

Edinburgh councillor blogs – Councillor Maureen Child

✘ by Councillor Maureen Child, Portobello/Craigmillar Ward

It's been a bit of a long-running saga, but the **railway bridge** at Brighton Place/Southfield Place is to be inspected starting this weekend and the wire-mesh ant-pigeon measures put in once Network Rail have done their bit. All the work is *planned* to be taking place – seamlessly – in the same week. The details are attached.

Art Walk Party is on this weekend, 4-6 Sept. There is Art in Shops, on the Prom and Beach, and in Artists' Studios. Pick up a copy of the programme from participating venues including The Tide, The Beach House, Dalriada and The Skylark. Check website for latest programme updates: www.artwalkparty.co.uk.

Preview

here: <http://www.ionmagazine.co.uk/edinburgh/whats/screen-stage-and-culture/art-walk-party/>

The Jack Kane Community Centre's **Garden Globe Project** is being used as an example of best practice by the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund. To find out more, about it, visit the JKC's website www.jackkanecommunity.org; Call the Centre on 0131-657-1595 or Email the project worker Kirsten Kirsten.Muir@jackkanecommunity.org or go up and visit. It's open to all. Apart from one small bit of damage at the start (and the young culprit made amends by volunteering in the garden) it has not been vandalised. Tribute to the wider

community and all the volunteers who care for it.

A reminder that this Saturday is **Portobello Market Day**, in Brighton Park, Brighton Place. Gates open at 9.30am and the market runs until 1.30pm. There's entertainment from the Caleerie Buskers and 24 traders on site this month. [Check out the PEDAL website for a full list.](#)

The **Borders Railway** – joining Waverley, Brunstane and Newcraighall Stations to the Borders – opens to passengers this weekend and is officially opened by the Queen next Wednesday. More information here: [Borders Railway Opening](#)

Gallery from Portobello's 2015 **Big Beach Busk** last Saturday: [Big Beach Busk Photos](#)

Portobello Community Council ran a highly successful **Sandcastle Competition** alongside the Big Beach Busk last [Sandcastle Competition Photos](#)

The **Portobello Book Festival 2015** is launched tonight with the tickets available from Monday. More on their website here: [Portobello Book Festival](#)

I am delighted that a community media serving Craigmillar is about to get off the ground. This news initiative backed by funding from The City of Edinburgh Council to launch **The Chronicle Online**. If you would like to get involved in any way, by writing, reading, advertising, offering story ideas then [contact The Edinburgh Reporter](#) in the first place – but

there is now a [website](#) and an email address will be live and kicking very soon! See announcement here: m.facebook.com

What is **social enterprise**? But the Good Stuff explains in 30 seconds: [What is a Social Enterprise?](#)

To find out about **local buildings and their history**, you can search for listed buildings using the link: [Historic Listed Buildings](#)

Check out **The Portobello Reporter** On line: [Portobello Reporter Autumn 2015 Edition](#)

SESplan launched the public consultation on [Main Issues Report](#) on the 21 July 2015. There are still a range of events taking place across South East Scotland and we are encouraging people to come along to find out more and give feedback on the big planning issues in your area. Please email SESplan contactus@sesplan.gov.uk for more information. An event is Wednesday 9 September Community Event: Business Centre, City Chambers, EDINBURGH 6-8pm. Drop-in events are aimed at everyone who wants to find out a bit more about the Main Issues and have a chat with officers. Come along at any time on the time and date shown. No prior confirmation required. Thursday 17 September Public Drop-In Event: City of Edinburgh, Faith Mission Hall, Gilmerton, Edinburgh 3-7pm

To take part in the first Edinburgh Living Landscape **photography competition** all you need to do is submit a photo of one of the city's floral meadows or natural grassland by 11 September and you could be in with the chance to win some exclusive prizes. You can find your nearest Edinburgh Living Landscape site using the map on www.edinburgh.gov.uk/livinglandscape. So grab your camera or phone and get outdoors!

At Monday's monthly meeting, Portobello Community Council agreed to support Calaid, and promote the call for donations for people fleeing violence and currently living in "the

jungle" at Calais. **Portobello Collection for Calaid** is on Saturday starting 11 am at Portobello Town Hall, 147-149 Portobello. Please share and join event for more information. <https://www.facebook.com/PortobelloCommunityCouncil/posts/754658011326439>

After a successful first event this past May, Tribe Party are excited to launch **TEDxPorty** 2016! They are looking for volunteers, committee members, and partners to help us make our second event even more meaningful than the first. This session is a chance to learn more about TEDx and ways to be involved. If you can't make it but are interested – please email us at tedxportobello@gmail.com. More here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/551376328345758/>

When reporting **missed bins** by phone, your call should now be answered much more quickly. You can also report online: edinburgh.gov.uk/report

Have you good knowledge on local resources and initiatives and events that promote people's **health and wellbeing**? Sign up here: <https://www.aliss.org/>

A community development and health **course** is starting in October, which sounds good: [Community Development and Health Course](#)

The Edinburgh **Riding of the Marches** is one of the largest common rides in Scotland, which culminates in the procession of 250 horses and riders up the Royal Mile. More than 20,000 spectators line the route and to watch the ride and see the Edinburgh Banner returned to the Lord Provost in an official ceremony at the Mercat Cross at around 3.50 pm. The riding is a celebration of being a citizen of Edinburgh. More information about the Edinburgh Riding of the Marches can be found at www.edinburghridingthemarches.co.uk

The call for applications for the Education, Children and Families **grants programme** is underway with the deadline

looming. All the information is here: [Three Year Grants Programme](#)

Monday 21 September is **World Alzheimer's Day**. To mark the day, locally based home care provider Home Instead be running a couple of fully funded workshops at our office. Raising awareness about dementia, sharing elements of our City & Guilds accredited dementia care training programme. Explaining how to help people living with dementia remain active and engaged. 10am to 12noon Dementia Awareness & Techniques to Manage Behaviours and 2pm to 4pm Dementia Awareness & Encouraging Engagement To register call 0131 300 0599. More here: [Public Education Programme](#)

For those of you wondering what happens when all kinds of people in running gear descend for about 1.5 hours on a Saturday and kind of take over **Figgate Park**, find out here: [Portobello Park Run](#) They have an extra boost recently when BBC Get Inspired launched the Big Help Put, a partnership with sports volunteering charity Join In.

The Council's parks and greenspace service is carrying out a review of the management of a small selection of the **events held in Edinburgh's public parks 2014/15** and would like to hear your views and comments. They will use the information you give us to identify specific issues and problems, seek solutions and action any appropriate suggestions in time for next year's programme. The review will close on Thursday 1 October 2015. Please see the link below which will take you directly into the quick survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ParkEventsReview2014-2015>

I hope you have a great weekend!

Best wishes

Maureen

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

Top jobs on offer at Lothian Buses and Edinburgh Trams



Candidates are being sought for three of the most senior positions in the Scottish transport sector, with vacancies advertised this week for a Transport for Edinburgh Chief Executive, Managing Director of Lothian Buses and General Manager for Edinburgh Trams.

The successful applicants will be expected to build on the performance of existing award-winning and highly rated services, while also contributing to the city's ambition to have one of the greenest, healthiest and most accessible transport systems in northern Europe by 2030.

Lesley Hinds, Chair of Transport for Edinburgh and Transport Convenor for the City of Edinburgh Council, said: "Transport

for Edinburgh is central to the exciting developments that are taking place in and around the city. As we look to its future we are considering a long-term plan, in partnership with businesses and other key stakeholders that will continue to satisfy and service residents and visitors, improve transport links to the city centre and boost the local economy. To achieve this we require outstanding leaders who will take public transport in Edinburgh to the next level, and I'm very confident that these positions will attract the exceptional candidates that the city merits."

Jim McFarlane, Chair of Lothian Buses and Transport for Edinburgh Board Member, said: "Lothian Buses move hundreds of thousands of residents and visitors around the city every day, helping to grow Edinburgh's economy. We can confidently say that we are operating at the highest levels of performance as the UK's most successful publicly-owned bus company. We're very proud of our record, which is thanks to the passion, professionalism and determination of our talented team. We also know that we need an ongoing commitment to excellence and innovation, and we are looking for a leader who can drive us to further success."

Charles Monheim, Chair of Edinburgh Trams and Transport for Edinburgh Board Member, said: "We're looking for a General Manager with lots of energy who can build on a successful first year at Edinburgh Trams. The company is establishing itself as a valued part of city life and we're playing a central role in the delivery of the Council's transport vision. Alongside sister company Lothian Buses, we provide a high quality integrated transport network that allows everyone to take full advantage of what this great city has to offer. The successful candidate will lead and inspire our team to even more success and ensure that our customers get the best possible service."

Each of the positions will report to the chair of their respective board, with the Managing Director of Lothian Buses

and the General Manager of Edinburgh Trams also having 'dotted line' accountability to the Chief Executive of Transport for Edinburgh. The Managing Director of Lothian Buses and the General Manager of Edinburgh Trams will sit on the respective boards and the Chief Executive of TfE will sit on all three boards.

The salaries and packages offered will be competitive and structured in an appropriate way, reflecting the appointed candidates' experience, background and circumstances.

Edinburgh and the surrounding area is currently host to a range of significant transport infrastructure projects and passenger growth. The new Borders Rail link opens to the public on 6 September, Edinburgh Airport is undergoing significant expansion, construction on the Queensferry Crossing across the Forth is progressing, and work is underway on the new Edinburgh Gateway station at Gogar that will link passengers from Fife and North-east Scotland to the airport.

The most recent set of annual accounts show that more passengers than ever before travelled on Lothian Buses services in 2014, helping to increase the company's revenue by £3m and generating a dividend to its public sector owners of £5.5m. An extra three million passenger journeys were undertaken, taking the total for the year to 118m, while the firm maintained industry-leading customer satisfaction ratings.

Three million passengers travelled on Edinburgh Trams, generating revenue of £6.4m in its first seven months of operation, around 3% higher than projected. Over the first 12 months of service, there were 4.92 million passengers, around 370,000 ahead of the target set before launch. A budget to support the initial years of the tram service was agreed before launch by the Council. This budget was expected to be £0.6m in 2014 however, as a result of strong performance, the final figure was £0.45m.

Research by Passenger Focus showed that Lothian Buses and Edinburgh Trams are among the highest achieving UK public transport operators in terms of customer satisfaction with a rating of around 95%.


The recruitment for this position is being managed by advising consultants Livingston James. More information can be found on the following microsites:

<http://www.ljg-jobs.com/lothianbuses/>

<http://www.ljg-jobs.com/transport-for-edinburgh/>

<http://www.ljg-jobs.com/edinburgh-trams/>

Borders Railway – Golden Ticket holders only for now

 46 years and 8 months to the day since the 'Waverley Route' closed, (January 6 1969) scheduled services are set to begin on the new Borders Railway.

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

A 'golden ticket' service will run tomorrow between Tweedbank and Waverley Station with 400 selected 'worthy individuals' chosen by a panel made up from Council officials, councillors and media partners.

The actual service begins the next day Sunday 6th September.



Infrastructure Secretary, Keith Brown MSP said: "It's been a lifetime in the making for many people in the Borders and Midlothian, and there can be few projects which have generated the levels of excitement and anticipation we have seen around the opening of the Borders Railway.

"We are now embarking on a festival of celebrations befitting of such a monumental achievement, and I am incredibly proud to have been involved.

"That a scheme of this magnitude – the longest domestic railway built in the UK in over a century – has been delivered on time and on budget is testament to those who have worked on it, who can now look with a great deal of pride on the growth this railway will deliver for the communities it serves, as well as the Scottish economy as a whole.

"As of this weekend, there are so many more possibilities for people in the Borders and Midlothian – access to new work, learning and social opportunities, as well as new business and industry links. The Borders Railway has become a symbol of this golden age for Scotland's railways, and it will be the vehicle for a new prosperity for the communities on the route."

Mike Cantlay, Chairman of VisitScotland said: "The golden age of rail has definitely returned to Edinburgh, Midlothian and the Scottish Borders! The start of services on the Borders Railway is a truly historic moment for Scotland, the UK and the world, bringing to back to life these regions that played such an integral role in the forming of many of Scotland's now global industries.

"Born in the Scottish Borders myself, and with family heavily involved in the textile industry, the commencement of services on this Railway is of particular poignancy to me. I have no doubt that the Borders Railway will be a success, not only as a tourism destination, but also as a catalyst for growth,

investment and business.

“From rolling hills to babbling streams, mining landscapes to historic abbeys, chapels, castles and treasures, VisitScotland is embarking on a national and international marketing and PR campaign to encourage visitors to experience all the Borders Railway has to offer and we cannot wait to show the world.”



Primary 7 pupils from Langlee Primary in Galashiels, Lacey Harris, Colby Wylie and Keira Vincentini, who all took part in a Golden Ticket competition pose for a picture at Tweedbank railway station in the Scottish Borders.

The Borders Railway will run along part of the old Waverley line and connect Edinburgh's Waverley station with Tweedbank. It is about to open to the public and will be the first domestic railway to open in Britain in more than 100 years, marking a huge opportunity for VisitScotland Scottish tourism. Photo courtesy of VisitScotland

Opening of the Borders Railway offers much to celebrate



At the press launch of the Borders Railway held this morning many bodies were represented who have been involved with the development and building of the line, and others such as

VisitScotland who will do their utmost to reap the benefits of it in the future for tourism in the area.

The main photograph courtesy of VisitScotland shows Braw Lad Cameron Pate and Braw Lass Abbie Franklin from Galashiels Borders Ridings who gathered at the soon-to-be-opened Tweedbank railway station to welcome a Borders Railway carriage.

Mike Cantlay, Chair of VisitScotland welcomed the press to the launch of the newest scenic railway, explaining it is the longest domestic railway to be built in the UK for 150 years. He explained that 3.4 million tourists come to Edinburgh and it is hoped that they will use the new visitor attraction to get to The Borders, but admitted it will also be of great benefit to those who live in the area as a commuter train.



He said to the assembled body of journalists: "I am delighted to welcome you to a very special day for Scottish tourism. What a coincidence it is if you look out of the window you will see the fine Scott monument. Of course Sir Walter Scott is the father of tourism. He wrote the poem Lady of the Lake back in 1810, and as a consequence thousands of tourists came to Scotland. How ironic that our new visitor attraction will leave from Waverley in the shadow of the Scott monument and heading for Abbotsford in the Borders for so long Scott's home. Scotland has been leading the world ever since in tourism. 3.4m tourists come to Edinburgh each year and from this weekend they can take a steam train to the Scottish Borders.

Minister for Infrastructure and Cities explained that Mike Cantlay's background lies firmly in the Borders where his family was involved with a kilt and tartan business so it is no surprise when he waxes lyrical over Walter Scott.

But the Minister was also delighted to have had a hand in the

building of the railway by driving in the last golden clasp at Tweedbank.



Mr Brown said: “The excitement is palpable all the way along this new line. It will help spread wealth and jobs across the regions that it passes through. Investment in our transport network is vital to provide faster and greener forms of travel. The very encouraging figures around our economy owe a great deal to investment in infrastructure in recent years by The Scottish Government.

“You do have the privilege today of experiencing the longest domestic railway built in the UK in over a century. There has been a campaign running for many years but we stand at the threshold of a new dawn of exciting opportunities both in Edinburgh and in the Borders at either end of the line. There will be significant investment opportunities in all these communities.

“I must mention Madge Elliott took a petition to Downing Street in the 1960s and she has run a fantastic campaign over the years instrumental in the new railway being built. A locomotive has been named after her which is testament to the long-running efforts to reintroduce the railway. Her Majesty the Queen is coming to open the railway next week on the day that she becomes the longest reigning British monarch since Queen Victoria. The attendant public interest in the railway will rise to a new level as a result.

£353 million has been invested in the railway by the Scottish Government. Brown was involved in the reinstatement of the Stirling-ALloa line and knows the importance of public transport infrastructure.

Brown continued: “It will open up places in South East Scotland to new opportunities like housing, tourism and jobs and I was struck by the stunning scenery along the line.

“I look forward to hearing about all the benefits that this new line will bring. The Borders Railway is the latest symbol of the golden age of railway. We have experienced a 7% growth in passenger journeys across Scottish rail routes year on year and I am sure that the Borders Railway will be just as successful.”



Phil Verster

Phil Verster Managing Director of Scotrail Alliance said: “In January 1969 the last train travelled along this line and it is true that Beeching’s cuts affected the Borders towns more than anywhere else. This is therefore a very special day. It connects people with jobs, businesses with customers and tourists with destinations. This connectivity will allow people to move to the Borders. This is the beginning of the story for the Borders. Scotrail will be introducing longer, greener trains with more capacity and shorter journey times to Scotland over the next few years.”



Danny Cusick

Danny Cusick Senior Director Food & Drink Tourism and Textiles at Scottish Enterprise has been chair of the Borders Railway Blueprint Programme for the last twelve months. He said: “Not only can you visit Rosslyn Chapel but you can also visit the Roslin Institute by using this train route. Almost 7,000 people live in the area and 34% of those have been educated to degree standard. There are over 100 development sites along the route bringing houses and mixed development.

“So it is about business, colleges and universities and tourism, and this railway will be genuinely transformational not just today but for generations to come.”

Borders Railway launched with woollens and literature in mind



It was a railway that transformed the Scottish Borders into a globally renowned centre for wool and textile manufacture, and now the scheduled services are set to begin on the new Borders Railway on Sunday 6 September 2015.

To celebrate this key moment in history, Borders-turned-global fashion brand, Pringle of Scotland joined VisitScotland to launch this exciting new journey with supermodel, Edinburgh International Fashion Festival Founder, and current Pringle muse, Anna Freemantle.

Dressed in the materials that made the region and railway famous, Ms Freemantle swapped the catwalk for the platform at Waverley Station in Edinburgh today to herald the start of a week-long celebration of the opening of this, the longest domestic railway to open in the UK for over a century.

Scotland's textile industry has customers in over 150 countries across the world, demonstrating the demand for globally recognised fabrics, tartan, cashmere, lace, knitwear, tweed and leather for fashion, interiors and technical uses. Other famous brands from the Scottish Borders include Lochcarron of Scotland, Johnstons of Elgin and Hawick Cashmere of Scotland.

The Borders Railway will take passengers on a 30 mile, 55 minute journey from Edinburgh through Midlothian to Tweedbank

in the Scottish Borders. The £294m project has taken just over two years to construct and includes ten stations.

It is hoped Scotland's newest scenic railway will be a popular addition to the country's tourism portfolio, opening up opportunities for visitors to explore Midlothian's mining past and the Scottish Borders, an area which has an international reputation for exceptional cycling, beautiful textiles and stunning landscapes, famous for inspiring Sir Walter Scott.



Sir Walter Scott happy to be travelling by train to Tweedbank this morning

Iconic attractions along the route include Rosslyn Chapel made famous by the DaVinci Code, Abbotsford House – the home of Sir Walter Scott, the popular National Mining Museum Scotland and breathtaking Melrose Abbey. VisitScotland is supporting attractions, accommodation providers, local producers and pubs and restaurants in the vicinity of the Borders Railway in developing news ideas, products and experiences.

The Railway begins tomorrow with a special 'Golden Ticket' Day, open only to those with the tickets to prove it, and public services will begin on Sunday 6 September. Next Wednesday 9 September, HM The Queen will officially open the railway with a special steam train trip which also marks the day she becomes Britain's longest-serving monarch.

The project is being delivered as part of the 'Borders Railway Blueprint', that sets out an ambition to fully realise the economic benefits of the Borders Railway, transform tourism opportunities and open up communities in South-East Scotland as new places to live, work, learn, play and grow.

The original Waverley Route ran south from Edinburgh, through Midlothian and the Scottish Borders, to Carlisle. The line was named after a series of novels by Sir Walter Scott and served as an important export channel for both the wool and coal

industries of that time.

Anna Freemantle said: “The new Borders Railway will give more direct access to what is in my opinion ‘the textile district’ of the UK which is hugely exciting. The new focus on revival of skill and improving of local manufacturing will be hugely helped by this. As this is a big focus of the Edinburgh International Fashion Festival I’m honoured to be part of the opening of this very special Railway.”

Letter from Scotland



Che Sturgeon – leading the revolution

Comrade Nicola Sturgeon is leading the revolution once again. She has called all the Soviets together to declare that Scotland stands ready to take its share of the refugees from Syria and the other troubled regions of the Middle East and North Africa. So today representatives from all the political parties and from local councils, the refugee agencies, churches, mosques, civil rights and children’s charities [will meet to discuss](#) how to pressurise the British government into accepting more refugees and how they might be settled across the towns and cities of Scotland.

On Thursday, Ms Sturgeon told MSPs at First Minister’s Questions: “I am angry, very angry, at the ‘walk on by’ attitude of the UK government and I implore David Cameron to change his position. I pledge as First Minister of this country that we stand ready to offer sanctuary to refugees who need our help.” She said she wasn’t the only one to be moved to tears by the photograph in the press of the body of a small

refugee boy washed up on a beach in Turkey.

But she didn't mention how many refugees Scotland would be prepared to accept. And numbers are crucial to the moral debate taking place across Europe about our response to the refugee crisis. The Labour Party leadership contenders are talking about accepting 10,000, but this is just a quarter of the number Germany is taking from Syria alone and small compared to the total number of migrants (as opposed to refugees) who came into Britain last year, 330,000 (net).

When she wasn't leading the revolution across Britain, Ms Sturgeon was ushering in a new dawn for Scotland's schools and its health care, housing and social security systems. On the first day of the new parliamentary session, she was outlining her programme of government, which is not just about the handful of specific bills for this session but reforms which, she hopes, will extend beyond the Scottish parliamentary election in May next year.

There is to be a new testing regime for children in primary and secondary schools, designed to measure the "attainment gap" and make sure it is closing. There's to be more integration of health and social care. And a new Scottish social security system is to be set up to handle the new powers Scotland is getting over housing and disability benefits.

But what the SNP are backing away from – according to hints dropped by Ms Sturgeon in media interviews – is any use of the Scottish Parliament's new powers to raise income tax. There's no suggestion either that the council tax freeze will end any time soon. So there will be no extra money for the better public services the SNP are promising. The UK government's block grant will simply be blamed for any shortcomings. It's a slightly roguish strategy but it appears to be paying off for the SNP who are still riding high in the opinion polls. According to a Mori poll for STV, the SNP now enjoy 55 per

cent support, to Labour's 20 per cent. And the poll found that a small majority of Scots (53 per cent) now favour independence.

On Monday, the differences between the UK and the Scottish governments took the form a naval battle in the Firth of Clyde. While the Chancellor George Osborne was announcing new investment at the Royal Navy base at Faslane – home to Britain's nuclear deterrent – Ms Sturgeon was at Ferguson's shipyard in Port Glasgow announcing investment in two new Calmac ferries. Hostilities ceased however later in the day when both politicians welcomed the news that the new Culzean gas field off Aberdeen has been given the go-ahead. It's the biggest development in the North Sea for a decade.

Scotland's troubled police force suffered another truncheon blow this week with the publication of an internal report into the M9 car accident. It found that staff shortages at police call centres led to a three day delay in responding to the accident which left a young couple dead after their car left the road and plunged down an embankment. The Justice Secretary Michael Matheson made an official apology in parliament and announced that more funds would be made available for recruitment and the planned closure of two call centres, in Aberdeen and Inverness, would be postponed.

Would you believe it? A group of burger van owners are taking North Lanarkshire Council to court in protest at a ban on them selling their junk food close to school premises. I passed a shop yesterday at mid-morning here in Edinburgh which was doing the same and teenagers were emerging with chips, crisps, burger rolls, chocolates, sugar drinks etc. How can we allow a group of self-interested shopkeepers and van owners waste those youngsters' health, and their money, on such rubbish ?

The Scotch Whisky Association is just as bad, crooning over its latest win in the European courts. It's managed to get some sort of interim judgement that the Scottish government's

minimum pricing policy, designed to reduce binge drinking, is interfering with their right to “free trade.” So let’s just carry on shovelling alcohol and fatty foods down our throats!

Finally, I see we have found our missing Covenanters. They’ve been discovered buried in a mass grave outside Durham Cathedral where they have been “resting” for the last 365 years. It seems they were taken prisoner after losing the battle of Dunbar, marched down to Durham by Cromwell’s troops and around 1700 of them were left to starve to death in the cathedral.

Another example of man’s inhumanity to man and, as in Syria, it followed a civil war which should never have happened.

City Region Deal reaches a milestone today



The £1bn Edinburgh and the South East of Scotland City Region deal will reach a major milestone today as the six bid partners submit their proposal to the Westminster and Scottish governments.

The bid partners, East Lothian, the City of Edinburgh, Fife, Midlothian, Scottish Borders and West Lothian councils, are working closely to develop a deal with the UK and Scottish

governments designed to accelerate growth in Scotland's capital city and wider regional economy that will benefit Scottish and UK economies.

It will concentrate on the region's strengths – knowledge, culture and technology.

The City Region deal is a mechanism for accelerating growth through investment in innovation, skills and infrastructure. This will create a step change in economic performance that will generate funds to pay back this initial investment.

It is also about greater autonomy and disseminating powers for the region to make public service delivery more effective, increase productivity and to tackle inequality and deprivation across the city region. The ambition is to secure £1bn of funding and it is estimated that an additional £3.2bn worth of private sector investment could be leveraged if the bid is successful.

Working in partnership with stakeholders in the business and academic communities is crucial to the bid's success and almost 100 businesses are now supporting the bid as well as the region's universities and colleges.

Cllr Andrew Burns, Leader of the City of Edinburgh Council on behalf of the leaders of the six local authorities, said: "I am delighted that we have now reached this key milestone and look forward to discussing our proposals in more detail with both governments in the coming months. In negotiating this deal, we want to build on our key sector strengths of knowledge, culture and technology. Our ask is for greater autonomy and decision making powers, increased opportunities for learning and development along with the creation of a regional specific skills programme, and investment in crucial infrastructure projects.

"Our ambition is to achieve a step change in economic performance for the economies of the region, Scotland and the

UK and we are delighted that to date almost a 100 businesses have registered their support. In addition to this the academic community in the region are also on board. The joint working of public, private and the third sector is crucial to the success of this deal.

“I look forward to bringing more detail forward as we aim to have a deal in place for early 2016.”

For further information go to www.acceleratinggrowth.org.uk #acceleratinggrowth


Friday in Edinburgh – What's On Today

Beyond Borders Film Festival: featuring documentary-style films about individuals and communities caught in conflict and change, the festival explores some of the most crucial and immediate changes happening in the modern world, with a special focus on women and conflict, the changes brought by modern warfare and the changes experienced by those at the epicentre of conflict. Today's film is ***War Redefined (15)***, shown as part of the ***Women, War and Peace*** series. Through incisive interviews with leading thinkers, politicians and seasoned survivors of war and peacemaking (including **Hilary Clinton, Leymah Gbowee, Fadila Memisevic** and **Moises Naim**), the film challenges the conventional wisdom that war and peace are men's domain. Produced by **Peter Bull** and narrated by **Geena Davis**. 6.05pm, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Tickets may be obtained from the Box Office in person, by calling 0131 228 6382 or online [here](#): prices vary.



Art Walk Party: a new four day art event celebrating the **public space and artistic activity of Portobello**. Open studios, designer-makers, site specific art in hidden and unfamiliar parts of the Prom and beach, free stone wall pointing workshop (registration required), exhibitions, installations, art in shops and cafes, and a makers' market. Today's events will include a pop-up '**Stop and Sea**' place-sharing event presented by **Hear + Now**, celebrating the potential of a coastal landscape – come along and share your favourite places. 3-6pm, bus depot area, Portobello Promenade. Art Walk Party continues throughout the weekend at various locations around Portobello, see the event's website [here](#) for full information. Ends Sunday 6th September 2015.

A Scottish Artist's Genoese Adventures: Andrew Wilson (1778-1848). NGS Senior Curator **Helen Smailes** looks at the career of the Edinburgh-born landscape painter, who began dealing in Old Masters while still in his twenties. Wilson arrived in Genoa in 1803 (having been arrested in Turin during the French occupation of Northern Italy) and negotiated sales from the premier Genoese aristocratic collections. By 1826, when he resigned from the Mastership of the Trustees' Academy in Edinburgh to settle in Italy, he was a recognised **Van Dyck** specialist. His later investments, made in Genoa, Rome and Florence, included Van Dyck's ***The Lomellini Family***, which became part of the foundation collection of the Scottish National Gallery. 12.45-1.30pm, Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed.

Edinburgh Play Rangers: Brian and Kirsty will be out and  about every **Friday** afternoon – come along and meet them! **Edinburgh Play Rangers** is a new and exciting collaboration between **North Edinburgh Arts, Canongate Youth, Smart Play Network** and **Edinburgh Leisure**, delivering outdoor free play opportunities for children aged 5-13 in various areas of the city, and providing an environment where children can feel comfortable to join in, utilise their local community spaces, meet new people and have fun. 1.30pm at [West Pilton Park](#) and 4pm at [North Edinburgh Arts](#), 15a Pennywell Court. Supported by Inspiring Scotland's Go2Play fund. For more information please contact North Edinburgh Arts on 0131 315 2151.



Women's International League for Peace & Freedom/Wool Against Weapons: 100 Years of Women Campaigning for Peace. A new exhibition. 10am-5pm, [Out of the Blue Drill Hall](#), 36 Dalmeny Street. Ends 23rd September 2015.

Asazi Space Funk Explosion: high energy South African frontman **Asazi** (*vocals, sax, marimba, djembe*) takes off with his 5-piece of great players, ranging through **Fela Kuti Afro-Funk, Jamaican Dub, raw tribal rhythms** and **modern day dance floor sonic experimentalism**. Plus funk DJ. 12 midnight (entry from 11.30pm)-3am, [The Jazz Bar](#), 1a Chambers Street. £5/£4 on the door: please note this venue is cash only.



Five things you need to know today!



Concours of Elegance

Wauchope Community Garden Open Day

Glenmorangie Annual Lecture

Borders Railway opening

Pink Floyd tickets on sale

Today and over this weekend at the Palace of Holyroodhouse by the kind permission of Her Majesty the Queen, the Concours of Elegance will take place. This is an event involving some rare cars from the most prestigious manufacturers and car clubs across the UK. There is a Club Trophy to compete for over the weekend and the whole event is staged to raise funds for a number of charities.

[Read more here.](#)



Today at Wauchope Community Garden and Allotments there is an Open Day and BBQ from 4pm to 7pm.

Anyone is invited. More details from info@wauchopegrowers.org.uk or click [here](#) for their Facebook page.

The Glenmorangie Annual Lecture series explores links between contemporary art and archaeology. The [Glenmorangie Research Project](#)'s current archaeological research is focused on Scotland's earliest silver (AD300–800). Join us for a very different perspective on this precious metal as engraver and silversmith Malcolm Appleby discusses the experimentation that is characteristic of his work and the inspiration behind it.

22 Sep 2015 19:00-20:00 (doors open at 18:15) Auditorium National Museum of Scotland, entry via Lothian Street

£6, £5, Members and Concessions Adults 18+

[Tickets here](#)

The press are off on a jolly today and our John Hislop will be there to conduct some interviews. The Borders Railway is now on the point of opening and a press train will run between Edinburgh and Tweedbank this morning to allow us a little preview.

Access to the new route tomorrow will be restricted to Golden Ticket holders but you can keep up to date with what is happening by following the hashtag #MyBordersRailway campaign on the @BordersRailway Twitter account.

On 6 September the new line will open to the public and you can find more information about available services below.

Her Majesty the Queen will conduct the official opening ceremony next Wednesday morning on the day she becomes the longest reigning British monarch, overtaking Queen Victoria in the process.

The Queen will be joined then by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon on a historic steam journey from Edinburgh to

Tweedbank.

We will bring you more reports on the new service later today.

Here is the timetable with the Tweedbank to Edinburgh services further down the page!



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Like to make your plans early? Tickets go on sale at 10:00am for the Australian Pink Floyd Show at The Usher Hall in NOVEMBER 2016!!



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



If you are reading this article on paper and would like to visit the website then scan the QR code above with a smartphone or tablet and you will be taken straight there.

First Minister to host humanitarian summit in Edinburgh today



Scotland's response to the unfolding humanitarian tragedy in southern Europe will be set out at a summit chaired by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon in Edinburgh today.

The First Minister will bring together stakeholders from the refugee community, third sector, local authorities, political leaders and other representatives of civic Scotland in Edinburgh to discuss the situation and set out what Scotland can do to help.

Ahead of the summit, the First Minister has again written to the Prime Minister urging him to sign up to the EU proposals on relocation and refugee resettlement and allow the UK to take its fair share of people fleeing persecution and conflict. A copy of this letter is below.

Earlier in the day, the First Minister told the Scottish Parliament that Scotland stood ready to help refugees in need of help. She said:

“I have taken the step of convening a summit tomorrow to which I have invited humanitarian organisations including the Scottish Refugee Council, leaders of councils and civic organisations and indeed our churches.

“As First Minister of Scotland, I pledge that I will ensure that Scotland does everything possible to help this refugees crisis. I will be far from the only person reduced to tears last night by the picture of a little boy washed up on a beach.

“That wee boy has touched our hearts but his is not an isolated tragedy. He and thousands like him, whose lives are at risk, are not somebody else’s responsibility, they are the responsibility of all of us.

“I am angry, very angry, at the walk on by on the other side approach of the UK Government. I implore David Cameron to change his position and change it today. And I pledge, as First Minister of this country, that we stand ready to help offer sanctuary to refugees who need our help.”

Scottish Para-Badminton Team off to the World Championships!



The Scottish Para-Badminton Team are heading to the World Championships next week.

[Lothian Disability Badminton Club](#) players Alan Oliver, Colin Leslie, Ross Foley, Fiona Christie and Bobby Laing will join David Purdie and Niall Jarvie at this year's Para-Badminton World Championships in Stoke Mandeville from 8-13 September.

Coach Kaity Hall and club physio Flo Cook make up the full team.

Good luck to Team Scotland!

Hearts: Paterson's Red Card Rescinded

The SFA Disciplinary Tribunal today rescinded the red card shown to Hearts Callum Paterson during last Saturday's Ladbrokes Premiership clash with Hamilton Academical. Referee Willie Collum sent the Hearts defender off with the Jambos leading 2-1 at the time. The Maroons lost the game 3-2. Hearts Head Coach Robbie Neilson was furious with the decision which he said cost Hearts the game and their position at the top of the league.

The Tribunal today agreed that the decision to send Paterson off was wrong and reduced the penalty to a caution for dangerous play.

Neilson, Paterson and Hearts Head of Football Craig Levein all attended the appeal hearing at Hampden this afternoon. Neilson still faces having to explain his post-match comments – he said his team had prepared for playing with ten men when he knew who the referee was going to be – at a later date.

Earlier this week, SFA Chief Executive Stewart Regan defended referees in Scotland, saying they were of the highest standard. While everyone makes mistakes, in the case of Willie Collum it is clear he attracts controversy and it remains to be seen whether the official will be asked to explain his actions – not only at the Hamilton-Hearts game but others where his decisions have been contentious.

Meanwhile, Neilson has said he agreed to release Kevin McHattie and Gary Oliver as neither were first team regulars and, at this stage in their careers, regular first team football was vital for their development. The Gorgie gaffer is not looking for direct replacements but is keen to get another midfield player on-board, perhaps a free agent who could be signed outwith the transfer window which closed on Tuesday.

New witnesses identified following Balerno sexual assault



Police have identified several new witnesses as a result of police activity carried out last night and early this morning in Balerno, one week on from the serious sexual assault of a 19-year-old woman in the area's Newmills Road.

Officers renewed their appeal for information yesterday, carrying out inquiries on buses and stopping cars in the area around the same time as the assault last week – around 12.30 am on Thursday (27th August).

The suspect is described as being around 6 ft tall with long dark hair and an English or educated Edinburgh accent. He was wearing a grey hooded top and dark jeans.

As a result of this activity, several new witnesses have come forward.

Specialist teams of officers will now assess the new information along with the existing forensic evidence. Uniformed officers will continue to provide reassurance to local residents.

Detective Inspector Grant Johnston said; "We would like to thank the public and the media for their assistance in identifying a number of new leads and for the witnesses who have come forward with information.

"We also have a significant piece of evidence to help with our investigation and we will continue to pursue that and all other lines of inquiry until we have identified the suspect.

"We are still asking for anyone who has information to come forward.. Even a minor detail can prove to be absolutely crucial, so I would urge anyone who recognises the description of the suspect or who was in the area at the time and has information to get in touch."

Anyone with information is asked to contact police on 101 or via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Local MSP backs Scotland Supporting Refugees



There are probably few of us who are not appalled by the photographs on the front of the national newspapers showing quite graphically the plight of the refugees from Syria and other countries. It is difficult to know what can be done as there are many different answers but in Scotland an organisation has sprung up with members determined to take some positive action.

SNP MSP Colin Keir today welcomed the launch of the 'Scotland Supports Refugees' initiative. The volunteer-led organisation has been set up to raise awareness about the refugee crisis in Europe, campaign for action and raise funds to support humanitarian relief.

Nicola Sturgeon pledges that she will ensure that Scotland will do everything possible to help the refugee crisis.

Posted by [Scottish National Party \(SNP\)](#) on Thursday, 3 September 2015

Following First Minister Nicola Sturgeon's comments on the refugee crisis at FMQs, Colin Keir SNP MSP for Edinburgh Western said: "Daily we see people driven by desperation drowning in the Mediterranean Sea while the UK Government remains unwilling to act responsibly and welcome refugees fleeing Syria and other war torn nations.

"I warmly welcome the formation of the 'Scotland Supporting

Refugees' initiative and support wholeheartedly their aims. It is a gross dereliction of its humanitarian responsibilities to act in the way the UK government currently is.

"I call on Prime Minister David Cameron to recognise that he is increasingly out of step with public opinion and change the UK position now. He should join Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon in welcoming refugees."

New Salvation Army boutique shop opened today



The Salvation Army Trading Company opened the newly transformed Bruntsfield charity shop earlier today. The shop has been converted into a unique boutique featuring a range of high end preloved fashion and designer items.

The Salvation Army charity shop in Bruntsfield Place, Edinburgh, is officially reopening to the public after its transformation into the organisation's first boutique in Scotland. Trevor Caffull explained to us that the shops and the clothing collection service bring in an amazing £10 million for the charity across the UK.

After a week of work to transform the interior, the team of staff and volunteers, managed by Julia Carruthers (a fashion graduate and an enthusiast for preloved items) can't wait to show off the shop's fresh new look and high end stock.



With items such as a three-piece Yves Saint Laurent suit among the highlights for sale on opening day, busy crowds are expected to gather to be amongst the first to grab a fashionable bargain.

This brand new concept for The Salvation Army's retail offer in Scotland is expected to generate quite a buzz with Edinburgh's fashion-forward community.

Profits from the shop will contribute to The Salvation Army's work with people who are vulnerable and in need across the UK, including homelessness and addiction services, care for older people, help at emergency incidents, support for adult victims of human trafficking in England and Wales and a Family Tracing Service.





New sculpture installed on Portobello Beach for Art Walk Party

✘ A new sculpture installed today in the sea just off Portobello is sure to attract some attention. The idea of the steel Tidal Octopus designed by artist Lauren Fox is that the octopus is visible only at low tide. At high tide there will only be a few tentacles showing!

This is part of Art Walk Party which is an exciting new event showcasing Edinburgh's seaside and celebrating the public space and artistic activity of Portobello, and Edinburgh-based Lauren's 1.5m long octopus is one of many site specific artworks on display from 3 September.

We arrived just as Lauren and her team of helpers was putting the octopus in place:

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

Lauren said: "I'm thrilled to have been invited to take part in Portobello's first Art Walk event and I'm looking forward to seeing people's reactions to the octopus at different states of tide while it is on public display over the next

couple of weeks.”



She explained that she works predominantly in metal: “This is a project I have had in mind for a long time and I love the playful contrast that comes from creating fluid, gentle shapes from such tough, industrial materials.

“The steel will begin to rust and discolour each time the tide rises and falls, so every day the piece will look slightly different, while the tentacles that remain clear of the water remain a silver colour throughout the exhibition.”

Lauren commented that she took some inspiration from the marine world: “As an enthusiastic SCUBA diver, freediver, wild swimmer and snorkeller, I am fascinated by what lies beneath the waves, and feel driven by the sense of adventure and possibilities that this magical underwater world offers. So for me, it’s incredibly exciting to be able to explore the seaside on my doorstep through the eyes of local artists and visit many other artworks and open studios during Art Walk Porty 2015 this week.”

Edinburgh residents given chance to shape future of local tax



by Marco Biagi MSP

How would it affect you if you were asked to pay more in Council Tax? What if you were asked to pay less? Is it fair that your bill is calculated solely on the value of the property you live in?

These are more than hypothetical questions. The way we fund our local services is going to change. A cross-party commission, which I co-chair, is currently considering alternatives to the Council Tax, and the Scottish Government

is committed to bringing in a fairer system. The outcome will affect every one of us.

As things stand, most of us pay income tax when we work, VAT when we shop and Council Tax based on the property where we live. We're used to this system, but familiarity doesn't make it fair. Council Tax was introduced by the Tories as an alternative to Thatcher's hated Poll Tax, and while it was an improvement it was an imperfect one.

Although some receive full or partial discounts, in general Council Tax doesn't consider an individual's wealth, income or housing status. It lumps together people in completely different circumstances and demands the same payment based only on the crude measure of bands determined by the price of a property in 1991.

Elsewhere in the world, local taxes come in a variety of forms. There are some who believe that the Council Tax should be replaced by a local income tax or a tax based on land value. Others argue that the Council Tax model should be kept broadly as it is but with additional bands.

While the Commission is considering a range of evidence from experts, I also want to know what ordinary people think. I'm hosting an open event on 9 September 2015 for Edinburgh residents to have their say on how we should replace the Council Tax.

The event will be informal and require no prior or expert knowledge. I want to hear from people based on their experience as Council Tax payers, city residents and citizens. This is about what matters to you.

This is a £2 billion question and will determine how we fund Edinburgh's schools, roads, parks, bins, and social care. The broader principle of who pays tax and how much is a fundamental test of our priorities as a society.

The event will be held at Augustine United Church on George IV Bridge, starting at 7pm, and will be open to all who wish to attend.

You can register for the event by clicking [here](#).

Submitted by [Marco Biagi MSP](#)

Rider Events to stage gig for Lake of Stars fundraiser



Rider Events, run by five Festival and Events Management students at Edinburgh Napier University, are organising their second concert – this time to raise funds for a group of fourth year students to go to Malawi and work at the Lake of Stars Festival.

The event will take place at Summerhall on 17 September 2015 and will feature an eclectic mix of artists, including The Lonely Together, Street Rat, The Indos and FOREIGNFOX.

Lake of Stars contributes a sizeable amount of money to Malawi's economy and promotes the country's arts and tourism through international communication and exposure. The festival is organised on the shores of Lake Malawi and some events take place in Europe and across Africa.

The project was set up by Will Jameson in 2003, who drafted inspiration from events such as WOMAD and Glastonbury. It has since attracted thousands of people outwith Malawi.

A Facebook event for the night can be found [here](#), and tickets

can be purchased for [£5 here](#).

Drugs worth over £50k recovered in capital



Police in the capital have arrested four people in connection with the recovery of a substantial amount of controlled drugs with a combined street value of over £53,000.

Officers executed a search warrant at an address in Lauriston Street, where they found heroin with a street value of around £5,200, various drugs paraphernalia and a large quantity of cash.

A 50-year-old woman and a 31-year-old man were arrested and charged under the Misuse of Drugs Act. They have been held in custody.

During a separate search, a drugs warrant was executed at a residential address in Westfield Avenue where more heroin with a street value of around £17,200 was seized along with cocaine and a large sum of cash.

A 24-year-old woman has been arrested and charged under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

A third warrant was also executed at a residential address in Muirhouse where amphetamine worth around £30,000 and around £1000 worth of cannabis was recovered.

A 25-year-old man has been arrested and charged under the Misuse of Drugs Act in connection with this recovery.

Detective Sergeant Gary Reid said; “These searches removed a significant amount of illegal drugs from our streets and highlights that Police Scotland continues to tackle those involved in organised crime within the city.

“We will continue with a robust approach to tackle crime in the communities we police and I would appeal for the public to provide us with the information we need to disrupt those involved in criminality.

“This information may be provided to your community officers, through contacting police on 101 or alternatively in anonymity by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.”

Derby County tribute to former Hearts' legend Dave Mackay



Derby County last night unveiled a lasting memorial which will take pride of place at the iPro Stadium in honour of the late Dave Mackay.

After leaving Hearts, Mackay enjoyed success at Tottenham Hotspurs before moving to Derby rather than take over as player manager at Tynecastle.

At the Baseball Ground he won the Second Division title as a player and also guided Derby to the First Division championship as the club's manager.

He passed away in March of this year at the age of 80 and soon

after his death, the club stated that it would be in discussion with the Mackay family to 'erect a suitable and lasting memorial in his honour'.



The club commissioned Stoke-based artist Andrew Edwards to produce a one and a quarter life size statue of Mackay, which was revealed before a special event at the iPro Stadium this evening.

Edwards has an outstanding reputation within his industry and has worked with the club over the years to create the Brian Clough/Peter Taylor Statue and the Steve Bloomer Bust.

He has also produced work featuring Muhammad Ali, Sir Walter Winterbottom, Gordon Banks, Sir Stanley Matthews, amongst many other famous names.

The statue is situated outside the Players' Entrance on the exterior of the Toyota West Stand and was unveiled by Isobel Mackay, the widow of former Scotland international.

It has been cast by Evans Concrete at Somercotes in black granite stone and hand finished by local craftsmen.



Hosted by the club, last night's event saw Derby celebrate the achievements of the Rams' 1974/75 First Division Championship-winning side and the 1975 Charity Shield success – significant moments in the club's history that Mackay oversaw as the club's manager.

Former players including Bruce Rioch, David Nish, Alan Hinton, Roy McFarland, Archie Gemmill, Kevin Hector and Charlie George were all in attendance to see the statue revealed.

Fittingly, the event took place in the recently-refurbished Dave Mackay Suite at the iPro Stadium.

John Vicars, Derby County's Chief Operating Officer, said: "I'm delighted that we have been able to pay tribute to Dave Mackay and, as such, remember his contribution to Derby County in this way.

"This is in keeping with the other club projects that featured Brian Clough, Peter Taylor, Steve Bloomer and Lionel Pickering who all feature prominently in the clubs' history.

"Following Dave's funeral in Scotland in March we began dialogue with his family and, with their blessing, the wheels were put in motion to create this fitting tribute.

"We commissioned the artist Andy Edwards who in my view is the best in the business and utilised the skills of Garry McBride, Chairman of Evans Concrete, who cast the statue for us.

"The final outcome is nothing less than we expected, it is an outstanding piece of work, and I am sure when our fans see it for themselves they will be suitably impressed."


Artist Edwards said: "Dave Mackay is one of a few modern day men who truly deserve to be deemed legendary.


"To play a part in this permanent tribute from the club he captained, managed, loved and achieved so much for is an eternal blessing for me.


"It has been a pleasure to work with Derby County Football Club and Evans Concrete once again to produce something that is as original, heartfelt and hopefully as inspiring as the spirit we pay our tribute to."


Photographs courtesy of Derby County FC

Thursday in Edinburgh – What's On Today

Willow Community Garden and Orchard Celebration Event: an  afternoon of free family activities and refreshments. 2.30-6.30pm, [Calder's Community Garden](#), (access from the canal or Wester Hailes Road) Calder Crescent. For more information call Fiona on 0131 453 9400 or email fional@whhealthagency.co.uk.

 **Scotland-Russia Forum: Yakety-Yak.** Sparkling Russian/English conversation over tea and cakes; open to all, no need to book – you will receive a warm welcome. 11am, Summerhall Cafe, [Summerhall](#), 1 Summerhall. No charge apart from any food or drinks you may wish to purchase.

Jane Alexander: *The Last Treasure Hunt*. This debut novel is  the story of **Campbell Johnstone**, who's just turned thirty and feels he's been left behind by life. He measures his failures against the achievements of his friends and family, and especially against his childhood friend Eve, who is now a rising Hollywood actor. *The Last Treasure Hunt* is about Campbell's attempt to reconnect with Eve, and its dramatic consequences; it asks how far we might go, and what choices we might make, in pursuit of recognition. 'A modern media morality tale'. 2.30pm, [Central Library](#), George IV Bridge. Free tickets may be obtained via eventbrite [here](#).

 **Cameo Big Scream:** screenings exclusively for parents and carers with babies under one year old. Membership of the **Big Scream Club** is free (ask at the Box Office) and lasts until your baby's first birthday. Today's film is ***Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation* (12A)**. In his fifth outing as IMF

agent Ethan Hunt, **Tom Cruise** find the ultra-secret agency disbanded. When a terrorist organisation known only as the Syndicate makes its malevolent presence felt, Hunt reassembles his crew to take them down. 10.30am, [Cameo](#), Home Street. Tickets are at the usual matinee price (babies admitted free), and may be purchased in person, by calling the Box Office on 0871 902 5723 or online [here](#).

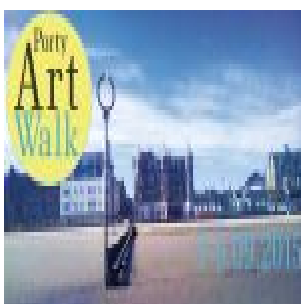
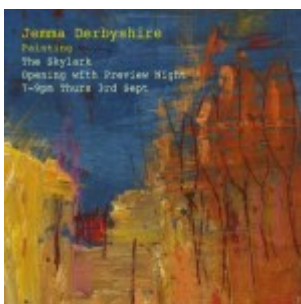


Live Music Now: Emma Versteeg (soprano) and Maryam Sherhan (piano) perform a programme of baroque songs and arias in celebration of the loan of **Nicolas Poussin's** stunning ***Extreme Unction*** from the **Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge**. The concert will include music by **Purcell, Bach** and **Handel**, and will travel from darkness to light, beginning with an unhappy view of approaching death, followed by stillness, through to joy at following in the Saviour's footsteps and finishing with the celebration of eternal life. 6-6.30pm, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed.



La Mariee mise a nu par ses celibataires même (Boîte verte) [The Bride Stripped Bare by her Bachelors, Even (The Green Box)], Marcel Duchamp, 1934 – © Succession Marcel Duchamp/ADAGP, Paris and DACS, London 2010

Books In Focus: Marcel Duchamp. The *'Books in Focus'* series focuses on artists' books held in the special collections of the **Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art**. This session will look in detail at **Marcel Duchamp's *La Mariee mise a nu par ses celibataires meme***, also known as the **Green Box**, published by **Editions Rose Selavy** in 1934. The box contains facsimiles of tiny scraps of notes, diagrams and drawings relating to Duchamp's major work *The Large Glass*, which he left 'definitely unfinished' in 1923. 11.30am-12.30pm, Reading Room, [Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art TW0](#), Belford Road. Free but places are limited and must be booked in advance by calling 0131 624 6268 or emailing gmainfo@nationalgalleries.org.





Art Walk Party: a new four day art event celebrating the **public space and artistic activity of Portobello**. Open studios, designer-makers, site specific art in hidden and unfamiliar parts of the Prom and beach, free stone wall pointing workshop (registration required), exhibitions, installations, art in shops and cafes, and a makers' market. Tonight's preview will showcase the work of local artist **Jemma Derbyshire**, together with specially commissioned shorts about the locality and environment of Edinburgh's seaside from artist-filmmakers **Bill Millett** and **Ed Howells**. Tonight (preview) 7-9pm, [The Skylark](#), 241 Portobello High Street, then throughout the weekend at various locations around Portobello, see the event's website [here](#) for full information. Ends Sunday 6th September 2015.



Murray at his ledger (c) Hugh Buchanan

Hugh Buchanan paints the John Murray Archive: the artist discusses his recent work with the Archive, painting the archives, manuscripts and books of some of the iconic names in literature, including **Jane Austen**, **Lord Byron** and **Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**. Hugh's watercolour paintings are on display at the library until Sunday 6th September 2015, after which they will move to the John Martin Gallery, Albermarle Street, London. 6pm, [National Library of Scotland](#), George IV Bridge.

Free but booking is required and may be made in person, by calling 0131 623 3734 or online [here](#).



Beyond Borders Film Festival: featuring documentary-style films about individuals and communities caught in conflict and change, the festival explores some of the most crucial and immediate changes happening in the modern world, with a special focus on women and conflict, the changes brought by modern warfare and the changes experienced by those at the epicentre of conflict. Today's film, shown as part of the **Descent Into War** series, is ***7 Days in Syria (15)***. **Newsweek** Middle East editor **Janine di Giovanni** submitted a proposal to cover the war in Syria. The magazine denied the request on safety grounds, but di Giovanni decided to go anyway, putting herself and her crew in harm's way to make sure the world would know about the suffering of the Syrian people. After this **world premiere screening** meet producer **Scott M Rosenfelt** and hear about the making of the film and the importance of journalists working in dangerous circumstances. 6.05pm, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Tickets may be obtained from the Box Office in person, by calling 0131 228 6382 or online [here](#): prices vary.



Mayfield Salisbury Church Craft Moments: a group for people who enjoy knitting and other craft activities. If you would like to join the group to knit sweaters for Africa, tea cosies for home or squares for blankets, you will be most welcome – no expertise required! So far the group has sent three large packs of baby sweaters and hats to **Malawi** as well as supplying hats and scarves for the homeless through the **Bethany Trust**. Plenty of wool, needles and coffee can be provided! The group meets every second Thursday and starts its new session today. 10am, Church House, [Mayfield Salisbury Church](#), 18 West Mayfield/1a Mayfield Road. For more information or dates of meetings please contact **Hilary Watkinson** on 0131 667 6360 or email hilary.watkinson@bt.com.

✘ **Future Heroes:** superbly creative guitarist **Aki Remally** fronts this groove/funk 6-piece, with funky horn section of **Johnny White** (sax) and trumpet ace **Chuck Dearness**. 12 midnight (entry from 11.30pm)-3am, [The Jazz Bar](#), 1a Chambers Street. £3/£2 on the door: please note this venue is cash only.

Five things you need to know today!



Petitions Committee

Chronicle Online

TV Licensing rules for students

Leith Walk By-Election

Road closures for Pedal for Scotland

The council's Petitions Committee meets this afternoon at 2:00pm and you can watch [online](#) or attend in person.

There are a couple of petitions which are being considered today, the first is to Save the Adult Learning Project and the second to resolve fly-tipping at Caroline Park Avenue.

In addition there is one valid ongoing petition on the Council's website to Save Edinburgh's trees and one invalid petition to stop any further building of student accommodation in the city.

You can read the details of all petitions on the council papers online. Click [here](#). Some petitions result in action being taken and the most recent example of this is that local action through the Petitions Committee [resulted in the play park at Craig Park in Ratho being saved.](#)

To be valid a petition needs to have support from signatories and it also needs to be about something within the remit of the Petitions committee. The invalid petition about stopping more student accommodation is one such example. The council will not accept petitions on planning or licensing matters as there is a valid appeals process for these.

The City of Edinburgh Council awarded £50,000 to various bodies in the city to fund local news in November 2013. The council previously funded local newspapers but due to budget cuts that all stopped when the current administration took over. The council also ceased publishing its own paper Outlook, but undertook to spend some money on local digital news.

The reasoning behind the funding was to base community based news channels in areas, particularly those where there is regeneration, to enhance community cohesion and improve engagement with local people while also offering skills development opportunities.

The latest to get going is [The Chronicle Online](#) which is aimed at the east of the city. The site is brand new and a work in progress!

Chronicle Calling is an event being held on 2 October when you can find out how you might get involved. You might be a budding writer, photographer, videographer or storyteller. It is understood that not everyone will wish to contribute to the new site, but if you have any old photos, stories or tales of the area then you would be very welcome to come along!

Castlebrae Community High School will also be involved in the new site.

There will then be a series of workshops to encourage contributions and show how it is done. The Edinburgh Reporter

is one of the 'trainers' so would love to see you at any of these events. Details are on [The Chronicle Online](#), but all are being held at The White House on Niddrie Mains Road.

The Council awarded £25,000 to [North Edinburgh News](#), £13,500 to the East Neighbourhood Partnership for [Chronicle Online](#) and [The Digital Sentinel](#) received £12,000.

TV Licensing will roll into Edinburgh this weekend as part of an information roadshow targeting thousands of students about to start their new academic year.

TV Licensing advisors will be on hand to give out information at Napier University from today until Saturday 5th September about TV Licensing requirements in student accommodation to arriving students and their parents.

The TV Licensing team will be available to answer questions about the law, new technology, or ways to spread the cost of a TV Licence. Students, their parents, or carers will also be able to buy a TV Licence if one is needed.

Recent research from TV Licensing shows tablet ownership amongst students has risen again in the past year with almost half of students now owning a tablet.

Kim Hayman, spokesperson for TV Licensing Scotland, said students would need a licence if they are planning to watch or record programmes at the same time as they are broadcast, regardless of the device they are taking to university.

"The short time between achieving your A-Level results and moving to university can be hectic and buying a TV Licence may fall by the wayside. We're encouraging students and their parents to chat to the TV Licensing team at Napier University to understand the rules around watching live TV in your new halls accommodation, added Kim Hayman."

If students find they need to be covered by a licence, the team will be equipped to take credit and debit card payments on the day, arrange a monthly or quarterly direct debit plan, or set up a payment card which spreads the cost of a licence with smaller regular cash payments. A TV Licence will cost £145.50 for the year, which covers a student to watch live TV on any device, including a phone, tablet or games console.

Students who buy a TV Licence at the start of the academic year and return to a licensed property over summer may be eligible for a refund of almost £37, providing there are three full months remaining on the licence.

TV Licensing enquiry officers will also be visiting universities across the UK from October to ensure new students living in halls of residence are correctly licensed for the academic year ahead.

For further information, or to buy a licence online, visit: www.tvlicensing.co.uk/studentinfo, or call TV Licensing on 0300 790 6113.

TV Licensing advisors will be at Edinburgh Napier University throughout the day on Thursday 3rd to Saturday 5th September at Room 1/10, Craiglockhart Campus, Glenlockhart Road, Edinburgh, EH14 1DJ.



The Edinburgh Reporter interviewed another candidate for the Leith Walk By-Election earlier this week and you can watch our short interview with John Lewis Ritchie here.

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

If you are a candidate and we have not met you yet then please get in touch!

Pedal for Scotland is the cycling challenge event which takes place on Sunday 6 September 2015. The idea is that you get on your bike and cross the start line in Glasgow and then cycle to Edinburgh raising funds for charity on the way. If you are really fit then you can cycle back, but otherwise there are buses and trucks to take you and your bike back to Glasgow if that is where you started from.

This year the roads will be closed to traffic during the event. The Edinburgh Reporter has cycled the route twice and I have to say this will be a major safety improvement. A few times I have seen near misses on the route.

The organisers expect about 7,000 cyclists taking part in the 50 mile cycle. Keith Irving Chief Executive of the organiser Cycling Scotland said: " Having a traffic free route for the first time creates a safer and even more enjoyable event for 7,000 people. There is still space for more people to register and to help raise funds to tackle the impact of child poverty.

"Even with this new traffic free route participants must still follow the rules of the road and be aware of other traffic around them, especially in those areas where the other carriageway is still open, or where some limited residents' access and essential bus services are still in place."

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



If you are reading this article on paper and would like to visit the website then scan the QR code above with a smartphone or tablet and you will be taken straight there.

Witness appeal after unprovoked Meadows attack



Police are appealing for witnesses following a serious assault in the Meadows area which happened around 5.15am on Tuesday.

A group of 5 men and women were walking on Middle Meadow Walk from Forest Road, when one of the group was approached from behind by an unknown man who assaulted him.

The 19-year-old victim sustained serious facial injuries and was taken to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary for treatment.

The suspect is described as white, 25-30 years old, with a medium to stocky build and bald shaved head.

He was wearing a light tweed-style jacket with dark chino trousers.

He was last seen making off towards Melville Drive.

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

DC Kevin Tait of Craigmillar CID said: "This was a seemingly unprovoked attack which caused extensive facial injuries to the victim and we are pursuing all possible lines of enquiry in order to trace the perpetrator.

"Anyone with information which can assist with our investigation, or who may have seen the someone matching the suspect's description around the time of the incident, is asked to get in touch."

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

New hotel design for Royal High School



A new planning application has been made to the City of Edinburgh Council today incorporating new designs for the proposed hotel on Calton Hill in the former Royal High School building. This follows public consultation events when the developers say they listened to the public's ideas.

The application also confirms which company will actually operate the hotel.



Gareth Hoskins, the architect for the project, says the new designs respond to the comments made by heritage organisations and the public during the comprehensive consultation process earlier in the year. Hoskins said: "We've listened and taken on board views from a wide range of organisations and individuals through the pre-planning process to develop a fundamentally different design for the site. The design focuses around an informed restoration of the central Hamilton-designed building, repairing its decaying fabric and maintaining the strong sculptural presence of its frontage without intervention. The existing building will be entirely given over to the public areas of the new hotel allowing its spaces to be fully accessible for the first time in the building's history.

"Set away from the original building are two new wings containing the hotel's bedrooms. Their organic shape with landscaped terraces and undulating copper façade, inspired by

the layered volcanic landscape of both Calton Hill and nearby Salisbury Crags, allow the new wings to blend with the surrounding hill. The contrast of the form and colour of the new elements, together with the considered approach to the landscaping of not just the site but the streetscape around the former high school, allow this hugely important building to retain and reinforce its prominence as a key Edinburgh landmark. The proposed design will create not only a setting appropriate to the stature of the building but, along with other initiatives such as Collective Gallery within the observatory, it should also bring about a level of change that allows Calton Hill to once again become an active and vibrant destination and place within Scotland's capital city."



It has now been revealed that one of the world's most respected hotel brands, Rosewood Hotels and Resorts®, has been selected to manage the Calton Hill property if the planning application is successful.

The company currently manages 18 properties in 11 countries including historic hotels such as The Carlyle in New York and Rosewood Castiglione del Bosco in Tuscany as well as contemporary classics such as the award-winning Rosewood London. Rosewood has extensive experience of restoring and transforming historic buildings, many of which are listed or are located inside World Heritage Sites.

In Paris, Rosewood is overseeing the complete restoration of Hôtel de Crillon, one of the world's most iconic hotels. Situated overlooking Place de la Concorde in the centre of Paris, the eighteenth century building is a Parisian landmark which embodies the poise, elegance and spirit of Paris.



The two companies involved in the development, Duddingston

House Properties and Urbanist Hotels, claim this is a fully-funded plan and that more than £75m will be spent on restoring and converting Thomas Hamilton's masterpiece into a hotel of international standing.

David Orr, co-founder and chairman of Urbanist Hotels says that attracting a brand of Rosewood's stature is a major coup for Edinburgh and Scotland. He said: "Rosewood is a truly world-class hotel operator combining their ethos of local engagement with their hotels of international standing, a commitment to excellence and a proactive approach to building skills and professional careers. By bringing Rosewood to Edinburgh we will be able to showcase our beautiful capital city and Scotland's creative and cultural talents to a new global audience. The full restoration of Thomas Hamilton's masterpiece will create a new accessible destination for the Edinburgh locals and visitors alike.

"Rosewood Edinburgh will be a prime example of Rosewood's philosophy of A Sense of Place," says Radha Arora, president, Rosewood Hotels & Resorts. "The former Royal High School is one of Edinburgh's most important landmarks and we will be drawing on our experience with historic properties such as The Carlyle, Rosewood Castiglione del Bosco and Hôtel de Crillon, to ensure the heritage and history of this building is preserved and celebrated."

The developers also say that the economic impact of the new hotel would be significant for Edinburgh and the whole of Scotland. The project is expected to create up to 260 jobs in the hotel while supporting a further 310 roles in the supply chain and 270 in the tourism industry over the next ten years. Independent research has estimated the hotel could contribute £31.5m to Edinburgh's GDP and £36.7m to Scotland's economy on an annual basis.

Graeme White, head of tourism at Scottish Development International, said that the hotel sector in Edinburgh is a

key aspect of the city's economic infrastructure and therefore critical to the success of the tourism economy: "Research into the tourism market suggests that a luxury hospitality brand such as Rosewood, could stimulate interest in Edinburgh to increase development opportunities and create economic value. Therefore we are happy to support this development as part of the city's aspirations to be an international gateway city that can attract luxury global operators as per the city's, and the country's, tourism strategies. We look forward to seeing this project come to fruition."

Gordon Dewar, chief executive at Edinburgh Airport and board member of VisitScotland, believes that having a new world-class hotel in Edinburgh would be a game-changer for Scotland's tourism market: "A Rosewood hotel in Edinburgh will allow us to market Edinburgh around the globe. We are constantly competing with many other European airports to attract investment into Edinburgh as both a market and a destination. A world-class hotel will attract a new level of interest and economic activity that will benefit everyone with a stake in the visitor economy."

Malcolm Roughead, chief executive of VisitScotland, says that establishing an international hotel in Edinburgh at the very top end of the market is imperative if the capital is to meet forecasted visitor demand: "The Tourism Development Framework for Scotland reveals that there is a need to provide more five-star accommodation in Edinburgh. In the ten years to 2023, the number of visitors to the city are predicted to grow by 4.4% to 1.6m which would rank Edinburgh first equal among UK cities in terms of growth. Therefore projects such as the former Royal High School development not only have the potential to help fulfil the capital's requirement for more luxury accommodation, but are vital for the continued growth of Scotland's tourism industry which is worth an annual £11bn to the country's economy."

Edinburgh is also a major destination for international

conferences and Marshall Dallas, chief executive of the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC) says that global visitors to the city now demand the quality accommodation a Rosewood Hotel would offer.: “Scotland’s capital is a magnet for many international business tourists and we are always looking at ways to build on this expanding marketplace. Being able to offer further luxury accommodation at the top end of the hotel market will make Edinburgh an even more attractive proposition for many global companies and organisations.”

Edinburgh Subtitles and Captions Club for filmgoers with hearing loss



Imagine watching a film where the sound track is impossible to make out properly. You can’t follow the plot or appreciate the film, however hard you try. If all sound tracks are like that, you probably give up going to the cinema, however much you used to love it.

That’s what it can be like to be a filmgoer with hearing loss. Unless, of course, the film has subtitles!

But how do you know which films have subtitles – or any other technology, which can bring you back into the cinema?

Edinburgh’s [Subtitle and Captions Club](#) may be the answer for you.



A collaboration between the bodies concerned with making better provision and access to the arts and education for those with a hearing loss – Hearing Link, Artlink, WHEC (Wester Hailes Education Centre) and Edinburgh's Filmhouse – have created the **Subtitle and Captions Club**, which has become part of the Edinburgh City's Adult Education programme.

Films to be shared are selected from the list of subtitled movies the Filmhouse offer, which can mean that each month there will be a film, or perhaps two, on offer to all members at different times in the week. People who join get notified by email or via text or phone calls to let them know which films have been selected.

The time the club meets depends on when the subtitled films are shown, so meetings are not at a set time every month.

Somebody from WHEC or from Hearing Link meets people in the Filmhouse foyer, (everyone having bought their own ticket in advance) and then all sit together in the cinema. Afterwards people have the option of sitting together in the Guild Room or if it's quiet, in the Filmhouse Bar to discuss the film and maybe choose the next one!



Ann Thallon, Beryl Homan and Maddi Kent all members of the Subtitles and Captions Club and volunteers with Hearing Link deciding what film to watch at The Filmhouse

One member said: 'You know sometimes I would go to a film without subtitles and I would end up with a different story line altogether than my husband who doesn't have a hearing loss! It can be quite embarrassing and so I stopped bothering to go. This Subtitle and Caption club has made a difference-when I go I can be sure I will understand the same plot as everyone else! We also get a quiet corner to discuss the film and chat with others and find out what else is going on. '

Whilst the club is aimed at people with hearing loss, members are welcome to take a hearing partner along with them if they wish.

Yvonne Smith, Cinema Manager at Filmhouse has worked closely

with Hearing Link, Artlink and WHEC to improve their hearing access systems for all. She has also helped the group understand more about the equipment they have to borrow and to try them out with helpful, friendly staff support. Filmhouse offers a choice of infra-red and induction loop hearing technology, with audio description tracks included where available and a variety of captioned screenings programmed every month.

You can find out more about the Club on their [website](#).

The cost for a term is £4.50 for those who are fully retired and £2.25 for those who qualify for concessions. For those in employment it is £9.00.

Under the umbrella of Adult Education, some provision has been made to enable people with a hearing loss to access other adult classes based in the Wester Hailes Education Centre. Staff actively encourage adult tutors to ensure learners hear well in their sessions, with or without 'comfort contego' equipment.

For more information contact Beryl Homan 0131 621 8316
Beryl.Homan@wh.ec.edin.sch.uk



Hearing Link is a UK charity for people who have developed any level of hearing loss and their family and friends. It provides information and support and puts them in contact with others who have similar experiences. It aims to give people the knowledge, skills, confidence and contacts so they can more easily manage the practical and emotional challenges that hearing loss brings. For more information please visit www.hearinglink.org/hearing-link-scotland or contact the Edinburgh office on 0131 447 9420..

Further police appeal following Balerno sexual assault



Police are making a further appeal for witnesses one week on from the serious sexual assault of a 19-year-old woman in Balerno.

The incident occurred around 12.30am on Thursday 27th August on Newmills Road when a man threatened the woman and took her into a field where he sexually assaulted her.

Since then, officers have carried out additional patrols in and around the area as well as reviewing CCTV footage and speaking to local residents.

The suspect is described as a white man with a slim build. He is around 6ft tall with long hair. He was wearing a grey hoodie and dark jeans. He may speak with an Edinburgh or English accent.

Officers are particularly keen to hear from anyone who was in Newmills Road around that time on Wednesday night/Thursday morning who may have seen a man matching that description or who has information that may assist the inquiry.

Detective Inspector Grant Johnston said: "It has now been a week since the attack. We have had a good response from the public so far but we are still urging anyone with information to come forward.

"Clearly this was a very distressing incident for the young

woman and we are eager to trace the suspect as soon as possible.”

Anyone with information that can help officers with this investigation is asked to contact police on 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

George Street – going back to normal from Monday



The council agreed to trial a new layout in George Street last year and that trial is now coming to an end.

The street will return to its former layout this weekend with the addition of a new cycle lane, following the [year-long trial](#) to find ways to improve the area for pedestrians and cyclists.

In September 2014 a two way cycle lane and one way system for traffic was introduced.

Making use of an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO), the trial aimed to test out different types of public realm solution and street layout. During this time quarterly meetings have been held, encouraging feedback from more than 1500 interested members of the public and stakeholders, which will be used to inform a long-term design.

Now, both sides of the street will be reopened to traffic on a block-by-block basis, along with the implementation of a new advisory cycle lane as agreed by the [Transport and Environment Committee](#) in June.

Transport Convener, Councillor Lesley Hinds, said: “The George Street trial has been a real experiment for the city, and has allowed us to truly listen and respond to the public throughout.

“Our sole intention has been to improve the space for all users of this key thoroughfare, and to this end we have seen lots of interesting additions, from new cycle lanes to attractive planters sourced from our own Inch Park Nursery.

“Now we are focusing on the future of the street, and a long term solution that will benefit everyone. I look forward to seeing the outcome of our design team’s research.”

Initial designs for the George Street trial aimed to reduce traffic-dominated streets, improving the quality of the pedestrian experience and encouraging a ‘café culture’, and were drawn up following consultation with stakeholders and the public.

Over the period of the trial, regular on-street interviews with passers-by and stakeholder engagement have allowed project leaders to gauge support for changes, which have also included outdoor seating for cafes and restaurants and the introduction of the city’s first ‘parklets’.

Research found that more people than ever have been visiting George Street, returning more often and lingering longer, spending an average of more than three hours at a time on the street.

Now an appointed design team will use information gathered to create design principles for the future of the street, with a report expected by the end of the year.

George Street will begin returning to its former layout from Monday, 7 September, starting with the block between Hanover and Frederick Street. The existing two-way cycle lanes will be closed from this date.

The order of decant will be:

Week 1: Hanover Street to Frederick Street

Week 2: Hanover Street to St. Andrew Square

Week 3: Frederick Street to Castle Street

Week 4: Castle Street to Charlotte Square

Jamie Insall joins Hibs on three year deal



Jamie Insall has agreed a three year deal with Hibs following a prolific spell in English non-league football where he scored 42 goals last season.

Now the 22 year old former Kidderminster Harriers' youth team player says he is delighted to have secured a move north after impressing during a month's trial.

Speaking to hibernianfc.co.uk, Insall said: "This is a great move for me – I'm absolutely delighted to have been given the chance to sign for Hibs.

"My aim now is to repay the faith that the manager has shown in me working hard, developing my game and ultimately helping the first team by scoring goals.

"It's a big step up, but I've waited a long time for my opportunity step up to full time football and I'm determined to make the most of it by doing everything I can to succeed.

"Playing in non-league football down south has given me a good grounding and, although I'm still quite raw, I've got a real

hunger to kick on and make the most of my chance here at Hibs.”

Head Coach Alan Stubbs said: “We’re pleased to have Jamie signed up for the next few years.

“Jamie has impressed on trial and he’s earned his chance at taking the step up to professional football.

“We feel he’s got the potential to succeed at the Club and he now has the opportunity to work hard and develop his game with us.”

The move is subject to international clearance.

Calling all student journalists!

✘ The latest newspaper to be in the news for the wrong reasons is The Journal. This illustrious student newspaper with previous contributors including Alex Salmond and winner of many awards, has gone into liquidation following an accumulation of historic debt.

Stuart Preston of Grant Thornton LLP was appointed liquidator of the limited company which owned the publication in July and a creditors’ meeting was held on 18 August to assess the level of debts owed. The Edinburgh Reporter understands that some of the debt is due to HMRC.

The fortnightly publication has disappeared without electronic trace as the website has been suspended meantime. The website carried historic editions too so it has to be hoped that the website alone can be reinstated.

Students from all of the universities in Edinburgh were eligible to contribute to the publication, learning how to write and produce a newspaper all at the same time.

Most students begin the new academic year with great gusto and The Edinburgh Reporter would like to capture some of that gusto here.

If you are a budding journalist then do [get in touch with us](#) to tell us what you would like to write about or take photos, record audio or video all for publication here. You will build up a portfolio of work which could be useful to you in getting a job after university!

Edinburgh authors to the fore in the Scottish Children's Book Awards



Great news from the Scottish Book Trust! Edinburgh-based authors have dominated the shortlist for the 2016 [Scottish Children's Book Awards](#), with four out of the nine shortlisted authors hailing from the city.

(Lovely photos with pupils from Royal Mile Nursery, Flora Stevenson Primary and Holyrood High as always from [Rob McDougall!](#))

Emily MacKenzie, Elizabeth Laird, Danny Weston and Joan Lingard are all up for the prestigious awards, which celebrate the most popular children's and young adult books by Scottish

authors or illustrators. Run by Scottish Book Trust with support from Creative Scotland, they are Scotland's largest book awards with a total prize fund of £12,000 – the nine shortlisted authors and illustrators receive £500 per book, and the three winning books receive £3,000 each.

Emily MacKenzie, who lives in the New Town and studied Graphic Design at Edinburgh College of Art, has been shortlisted in the Bookbug Readers (3-7 yrs) category for her debut picture book *Wanted! Ralfy Rabbit Book Burglar*, published by Bloomsbury. She was recently shortlisted for The Independent Bookshop Week Children's Picture Book Award and her second book, *Stanley The Amazing Knitting Cat* will be published by Bloomsbury in January 2016.



Commenting on her nomination, Emily said: "I was absolutely over the moon when I found out that *Ralfy* had been shortlisted for the Scottish Children's Book Awards! The book has had such a warm response from teachers, librarians and the children

I've read it to so far which has been really lovely, but the idea that a further 64,000 P1 children starting school in Scotland this year will receive a copy of it to enjoy and hopefully help them on to a path of loving reading and books as much as I do, blows my mind. It's a dream come true and Ralfy and I want to say a big thank you to Scottish Book Trust for all their support!"

A free copy of Emily's book will be gifted to every Primary 1 child during Book Week Scotland, in the Bookbug P1 Family Bag, along with copies of the two other shortlisted books in the Bookbug category. This bag was produced by Scottish Book Trust in conjunction with Education Scotland and the Scottish Government as part of [Read, Write, Count](#) – a new literacy and numeracy campaign aimed at children in Primary 1 to 3.

Elizabeth Laird, based in the Old Town, has been shortlisted in the Younger Readers (8-11 yrs) category for her book *The Fastest Boy in the World*, published by Macmillan. Elizabeth, who has previously appeared on the 2008 and 2010 Scottish Children's Book Awards shortlists, is an award-winning author of children's fiction and travel. She has written over 30 books for children and has been shortlisted five times for the CILIP Carnegie Medal, including for *The Fastest Boy in the World* this year. She has been nominated by UK IBBY for the international Hans Christian Anderson Award, and her new novel, *Dindy and the Elephant*, was published in June. Elizabeth now lives with her husband, splitting their time between London and Edinburgh.

Commenting on her nomination, Elizabeth said: "It's a thrill and an honour to be shortlisted for the Scottish Children's Book Award. 'The Fastest Boy in the World' is an Ethiopian lad called Solomon, who dreams of joining the ranks of the great African running champions. Now, thanks to this lovely award, he'll be running all the way round Scotland. Go Solomon!"

Danny Weston, who lives in Tollcross, has been shortlisted in the Older Readers (12-16 yrs) category for his book *The Piper*, published by Andersen. He has published three novels (under the name Philip Caveney) with Edinburgh-based publisher Fledgling Press. These are time travel adventures, all set in Edinburgh at different points in its history. The first book *Crow Boy* is set in Mary Kings Close, *Seventeen Coffins* is all about the tiny coffins found on Arthur's Seat in 1836 and the most recent book, *One For Sorrow*, is all about Robert Louis Stevenson. In the New Year, Fledgling will be bringing out *The Calling* – a novel featuring all the statues in Edinburgh. *The Piper* was also recently shortlisted for the North East Book Award.

Commenting on his nomination, Danny said: "I was surprised and delighted to hear that I had been shortlisted for this prestigious prize. At a time when the importance of literacy seems to be increasingly challenged, prizes like this mean more than ever to authors like me."

Joan Lingard, who lives in Edinburgh's New Town, has been shortlisted in the Older Readers (12-16 yrs) category for her novel *Trouble on Cable Street*, published by Catnip. Joan has been a published writer for young people and adults for over 40 years and is best known for the Kevin and Sadie books, set in Northern Ireland at the time of the troubles there. Her popular *Elfie and Joe* trilogy began when she discovered that her grandfather had run a pub in Stoke Newington in London and she started to research that area around the turn of the 19th Century when he and his wife lived there.

Following a conversation with a friend about the period between the first and second world wars, Joan began to research the impact of the Fascist movement in London in the 1930s, and the parallel conflict in Spain. Commenting on her nomination, Joan said:

"I'm delighted that *Trouble on Cable Street* has been

shortlisted for the Scottish Children's Book Awards. I have been writing for young people for over 40 years and I am always pleased to know that readers are enjoying my books. I enjoyed writing this book very much. It is set in a fascinating, unsettled time in Britain's history – and European history – and the more I read about what happened in the 1930s the more I found parallels with some of the problems we're facing today, 8 decades later. In 1936 the communities of the East End of London rallied to stop a march by Oswald Mosley and the British Union of Fascists. They clashed with the police in Cable Street and the march was eventually stopped, but many people were injured in the fighting. I always enjoy writing strong characters, and once I'd settled on Isabella and her two brothers their story fell into place against the backdrop of London in those difficult times.”

ROB MCDUGALL – PHOTOGRAPHER
07856 222 103

info@robmcDougall.com
www.RobMcDougall.com