON TOAST will showcase his NEW ALBUM: 'ROLLING UP THE HILL' when he comes to Edinburgh's Voodoo Rooms on 13 November 2015 and a couple of you could be there for free if you are the lucky winner of our competition!

The prize is two tickets for the concert on 13 November 2015 at Voodoo Rooms.

Entries must be received by **TUESDAY 11 November at 5:00pm.**

***Enter here:***

**Error:** Contact form not found.

Beans feels this is his most creative record to date and it's an album all about friendship, travel and art. It's also about drinking, protesting and growing older in these strange modern times.



His seventh studio album in the same number of years will be released as usual on 1st December via Xtra Mile Recordings. It was recorded this August in Kansas with husband and wife country duo, Truckstop Honeymoon.

Beans met the duo at Larmer Tree festival last year, and after hanging out and playing some shows with them in New Orleans they hatched a plan to go to The Ninth Ward Picking Parlour in Lawrence, Kansas to make an album together.

The duo brings together double bass, mandolin and finger picking sounds to **Beans on Toast** unique art of songwriting. Of course though, they were still joined by long-term partner in crime **Bobby Banjo**, on harp and banjo.

Throw in a couple of Kansas players dropping in some horns and some drums and you've got a **Beans on Toast** album that is fresh, fun and exciting whilst at the same time not losing any of **Beans on Toast's** original cheap and easy English attitude that has got him to where he is today.

Ten years in the game and Beans has built up something of an underground following around the world, and is now ramming out festival fields and tents on the UK circuit and constantly touring new and foreign land.

This year alone he's played shows on rooftops in Cape Town, tropical islands in the Barbados, folk festivals in Canada and covered over 10,000 miles in the USA. He also toured the fringes on the UK in the wake of the terrible result at this year's election, taking in the mood of the country by visiting

Harlow, Preston, Chester and the like. He has, of course, got songs all about these travels.



As usual **Beans on Toast** has made the album he wants to make it; no rules, no one to impress, just simple opinionated songs about honest subjects.

[www.beansontoastmusic.com](http://www.beansontoastmusic.com)

[www.beansontoastmusic.com](http://www.beansontoastmusic.com) / [www.facebook.com/beansontoastmusic](https://www.facebook.com/beansontoastmusic)

[@beanstoast](https://www.youtube.com/beansontoasttube)

[www.xtramilerecordings.com](http://www.xtramilerecordings.com)

(Photo Credit – Jem Mitchell)

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## Business – The Peacock Inn changes hands



Property advisors Christie + Co have told The Edinburgh Reporter that they have sold The Peacock Inn, one of Edinburgh's best-known pubs, to one of Edinburgh's best-known businessmen.

Rich in history, the pub's legacy can be traced back to 1767 and since the nineteenth century, the popular Newhaven haunt has been famed for its traditional fish and chips. It occupies a prominent trading position on Lindsay Road in the heart of the Newhaven Harbour area which has undergone substantial redevelopment over the last 20 years. In 2011 the Peacock Inn underwent substantial refurbishment but failed to rekindle its glory days and was subsequently closed at the end of 2014.

The property has been purchased by the well-known independent Edinburgh retailer and restaurateur Remo Margiotta. Remo plans to extensively upgrade the property opening in mid January 2016 as a gastro pub called The Mucky Fox.

Jamie Jackson at Christie + Co's Edinburgh's office who handled the sale comments: "There was significant interest in the Peacock Inn and we are delighted that an operator of Remo's standing and expertise has purchased this well known property. We wish him all the best with his new business venture."

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## Are you tough enough for Tough Mudder?



Just in case you think you're not the global event series now includes some easier options. For 2016 the UK events will include Tough Mudder half in the Midlands and also at Drumlanrig Castle in Dumfries and Galloway on 26 June 2016.

The new event will be raced over five miles with a dozen obstacles. But even though the distance is halved, the usual Tough Mudder type of experience is promised!



Those taking part in the new event will receive a unique Tough Mudder Half headband, a custom Merrell Tough Mudder Half finisher T shirt and a Kingston Press cider to start the celebrations.

Walk the Plank which means leaping from a 12 feet high

platform into muddy water and the Kiss of Mud which involves crawling underneath barbed wire and Everest which is a test of teamwork running up a quarter pipe are all set to challenge you. Tickets are now on sale at £35 each.

Tough Mudder Inc. and outdoor pioneer Merrell®, a division of Wolverine Worldwide, have announced a multi-year partnership, introducing Merrell as the presenting partner for global Tough Mudder events.

The partnership includes the presenting sponsorship of 60+ global events in 2016, connecting the more than two million Tough Mudder participants with Merrell's industry-leading and innovative outdoor footwear and apparel that inspires people to seek outdoor challenges and enjoy the outside every day.

In 2016, Merrell will present 60+ Tough Mudder events in six countries. Each event features a 10+ mile course with world-class obstacles designed to test both physical and mental strength. Courses will include brand new and updated obstacles developed by Tough Mudder's Obstacle Innovation Team with features designed to test Merrell's world-class trail and outdoor gear.

If you took part last year and would like to share your team photos with us then click [here](#). We would love to see them!



For more information on the 2016 Tough Mudder season, visit [www.toughmudder.co.uk](http://www.toughmudder.co.uk). Participant and spectator registrations are now open for more than 30 events, with more to open in the coming weeks.

To join the conversation, follow Tough Mudder on Facebook at [facebook.com/toughmudderuk](https://facebook.com/toughmudderuk), on Twitter [@ToughMudder](https://twitter.com/ToughMudder), and on Instagram [@Tough\\_Mudder](https://instagram.com/Tough_Mudder).

To pick up the latest gear from Merrell,



visit [www.merrell.com](http://www.merrell.com).

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# Scottish Women's Cup Final – Hibs v Glasgow City



This Sunday the third act of the domestic battle between Glasgow City and Hibernian will be played at Spartans' ground Ainslie Park.

So far, the two sides have battled out for the SWPL title and the SWP League Cup and whilst City came out on top on both occasions, these have been closely fought affairs.

In the league, the two sides moved toe-to-toe, with neither side giving an inch until September when Hibernian lost to Aberdeen. The first two league games between them were pulsating 3-3 draws before in October, City beat them 2-0 to effectively wrap up the title. In the end, City finished six points ahead of Hibernian in the final league table, as both sides secured a place in the 2016-17 UEFA Women's Champions League.

In the SWP League Cup Final, it looked like Hibernian were going to win the trophy until when Kerry Montgomery equalised in the 77th minute. Early in extra-time, Susan Fairlie scored the winner to see City win their fourth SWP League Cup in a row.

To get to the Scottish Women's Cup Final, City had to beat Spartans, Aberdeen, FC Kilmarnock Ladies and Rangers. Hibernian had to beat Glasgow City's Development side, Forfar

Farmington, Cumbernauld Colts and Celtic.

Since 2003, the Scottish Women's Cup has been a competition that has been dominated by the two finalists with Hibernian winning it five times and City winning it seven times – including the last four. This means, that if City win, it will be their fourth domestic treble in a row.

This is the fourth time these two sides have met in the final. Hibernian triumphed in the 2007 final when the Edinburgh side won 5-1. However, it has been City who have been victorious in the previous two: winning 3-0 in the 2011 final and 1-0 in 2013.

Glasgow City may have dominated the domestic scene in recent seasons, however, this season has shown that Hibernian are more than capable in winning the tournament – this will be the battle between the two best sides in Scotland.

The Final kicks-off at 2pm and tickets are only £5 for adults and £2 for concessions. Fans turning up will have the chance to meet the members of Scotland's Women's National Team. If you are unable to make it, it will be broadcast live on BBC Alba & BBC Radio Scotland.

*Glasgow City v Hibernian*  
*Sunday 8th November 2015*  
*2pm-Kick off*  
*Ainslie Park, Edinburgh.*

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## **Five things you need to know**

# today



**Council plans 8,000 homes**

**Book Week Scotland 2015**

**Robert Louis Stevenson Day 2015**

**Jazz for the World**

**Portobello Comedy Night**

The City of Edinburgh Council has set out plans to build 8,000 homes in an attempt to address the shortage of affordable housing and tackle the impact of soaring housing costs in the private sector.

A [report](#) to the Council's Health, Social Care and Housing Committee, on November 10th, will outline proposals to increase the Council's house-building programme from 3,000 to 8,000 over the next decade.

The report represents a major change in the Council's bid to meet growing demand for new affordable homes. Almost 150 households bid for every Council and housing association home available to let in Edinburgh, and the city's population is set to grow by up to 30% over the next 20 years.

The Council has already committed to funding the construction of almost 3,000 new homes through the award-winning 21st Century Homes and working in partnership with the National Housing Trust.

The proposals are part of the Council's ongoing budget consultation details, of which can be accessed [here](#).

Councillor Cammy Day, Housing Leader for the City of Edinburgh Council, said: "Expanding the Council's award-winning house-


building programme would be a bold and strategic response to the acute shortage of homes in Edinburgh. High quality, low cost, energy efficient housing is simply out of reach for far too many people in the city. We are determined to address that.”



At the Edinburgh Central Library on 28 November 2015 at 2.30 Ronnie Brown will speak about his autobiography ‘That Guy Fae the Corries’. One half of the duo who made Flower of Scotland famous, he is bound to have a lot to say. (Yes the other half Roy Williamson wrote it!)

Read more about this and other Book Week Scotland events [here](#).



 On Friday 13 November a multitude of events will take place across Edinburgh to celebrate the birthday in 1850 of Scottish adventure novelist Robert Louis Stevenson. These events are organised by Edinburgh City of Literature and this year’s theme is ‘Stevenson on stage and screen.’

The National Library of Scotland will hold a themed talk on the day when Curator Andrew Martin will explore the Alan Brecks, Jekylls and Hydes and Long John Silvers of vintage cinema. Sadly this event is fully booked but from 11 – 16 November in the foyer of the National Library, there will be a small but varied display of materials relating to film versions of Stevenson’s work.

But there are lots of other RLS themed events from 9 November onwards. Read all about them [here](#) on the City of Literature website.



Jazz for The World: **tonight** at 7.30pm St Andrew's and St George's West Choir sings an innovative programme of contemporary and classical jazz, accompanied by pianist Chris Harding. The programme includes Will Todd's *Mass in Blue* and music by Ellington and Fanshawe.

This is only the second Scottish performance of *Mass in Blue*;

*'Will Todd's Mass in Blue is an upbeat setting of the Latin mass for SATB choir, soprano solo and jazz trio or ensemble. It is a brilliant blend of driving jazz grooves and clear, strong choral writing against which the solo piano and solo soprano voice weave and blend in a delightful aural tapestry.'*

Minister (and jazz aficionado) Rev Ian Y Gilmour introduces the pieces, and the concert will be directed by Brigitte Harris. FREE entry, everyone welcome. [St Andrew's and St George's West Church](#) is at 13 George Street.



**Porty**  
events



**Portobello Comedy Night is back!** Yes, hilarity returns to Edinburgh's seaside paradise **tonight** after a laughter break when the sun took over to provide the smiles. This month's tremendous line-up includes **Lee Kyle** ('Lee Kyle was in a league of his own...both quirky and original and had the crowd roaring' – *[gigglebeats.co.uk](http://gigglebeats.co.uk)*), **Nick Cranston** ('one of the north east of England's most promising comedians') and **Marc Jennings, Hilarity Bites New Act of the Year Finalist 2014**, with special guest **Pete Gwynne** and regular idiot **Steven Davidson** as MC! The evening kicks off at the [Dalriada](#), 77 Promenade, at 8.30pm. Tickets cost £10 (transaction fee applies) and are available from Brown Paper Tickets [here](#).

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## Master of the Merchant Company appointed today

A well-known Edinburgh businesswoman has been appointed to the lead role in Scotland's pre-eminent livery company which represents forty-three professions in the Capital.

Pat Denzler takes over the role of Master for The Merchant Company, an organisation which has enriched the life of Scotland's capital for more than 300 years. She is the first non-Royal female Master the Company has had since its inception in 1681 with HRH The Princess Royal the only other woman who has been appointed to this role.

Each Master is appointed for a two year period and Pat takes over from Ian Watson, a successful Edinburgh businessman, who steps down today at the completion of his term of office.



Leading figures from Edinburgh's business community will take part in a traditional ceremony at St Giles' Cathedral this afternoon at the Kirking of Master Service to install the new Master.

Commenting on her appointment, Pat said:

"It is a great honour and a privilege to take on the role as Master of The Merchant Company, an organisation which combines history and tradition dating back to 1681 with major involvement in the business, educational and charitable life of Edinburgh today. There is a proud tradition set by the 263 Old Masters who have held this role before me and I look forward to furthering the high standards and good works in Edinburgh they have achieved."

Established by Royal Charter in 1681, The Merchant Company's original purpose was to protect trading rights of merchants in the City of Edinburgh. Today, over 500 businessmen and women are Members of the Company and are actively involved at the heart of the city in activities which include ownership and governing of George Watson's College, The Mary Erskine School and Stewarts Melville College; support for the frail and elderly and young people in Edinburgh and the recent completion of a £5.8m housing development for the frail and elderly in Liberton.

Born in Northern Ireland Pat's family moved to Edinburgh in time for her final school year at George Watson's College. From there she gained an AFS Scholarship to spend a year with an American family attending an American High School in up-state New York.

She qualified as a Home Economics teacher and for four years taught at St. George's School before going into business with her Swiss husband opening Denzler's Restaurant in Hanover Street. A move to Queen Street followed then a spell in the country at the Roman Camp Hotel, Callander before returning to the Edinburgh restaurant scene in Rose Street and Leith.

After 30 years in business she served on the Board of Scottish Enterprise, enjoyed business mentoring, and was a Trustee of the Royal Yacht Britannia.

Pat is a past President of Leith Chamber of Commerce, Queen Margaret University Graduates' Association and Edinburgh Businesswomen's Club. She holds a Diploma in Wines and Spirits and won the Association of Scottish Businesswomen "Outstanding Contribution to Business Award in 2006". She served as an Assistant on the Court of the Merchant Company, then Treasurer and is a former Governor of Erskine Stewart's Melville Schools.

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## **Get to know about your Edinburgh dream house first**





It is now possible for house hunters to be alerted as soon as their dream property comes on the market thanks to leading solicitors and estate agents.

Edinburgh-based Warners have incorporated a Property Alerts feature into their website allowing individuals to register to be informed of properties that become available meeting their search criteria.

Ken Greenan, IT Director at Warners, said: "We are always looking at ways of making the search for a new house as easy and as pleasurable as possible.

"The Property Alerts feature allows you to set the search based on location, price range, number of bedrooms and type of house.

"Individuals can link their search to a mobile number or an email address meaning they will receive the update straight away so they can start the process of securing their dream home.

"The firm understands the importance of a quality customer service for clients and will do everything to make sales go smoothly – and the Property Alerts is an important part of this process. It ensures all our customers get off to a great start.

"It's a fantastic feature for those who are trying to find a house but who are extremely busy – they don't have to find their perfect property, we are bringing it to them."

This is not the only digital tool the property experts are using to ensure that finding a perfect home is as easy as possible.

Warners has become the first solicitor-estate agent in Scotland to feature a 'draw a search' tool on its website, providing an intuitive and user-friendly approach to help

people to find the perfect home – in the ideal location.

This innovative feature allows users to sketch a border around an area on a map, which will then display any properties available within that chosen area and also allows users to apply the usual filters to this search such as price and number of bedrooms.

An added benefit of the tool – being hailed as the most accurate property location finder around – is that it is ideal for those looking to focus a search within an exact school catchment area.

Jamie Lovie, Account Director at Intelligent Mobile, the firm behind the build of the feature said: “Warners is leading the way with an advance on the search tools of old.

“This process allows the user to quickly circle the exact area that they want to live in using a simple method which is extremely user-friendly and intuitive.

“We have tried to make the feature suitable for most tablets or smartphones, allowing the customer to make full use of touch screen functionality – and so helping to make it even simpler and quicker to find your perfect property.

“This will undoubtedly be copied in time – it’s the newest and quickest way to search for properties and highlights Warners position as a leading Edinburgh estate agent.”

Ken said: “The ‘draw a search’ tool is another stand out feature and we are delighted with the product from Intelligent Mobile.

“It is a huge advance on search tools of old – which are clunky, unreliable and slow because as well as being able to pinpoint all properties in a certain area, it can used to find properties that are near a school, workplace or favourite attraction.”

For more information visit their [website](#).

Warners, which has three property shops, in Newington, Corstorphine and Portobello, has held the unofficial title as Edinburgh's leading property solicitor estate agent for 14 consecutive years since 1999, measured in terms of property sales as recorded by ESPC.

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# Cultural Day in the Grassmarket on Saturday



A host of well-known faces will come together to take part in a Cultural Day in Edinburgh's Grassmarket to celebrate a decade of the Scottish Government's International Development work.

Cultural Day will, in particular, celebrate the cultural and people to people links between Scotland and Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia which underpin the Scottish Government's international development work. Guest speakers will talk about their love of Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, whether that is through travel, cycling, books, wildlife or festivals.

Record-breaking long-distance cyclist and broadcaster Mark Beaumont will talk about his experiences in Africa whilst setting a new world record in May 2015 cycling from Cairo to Cape Town in only 42 days. Julie Davidson, author of "Looking for Mrs Livingstone", will speak about the lives of early Scottish missionaries – from the perspective of the women involved in that work.

Record-breaking long-distance cyclist, Mark Beaumont, said:

“Over the past decade, travelling to some 125 countries, I have gained an insight into how Scotland is seen globally. Scotland is well liked, often loved, but to remain relevant and to show leadership in the future, as we have in our past, will rely on the ability to adapt fast, remain open and tolerant, and above all be truly ambitious.

“Cultural Day is a fantastic forum to share ideas, help shape Scottish Government thinking and be a part of Scotland’s future. I am very much looking forward to taking to the stage and reflecting on my recent journey down the length of the African continent, as well as last year’s journey around the Commonwealth nations and territories.”

The founders of two of Scotland’s best loved multicultural festivals, Lizelle Bisschoff and Foyso Choudhury, will share some of their “behind the scenes” experiences of the setting up and running of the Africa in Motion Film Festival and Edinburgh Mela.

The expected crowds will also be entertained by a range of African, Scottish and Asian music, through the day, and will be able to feast on a range of food from food stalls.

The ticketed event will give members of the public an opportunity to celebrate and learn more about the international development work the Scottish Government does in Malawi and our other priority countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, and our work on fair trade. The Scotland Malawi Partnership will be on hand to talk about the civil society links between Scotland and Malawi that they support, through churches, schools, universities, colleges and local authorities.

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# Reported crime in North Edinburgh on the decrease

✖ Police Scotland have said that reported crime in the north of the capital has come down by just over 23% compared to the same period last year.

Reports of violent crime across Leith, Leith Walk, Inverleith and Forth wards have reduced by 20% and robberies have fallen by 27%.

Police are also pleased to say that for this type of crime almost 3 out of every 4 has been solved.

Chief Inspector Richard Horan, Local Area Commander for North Edinburgh, said: "I am fortunate to work with a very talented and enthusiastic team of officers who are determined to make sure that the area in which they live and work is kept safe.

"Our anti-violence initiative in Leith, Operation Elbrus, has been utilising high visibility targeted patrols at key times and locations. The ongoing work of the Violent Offender Watch in Edinburgh and the investigations of our dedicated Violent Crime Unit have been invaluable in achieving this reduction, as have the funded officers within the Divisional Violence Reduction Unit."

Reports of anti-social behaviour are down by approximately 10%, and calls surrounding similar types of disorder are down the same. The City of Edinburgh Council has obtained a number of ASBOs for high-level repeat offenders, and the number of joint interventions using funded officers continues to rise.

✖ Councillor Cammy Day, Community Safety Leader for the City

of Edinburgh Council, said: "I am delighted that there has been such a significant drop in crime in the north of the capital. A huge amount of work has been put into tackling criminal activity in this part of Edinburgh, and the figures reflect that this effort has been well worth it.

"Partnership working between the Council, Police Scotland and the wider community on initiatives such as Stronger North has played a vital part in dealing with issues of concern, as has an increase in patrols by community police and community safety officers. Residents can be assured that efforts to keep them safe will continue."

Domestic housebreaking is down by almost 12% and business housebreaking down by 50% thanks to the hard work of local officers and the Community Investigation Unit. The Vehicle Crime Team, assisted by local officers, has helped reduce vehicle crime by 30% while detection rates for this have doubled.

CI Horan continued: "Housebreaking remains Edinburgh's number one priority, and I'm grateful for all the hard work our officers and partners have been doing to prevent this deeply personal crime. We've improved our ability to identify trends which have provided real benefits in quickly responding to emerging issues, and we have been assisted by a number of national units such as road policing and air support."

Officers have just completed a 6-month refresh of the Multi-Member Ward Plans for the North of the city, which are the policing priorities that the local community have identified for action. Further opportunity for members of the local community to influence future priorities will commence early next year.

Each of the four local ward plans include reducing violent crime, tackling anti-social behaviour, and reducing housebreaking as three of the key priorities told to officers

by the public.

Leith and Leith Walk also have tackling drug and alcohol abuse as a priority, and there is significant work ongoing throughout Edinburgh in relation to this. This includes the recent NPS Forfeiture Order, which is the first granted to a local authority area in Scotland, and 21 people were on Friday (30 October) charged with various drugs offences following a series of raids across the Capital involving over 170 officers.

Forth and Inverleith also have road safety as a priority, and local officers will continue to work alongside the Road Policing Unit and the City of Edinburgh Council to prevent unsafe driving behaviour and detect offenders.

For more information on what's happening in your area please visit [www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/edinburgh](http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/edinburgh), like Edinburgh Police Division on Facebook or follow @EdinNorthPolice on Twitter.

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## Prestonfield Primary have a Rubbish Morning Out!



Earlier today the staff, parents and pupils of Prestonfield Primary School had a Rubbish Morning Out and invited The Edinburgh Reporter to join them. Our photo above shows a team of three litter pickers Ghaliyah (4) Kasey (9) and Saby (7).

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

Headteacher Fiona Murray explained: "Parents were invited to support us in looking after our environment by coming into

school to hear about the work we have been doing in the areas of sustainability, health, safety and children's rights.

"There was a presentation of the children's work followed by a whole school community litter pick with the parents joining in. We are currently working towards our second Green Flag, RRSA Level 2 and Healthy Schools Stage 3, so this all ties in together really well."

The day dawned bright and dry so it was lovely to join the children on their walkabout, and they were very diligent about recording everything they picked up!







# What's on in Edinburgh – Plastic Barricades



Plastic Barricades, an alternative/indie band from London will be playing Edinburgh's Opium Club in Cowgate on the 13 November 2015, as part of their UK tour to promote their new single 'Needles In Haystacks' on their upcoming debut album. It is the band's first show in Scotland.

Romantic and honest, gloomy and curious, melodic and melancholic, Plastic Barricades chronicle life in the troubled yet fascinating 21st century with painstaking sincerity. Plastic Barricades are Dan Kert on guitar, keyboards and vocals, Daniele Borgato on bass and Frazer Webster on drums.

"The great thing about Plastic Barricades is that each of their songs is so intricately structured that it becomes a living thing, and its listening experience grows and matures as you do. Current fans will be more than pleased and newcomers will be able to easily sink into the lush sounds and vibrant melody of "Needles in Haystacks".

Rick Jamm, Jamsphere Magazine, August 2015

Support bands on the night will be alternative band The Sesh who are from Dundee, and alternative band Vacant Life who are from Edinburgh.

The gig is 14+, and doors open at 7PM. Advance tickets are available from Ticketweb and Skiddle for £5 stbf, or £8 on the door.

Submitted by [Julia Hall](#)



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# Five things you need to know today



## Volunteer with Bield

The Edinburgh Ceilidh Club is 10!

## Stockbridge Penguin Project

## ESPC raise funds for Royal Blind

## Fireworks at Hopetoun

Bield, one of Scotland's leading care and housing providers, is highlighting the important role that volunteers play in assisting older people to enjoy happy and fulfilled lives.

Gordon Court in Leith is looking for volunteer befrienders to

get to know tenants and help restore confidence while encouraging them to engage socially in the wider community.

The befriender program is crucial and volunteers are asked to commit to only a few hours a week to build a satisfying and ongoing companionship with a tenant at Gordon Court.

[Find out more here.](#)



This Friday 6th Nov The Edinburgh Ceilidh Club have yet another ceilidh with Teannaich ceilidh band at the Assembly Roxy.

Doors open at 7:15pm with dancing beginning at 7:30pm

You can get your tickets online from [www.edinburghceilidhs.com](http://www.edinburghceilidhs.com) or in person from the Tickets Scotland box office on Rose Street.

Again tickets are selling fast for this ceilidh but there are still a few available so don't miss it...

They might even have a few extra treats for you all as they celebrate their 10th birthday!



If you are shopping down in Stockbridge you cannot miss the penguins which are decorating the shop windows there! It is a fundraising initiative for two great Edinburgh charities:

*“In previous years we have seen Giraffes, Elephants and Scottish Terriers fill the shop windows of Stockbridge, all organised by local business to support Edinburgh charities and this year is no exception, as from the 1st of November to the 22nd of December 60 local businesses will be fundraising, displaying their decorated papier mâché penguins for two*

Edinburgh charities [LifeCare](#) and [It's Good To Give](#). If you would like to win a particular penguin, the penguins have 'birthdays', for £1 you can select an available birthday at the individual businesses for a chance to win their penguin."



ESPC, the local property marketing experts for East Central Scotland, has handed over a staggering £2400 to help support its chosen charity, Royal Blind Edinburgh, following its annual quiz night.


[Read more here.](#)



The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service are keen for you to attend [an organised bonfire and fireworks](#) event this year, and there is one at Hopetoun House if you can get a ticket. Details of the event which takes place on 7 November 2015 are [here](#).

If not then here is a video to make up for it!



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! [mc4wp\_form]

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# Hearts Appoint Jon Daly as U20s Coach

Hearts have announced that former Dundee United and Rangers striker Jon Daly is to become the club's new under 20s coach when his present contract at Raith Rovers ends in January.

The 32-year-old former Republic of Ireland U21 internationalist will bring a wealth of experience to the Tynecastle youngsters.

Hearts Director of Football Craig Levein told the club's official website: "I'm delighted that Jon has agreed to join the club in January and take up the post of U20s coach.

"Jon is somebody that both myself and Robbie Neilson know from our respective times at Dundee United and it's an exciting appointment.

"We believe he has all the attributes to develop into a great coach and we look forward to welcoming him in January."

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## Bridgend Farmhouse wins £1 MILLION Lottery grant



A project in South-East Edinburgh to renovate a 19<sup>th</sup> Century farmhouse and turn it into a community hub has received nearly £1 million from the Big Lottery Fund.

Thanks to an award of £997,908, Bridgend Inspiring Growth will

take an old run-down farmhouse and turn it into a thriving community hub for the benefit of all those living in Craigmillar, Inch, Moredun and beyond.

This vital funding means that work can now begin on a community-training kitchen, community cafe, two multi-purpose meeting spaces and four external community workshops. This will enable the organisation to deliver a range of learning programmes, from cycle-repair and outdoor education to DIY and arts & crafts. The project will also provide support and training opportunities to a range of people of all ages with a disability in the surrounding communities.

The City of Edinburgh Council has already supported the project and decided to hand over the building to the charity at no cost.

Will Golding, Chairperson, Bridgend Inspiring Growth, said: "We are absolutely thrilled at the news! After all the incredible hard work, support and volunteer effort over the last five and a half years, we now know it has finally paid off.

"We can't wait to get working on the renovation and development of the Bridgend Centre for Learning, Eating and Exercise. We will continue with our weekly drop-in sessions at the farmhouse and outreach activities during the process to ensure people can be involved throughout, and are looking for any volunteers and people interested to come and get involved.

We also have a small amount more fundraising to do to reach our target, and would welcome anyone interested in helping with that."

Maureen McGinn, Big Lottery Fund Scotland Chair, said, "Today's award to Bridgend Inspiring Growth will provide a community hub for the people in South-East Edinburgh. The renovated farmhouse will enable the community to expand opportunities for learning, healthy eating and exercise to people of all ages living in Craigmillar, Inch, Moredun and

surrounding communities. This project is an inspiring example of a community making a positive and lasting impact to local people's lives."

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## Poppy Bus launched today



Lothian Buses has unveiled a specially created 'Poppy Bus' to mark Remembrance Day 2015 and pay tribute to Edinburgh's war heroes.

It has been painted poppy red and adorned with poppy designs. It also has the messages 'We Will Remember Them' and "Lest We Forget' emblazoned on either side.

The bespoke vehicle was revealed on Wednesday 4 November at Edinburgh Castle with the support of battalion members of The Royal Regiment of Scotland and ex-military members of staff at Lothian Buses.







**Lt Col Charlie Platt, of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, said:** “Hopefully everyone who sees and travels in this bus will remember the service and sacrifice of those men and women who have given their lives in defence of the country.

“The infantrymen of The Royal Regiment of Scotland will be supporting Remembrance events wherever we can, in the Lothians and beyond, and are proud to stand alongside veterans and the civilian community in support of Poppy Scotland.”

As well as the specially created ‘Poppy Bus’, which will run on various routes throughout the city during November, each vehicle in the Lothian Buses fleet will be decorated with poppy glass stickers and support messages for Poppy Scotland.

**Sarah Boyd, Head of Operations for Lothian Buses, said:** “We have many ex-forces personnel working here at Lothian Buses and there is a big military presence here in Edinburgh, many of whom are our customers.

“The Poppy Scotland Appeal is very close to our hearts and one the company feels is important to mark. We hope that the

people of Edinburgh find our special bus to be a fitting tribute.”

Lothian Buses will be collecting for Poppy Scotland throughout November with collection tins in its Travelshops, Park & Ride sites and depots.

The artwork production has been gifted by Exterion, who manage the advertising space on the Lothian Buses fleet with Lothian Buses donating the costs to the Poppy Scotland Appeal.

Photographer Ian Georgeson, 07921 567360

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## **Bride on a budget? Look no further for your perfect dress**

✖ Brides on a budget can still look beautiful on their big day thanks to some help from Capability Scotland.

The disability charity has launched a bridal department in its Stockbridge shop in Edinburgh stocking a fantastic range of pre-loved and new dresses available at a fraction of the cost of an average wedding dress.

Now the department is taking the dresses on the road and is looking forward to meeting brides-to-be and their friends and family at The Edinburgh Wedding Fair at the Corn Exchange on 7th and 8th of November.

Capability Scotland launched its wedding department this summer and since then has enjoyed steady trade from brides who want to look stunning on their big day without breaking the

bank.

Every bride who buys a dress and/or accessories from Capability Scotland has the added bonus of knowing they are supporting disabled people across Scotland at the same time.

As well as stocking wedding dresses the shop also has a range of accessories including shoes, bridesmaid dresses, outfits for the 'Mother of the Bride' and other occasion wear. The department has been well supported by businesses across the country receiving donations from a number of wedding dress shops including Apple Blossom Time Bridalwear in Perth and Xquisite Brides in Falkirk.

Capability Scotland Head of Retail, Sophie Wilbraham, explained more:

"We want to help brides on a budget find their perfect dress without compromising on quality or style. Many of our dresses have been donated from bridal shops and can be snapped up at a very reasonable price. We have a beautiful range of dresses just waiting for their chance to shine.

"And of course every dress sold makes a difference to someone's life by helping to support the vital services we provide disabled children and adults across Scotland. These include independent living support, residential care, education, employment advice and much more. "

Capability Stockbridge Shop Manager, Patsy Parker, added: "We are really looking forward to being part of the Edinburgh Wedding Fair at the Corn Exchange and showing off our dresses. Anyone who can't come along to see us there is welcome to come and visit us at Stockbridge shop. We have a dedicated bridal department and fitting room and have tried to recreate the lovely experience all brides want to have when searching for that perfect dress."

Capability Scotland will be at stand 66 at the Edinburgh

Wedding Fair at the Corn Exchange on 7th & 8th November.

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# Specsavers – FLASH COMPETITION – Tickets for Edinburgh Rugby v Munster



You have only hours to enter this competition! **Enter here by 11.00am on Thursday 5 November 2015.**

Specsavers have just given us tickets for the Edinburgh Rugby match this weekend Saturday 7 November 2015 at Murrayfield.

This weekend the capital team are facing Munster at 5.15pm at Murrayfield Stadium.

**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*

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# Career insights from the man who brought the Ryder Cup to Scotland



An assembled company of Edinburgh's top business people gathered today to hear the highlights, insights and lessons learned from the man who brought the Ryder Cup to Scotland.

Peter Lederer CBE, former Managing Director and latterly Chairman of Gleneagles, was the guest speaker at a business breakfast at The Merchant Company whose 500 members represent 43 different professions in the Capital.

The event was held at The Merchants' Hall in Hanover Street and guests heard Peter give an overall view of his career highlights which included thirty years at Gleneagles where under his stewardship it evolved into the acclaimed resort it is today.

Peter is also a former Board Member of Diageo Scotland, Chairman of Visit Scotland and Chair of the Saltire Foundation. He is a Non-Executive Director at Baxters Food Group and Chair of Taste Communications Scotland and Hamilton & Inches.

He is also involved with two start-ups and his passion is helping young people getting started in business.

Pat Denzler, Treasurer and Master Designate at The Merchant Company said:

"It was fascinating to hear Peter's insights on his career and management strategy and we were extremely fortunate to have Peter come to talk to us this morning."

**Photo Caption:** Pat Denzler, Treasurer and Master Designate at The Merchant Company shows Peter Lederer, guest speaker at the Business Breakfast, a new book about the history of The Merchant Company being published this week.

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## Council reject Allan Park planning application



The council's Development Management Committee unanimously decided to reject the application by Allan Park Ltd to demolish a house to form a roadway to the brownfield site behind.

The Edinburgh Reporter spoke to campaigners and their supporters after the meeting. The developer opted to give us a comment off camera which you can read below:

The objectors filled the public gallery in the Dean of Guild Court Room at the City Chambers, almost leaving no room for their own supporters or the small group of representatives from the site owners, Allan Park Ltd. Such was the strength of opinion some stood throughout the meeting which lasted more than two hours.

The objectors were delighted with their win today but recognise that this was just another hurdle in a fight which has already lasted for six years. The Managing Director of Allan Park Ltd said during the meeting that they would appeal any decision today if it was not favourable to their plans.

The committee based their decision on planning policies

relating to housing, open space and transport contained in the existing and emerging Local Development Plans.

The Managing Director Sean Black told The Edinburgh Reporter after the meeting: "As you can imagine I am extremely disappointed in the planning committee's verdict today. The director of planning has recommended approval of the application for good planning reasons, which is supported by a number of third party reports, including transport, environmental as well as the City's Local Plan, the secondary plan and Scottish Planning policy.

"Furthermore, the city Health and Social Care department have identified this development would fulfil a gap in the local community as well as provide much needed family accommodation.

"The development would benefit from the creation of 50 local jobs, supply local businesses and cater for many vulnerable people in need of care. However it has been argued today by committee and the residents' association these issues do not hold weight over the opinion of few in context to the the city of Edinburgh and Scotland as a whole.

"On top of this it is a brownfield site within the urban area and is supported by fundamental Scottish planning policy and local plan objectives. It will deal with a site that has lain vacant for years and improve residential amenity and appearance.

"This is further supported in the SESplan of July 2015. I refer to two of the key visions of success:

"new development is intergrated with existing communities and in accessible locations on transport corridors"

" walking, cycling and public transport account for an increasing proportion of all journeys"

"I am passionate that our development will benefit the city.

“By Allan Park’s own admittance over 38000 people viewed their social media campaign in which only 4% (c.1650 people) of those chose to object to the proposals, this represents less than 1% of Edinburgh population however, sadly the weight of these numbers has prevailed over the city of Edinburgh’s own planning policy.

“These people were misled by false information provided throughout the objection campaign. It is important to consider whilst public objection is an important consideration it needs to be based on legitimate policy and material matters rather than weight of numbers. Many locally will support and benefit here.

“I refer to the Facebook statement from Allan Park in the aftermath of today’s hearing which is a prime example of the disingenuous and misleading information the Save Allan Park campaign has provided throughout.

*We are delighted that common sense has prevailed and our planning committee have unanimously refused this application.  
A...*

*Posted by [Allan Park Residents Association](#) on [Wednesday, 4 November 2015](#)*

“Sadly whilst I conducted myself professionally throughout and presented on facts today, Save Allan Park continue to resort to personal slurs and misleading information which contradicts Scottish planning policy.

“I will now consult with our property and legal professionals and intend to take the application to the inspectorate of planning and environmental appeals.”

There is already a planning permission in place for a 60+ bed care home, but the new application included a downsized care home with 14 townhouses.



The supporters were many and all were heard except for Joanna Cherry QC MP and Jim Eadie MSP who had both sent their assistants to deliver their statements verbally. The committee would not hear the representatives sticking to a decision made a while back. They did however take a short break to read the statements provided.

We live tweeted the proceedings of the meeting which you can follow here:

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## **Hockey – Scotland Women v Ireland Women, November Test Series – 3 of 3**


*Ireland square the series in Glasgow*



Ireland's women took a well deserved win in the third and final match of the November Test Series at the National Hockey Centre in Glasgow. 1-0 up at the break, another goal in the second half sealed the victory for the visitors.

The opening exchanges were fairly evenly matched, but Ireland had the first opportunity for a score with a penalty corner seven minutes in, but Shirley McCay's low shot was deflected around the post off the stick of a diving Nicola Cochrane. This save was to prove to be the first in a string of fine stops by the Scottish keeper as Ireland rained in shots on the home side goal.

The visitors then opened their account with 15 minutes on the

clock when a reverse stick strike from the sliding Nicola Evans at the top of the 'D' cut back across the goal to leave Cochrane wrong footed. 

She redeemed herself 10 minutes later when she saved a close in strike, but the writing was on the wall and Scotland's few trips upfield were easily dealt with by the Irish defence. However, their attack, despite the best efforts of Chloe Brown, Cliodhna Sargent and Megan Frazer, couldn't add to their tally before the break.

Once again, Scotland came out all guns blazing in the second half, but Ireland were soon back in command of the ball and a 'goal' 10 minutes in was disallowed by Scotland's Olympics-bound Sarah Wilson for a high ball in the area.

The next 15 minutes of the match could so easily have been spent picking the ball out of the Scottish net, but a combination of Cochrane saves, a goal line clearance from Emily Newlands – also the only carded (green) player – and poor finishing from Ireland kept the score at 1-0.

It couldn't last, however and in the 60<sup>th</sup> minute Ireland netted their second when Emily Beattie ended a long run into the 'D' with a fierce strike that gave Cochrane no chance.



The Scots' keeper earned her corn in the final 10 minutes with another string of saves – aided by Newlands – meant that the visitors had to be content with a 2-0 victory backed up by a fine performance from the squad in general.

Images from the match will appear here over the next few days

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# Volunteers needed to help Bield tenants in Leith



If you have an hour or two to spare then why not volunteer in Leith?

Bield, one of Scotland's leading care and housing providers, is highlighting the important role that volunteers play in assisting older people to enjoy happy and fulfilled lives.

Gordon Court in Leith is looking for volunteer befrienders to get to know tenants and help restore confidence while encouraging them to engage socially in the wider community.

The befriender program is crucial and volunteers are asked to commit to only a few hours a week to build a satisfying and ongoing companionship with a tenant at Gordon Court.

Christine Wood, development manager, said, "This is a wonderful opportunity for our tenants who feel isolated or unable to get out on their own. Many would love to be able to do some of the activities they used to, and with the support of someone else this could be possible again.

"It's the little things that are most important to tenants here at Gordon Court. The chance to have a chat for a couple of hours is really welcomed and helps to broaden their world.

"Our 'Free to Be' philosophy helps to enrich the lives of all our tenants and befrienders are always able assist residents in achieving their freedom and boosting quality of life, especially when mobility is decreased."

If you enjoy socialising with other people, have some spare time and would like to become more involved in the local community please consider this hugely rewarding program.

Times are varied and flexible across all these developments and roles but Bield are looking for a six month commitment in any case. Each role asks for only a few hours a week on a regular basis so that tenants can get to know volunteers and get the most out of each experience.

Enquiries are welcomed from anyone over the age of 16 and full training and support is provided. Bield are also able to pay out-of-pocket expenses.

For more information please call Christine Wood on 0131 554 3231 or Donna Dickson on 0131-273-4095/07887 796 744 or email [volunteering@bield.co.uk](mailto:volunteering@bield.co.uk)

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## **Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!**



**Save Allan Park – decision today**

**Love Music Community Choir**

**Cooking Up a Story in Broomhouse**

**Stitchy Beats**

**Ade Tanzania Society**

The Development Management Committee meets this morning to be met with deputations from those who have objected to the demolition of a bungalow in Allan Park to allow an access roadway to be formed to a care home on land behind the line of 1930s homes.

Read more [here](#) and tune into the council's webcast live from 10:00am to hear how the decision goes.





Tonight the members of **Love Music Community Choir**, the UK's largest community choir, invite you to their **Autumn Concert**, a celebration of the work they've done and the music they've made together this term (the end of the choir's third year). In the magnificent **Usher Hall** the choir will entertain you with a range of styles, from **The Kinks** to **Zadok the Priest** – as you've never heard them before! They'll also be celebrating their links with **Luminate**, Scotland's creative ageing festival, and letting you know about **Instant Choir**, a project they've been running in a local care home. The concert is supported by City of Edinburgh Council.

Conductor: **Stephen Deazley**

Pianist: **Dave Milligan**

GUEST STAR: **Beatbox Hobbit**

The concert will take place at the **Usher Hall, Lothian Road**; it will begin at 7.30pm and last approx 45 minutes with no interval.

Tickets:

£5 full price

£3 concessions (students, senior citizens, disabled)

Free entry for children, unwaged people and a disabled person's companion

Book online [here](#), in person at the Usher Hall Box Office, Lothian Road or by calling 0131 228 1155. All online and phone bookings carry a £1 transaction fee

Income from ticket sales will fund the work of Love Music Productions Ltd, registered Scottish Charity No SC037370.





**Cooking Up A Story:** a session of rhymes, stories and cooking with the brilliant **Broomhouse Health Strategy Group**, for children aged 2-5 with their parents/carers. 1.30-2.30pm today, **Sighthill Library**, 55 Sighthill Road. Places **MUST** be booked through the library; please speak to a member of staff, call 0131 529 5566 or email [sighthill.library@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:sighthill.library@edinburgh.gov.uk).







**Stitchy Beats:** an afternoon of knitting at **Sketchy Beats**, a new cafe celebrating art in all its forms. Times are getting colder and the need for warmer clothes is creeping in fast – create personalised accessories that you can flaunt or give as a gift...(Christmas isn't too far off!) Bring down your equipment and some spare for those who might not have any; there will be a few sets of needles available and wool too for those who wish to learn. From 1pm today, **Sketchy Beats Cafe**, 208 Great Junction Street, Leith.

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**Ade Tanzania Charity Fundraiser Party:** live music from **Oli Taylor** (*acoustic*), **Lucas & Ezu** (*acoustic funk /soul*) and **Sploco** (*indie rock/funk*), plus Prize Draw and much party fun as funds are raised for this Edinburgh University Student Charity, which supports the education of 65 children; 39 at a nursery school set up by the charity in 2011 and 26 at local primary schools. 9pm (entry from 8pm) tonight, [The Jazz Bar](#), Chambers Street. £5/£4 on the door: please note this venue is strictly cash only.



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## ESPC raise funds for charity



The ESPC which is the local property marketing body has raised funds for its chosen charity Royal Blind by holding a quiz.

The sponsored quiz was attended by 30 teams of four people, with all money raised going to help fund mobility equipment designed to make the lives of wheelchair users that attend the Royal Blind School easier.

Hosted by Paul Hilton, Chief Executive of ESPC, the quiz master for the evening asked a variety of tricky questions on topics ranging from films to current affairs.

Paul said:

“We are thrilled to announce that we raised £2,400 for such a worthwhile charity through some outstanding support from our members and suppliers.

“Here at ESPC we have a fantastic working relationship with Royal Blind and are committed to supporting the charity throughout the year. Holding events like this is a great way to build funds that will change the lives of many pupils that attend the school, something we are extremely passionate about.

“Royal Blind provides education, care and employment for blind and partially sighted people throughout Scotland helping to raise the awareness of a disability that many of us take for granted, something we are extremely proud to support.

“We’d like to thank everyone who attended the quiz raising helping us raise £2,400 for Royal Blind.”

The money raised by ESPC will go towards the purchase of a SMART Platform. Designed to encourage self-development and to help pupils actively participate in their own mobility, the mobility aids allow for an individual’s bespoke wheelchair to be easily loaded via integral ramps onto various levels normally inaccessible by wheelchair users.

The mobility devices are also ideal for shared use as they let each user remain in their own wheelchair with their own unique seating and controls, allowing staff to assess an individuals’ capability and needs. Each device also includes anti-collision sensors, carer control, voice confirmations, speed and motion control.

Kerrigan Bell, Senior Fundraiser at Royal Blind, said:

“Sight loss affects around 1 in 30 people and can have a profound impact on a person’s life.

“Royal Blind exists to improve the quality of life for people with blindness and visual impairments through care, education and employment.

“We’re delighted with how the event went – everyone had a great evening and helped raise lots of money for a great cause.”

The ESPC team also sponsor the Royal Blind Ambassador, Paralympian and Commonwealth medal winner, Libby Clegg. Libby suffers from a deteriorating eye condition known as Stargardt’s Macular Dystrophy disease, which means she only

has slight peripheral vision in her left eye, and is registered as blind.

The charity quiz was held on 26<sup>th</sup> October at Edinburgh's 'Ghillie Dhu' and welcomed 120 guests comprising ESPC members, suppliers and charity representatives.

If you would like to support Royal Blind or find out more visit: [www.royalblind.org/](http://www.royalblind.org/)

*Photo shows Amy Walker, Marketing Manager of ESPC, Jonathan Jack from Royal blind and Kerrigan Bell, Senior Fundraiser at Royal Blind.*

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## Hockey – Scotland Women v Ireland Women, November Test Series

*Scots come from behind for the win*



Scotland made life hard for themselves in the first half of the second match in the Novembers Test Series against Ireland, but came through for the win with a much improved performance in the second.

The first half of the match was, as in Match 1, largely dominated by the visitors. Scotland broke through a few times but didn't really pressurise the Irish goal. Players were continually beaten to the ball and Ireland's reward came in the twelfth minute of play with a fine reverse stick strike into the top of the Scottish net from Megan Frazer.

Scotland were saved on more than a couple of occasions by their goalie, Nicola Cochrane and endured a goal mouth scramble with the ball being cleared off the line by a sprawling Susan McGilveray. 

The second half saw a different Scotland team take to the field and Ireland, despite Cochrane having to make a couple of early saves, were seemingly unable to exert the same dominance in play.

The first of Scotland's two goals came just over 10 minutes into the second half. Scotland's Captain, Nikki Kidd charged into the 'D' with the ball and, evading a diving lunge from Ireland's new cap, Elena Tice (right) – who nevertheless acquitted herself pretty well in the match in general – took the ball wide and reversed the ball into the centre to where Fiona Bruce was on hand to deflect the ball into the net past the keeper.

A few minutes later she just missed adding the scoreboard when she failed to connect with a cross goal strike from Emma McGregor.

The second goal for Scotland came from a failed attempt by Ireland to clear fully from a penalty corner. The initial shot on goal came in from Kidd, but was stopped. However, the loose ball was picked up by Katie Robertson (top) who went over the Irish keeper and found the back of the net for the second.

Ireland had had a few incursions into the Scots' 'D' but had been fairly easily stopped in their tracks by the defence, saving a penalty corner on the way.

Late on in the match Scotland were awarded a string of four penalty corners and, although the set-up and execution of each one was unique, they couldn't find the back of the net for a third goal and the match finished 2-1 to Scotland.



After the match a brief word with Scotland coach, Gordon Shepherd, elicited his opinion that while they'll take it, given the first half performance, Ireland deserved the win and things would need to improve

for the third and final match.

*Images from the match will appear here over the coming week.*