

# Lord Foulkes repeats call for Lords reform



On the day when the Conservative Government have finally announced the Dissolution Honours List and another 45 peers have been created, an existing peer, Lord Foulkes of Cumnock, reminded The Edinburgh Reporter that he has been calling for reform of the Upper House for some time. He hopes that on the arrival of the Liberal Democrat peers such as Sir Menzies Campbell and Malcolm Bruce, that reform may now become a reality.

Lord Foulkes is a member of the eight-strong committee which calls for immediate changes to the chamber, and for its transformation into a senate-like vehicle.

In March last year the Labour Peers Working Group issued a paper stating that the chamber needs 'urgent reform' with too many peers and its old-fashioned procedure. But they also claimed that there is much to retain at the same time. The need for a second chamber is obvious in a democracy, and the committee found that the way the Lords works is one of its strengths, as it does not endanger the primary legislative role of the Commons.

The proposal to reform the second chamber into an elected one might be a threat to the Commons, and any further devolution for Scotland and Wales will also affect any prospective reform of the Lords. That said, the committee agreed on some short term reforms which they believe could be put in place immediately without endangering the house's future existence.

The committee recommends that the House of Lords should be restricted to 450 members over time, and that any political parties recommending new peers should do so in a transparent

way. Their view is that nobody should automatically proceed to the Lords as a result of their job or position and they want hereditary peerages ended.

26 out of the 45 new peers announced today have been awarded to 26 Conservatives, but the Labour Peers believe that any political appointments should not mean that any party has a majority in the House of Lords, preferring instead to maintain a 'broad political balance'.

At present there are 781 eligible members of the Lords and of these 192 are women. On average under 500 attend on a daily basis and earn a tax free daily allowance of £300. In 2014/15 the net cost of having the House of Lords in place was just under £100m. By adding 45 new peers today the costs will rise by £1.2m according to the [Electoral Reform Society](#).

The 2014 report calls for a minimum attendance requirement to be imposed and automatic retiral at the age of 80.

The committee was chaired by Julian Grenfell and the report may be read in full below.

Lord Foulkes said: " I have been trying to get this matter debated in the House of Lords for at least a couple of years now, but the Tories have always resisted such a debate. I am so fed up with the situation where Tories pack the House of Lords and such reform is made impossible.

"The Liberal Democrats have signed a motion to reform the Lords, so what they should now do is back the recommendations we made in our report."

Lord Wallace who leads the Liberal Democrat Group in the House of Lords has certainly indicated a willingness to do so. He said yesterday: "We are poised for a number of new peerages to be announced, and I am confident that new colleagues will join me in campaigning for legislation to change the second chamber."



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George Foulkes was a Labour MP for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley and then South Ayrshire, before becoming MSP for Lothian, and subsequently became Baron Foulkes of Cumnock in 2005. He sits on the board of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and was previously Minister of State for Scotland until 2002.

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## Police 'dismantle' criminal empire



A crime group that distributed near to £1 million's worth of Class A controlled illegal substances throughout Fife, Tayside, Edinburgh and Ayrshire have today been convicted of the sale and supply of drugs.

Stephen Nisbet, who with the assistance of his brother James and others, operated a drug empire throughout Scotland from his cell in HMP Edinburgh.

Nisbet, who is also serving a life sentence for murder, will be sentenced at a later date. Police Scotland worked in partnership with the Scottish Prison Service and Nisbet has since been removed from HMP Edinburgh and is now housed in a different part of the prison estate.

This conviction is the result a Police Scotland covert

operation, Operation Lapstone, which has been led by the forces Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism Unit (OCCTU).

The operation ran for seven months and led to the dismantling of a major and established crime group.

This emphasises the modern era of policing in Scotland, where a number of police officers have come together from different areas, deploying specialist resources working in collaboration with local community policing teams to vigorously pursue criminals that cause the greatest harm to our communities.

It shows that we will continue to act on information received and urge the public to keep working with us to provide information.

OCCTU Detective Chief Inspector Colin Boyle said: "This operation is part of long-term plan to tackle drugs use and supply throughout Scotland."

"Nisbet and his associates ran a drug empire throughout Scotland. Operation Lapstone did not just disrupt this empire – it dismantled it.

"The sale and use of illegal substances is a scourge on our community and is a top priority for Police Scotland. We will not tolerate this type of anti-social behaviour and we will continue to hold those who peddle drugs in our community to account and bring them to justice."

Detective Inspector Graeme Naysmith added: "Serious Organised Criminals undermine the efforts of those that are trying to make an honest living.

"Police Scotland can be contacted on the non-emergency number 101 by anyone wishing to pass on information about those involved in organised crime and apparently living beyond their means. Information can also be given anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

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# Increased concern for missing woman



Police are appealing for information to help trace 20-year-old Alana Major who was reported missing on Friday 14th August having been last seen on Shandwick Place at around 11pm on Thursday 13th August.

It is believed she was subsequently in the area of Waverley Station at around 11.30am on Tuesday 18th August. However, she has yet to get in touch with her family since this time.

Alana is described as white, with a slim build, and is approximately 5ft 4inches tall. She has straight purple shoulder-length hair with a pink streak through the fringe, and her hair may be styled in a bun.

She was last seen wearing a white top, a black jacket with black fur around the hood, black leggings, and white and grey 'British Knights' Hi Top trainers.

Sergeant Quentin Russell of the West End said: "We're growing increasingly concerned for Alana's welfare and are urging anyone who thinks they may have seen her since Thursday 13th August, or has information about her movements during this time, to come forward.

"Alana turned 20 on Sunday and did not attend planned family celebrations, which is out of character for her. If Alana hears this appeal I would urge her to get in contact with us or her family and let us know that she is safe and well."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Police Scotland on

# Police appeal following serious sexual assault in Balerno



Police are investigating following a serious sexual assault which happened around 12.30am this morning when a 19-year-old woman was walking along Newmills Road in Balerno. A man approached her from behind, threatened her, and took her into a neighbouring field where he sexually assaulted her.

The man then left the woman and the location. She returned to her home and subsequently contacted police.

Officers are now appealing for information in order to trace the man responsible for this incident.

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

Detective Inspector Grant Johnston said: "This was a distressing attack on a young woman and we are eager to trace the suspect as soon as possible.

"Anyone who was in the Newmills Road area in the early hours of this morning and saw anything suspicious is asked to contact us as soon as possible.

“Similarly, anyone who recognises the description of the suspect is also asked to call Police Scotland immediately.”

Those with information regarding this incident are asked to contact Police Scotland on 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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## More drug related arrests in South Edinburgh



Police in South Edinburgh have made further arrests as part of the local multi-agency drugs operation – Operation Austinburg.

The initiative was launched in July this year to tackle drug-related antisocial behaviour in the Newington and Southside corridors after complaints from residents and businesses.

As well as additional patrols over the summer, joint activity has been carried out with City of Edinburgh Council and registered social landlords to carry out clean-ups, improve stair security and restrict access to areas frequented used by drug users.

As a result of a house search yesterday, officers recovered £7000 of heroin from a property in the Southside.

A 35-year-old man and a 32-year-old woman have now been charged under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

Since July, three street dealers have also been arrested and officers have recovered drugs and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) from 30 offenders stopped in the area.



In addition, two knives have been recovered and several arrests have been made regarding antisocial behaviour.

Chief Inspector Mark Rennie, Area Commander for South Edinburgh said: "Yesterday saw our third disruptive house search in recent weeks and our continued activity sends a clear message out that whether you're trying to deal drugs from a house or coming to the area to pass out drugs, our officers will be out to disrupt your activity.

"In every instance we will also look to take further action with housing providers and our partners to prevent offenders from returning to the area or attempting to deal drugs from properties in the Southside".

Anyone with information regarding drug dealing in the area is asked to contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

Further information can be obtained regarding Operation Austinburg by following @EdinSouthPolice on Twitter.

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## Edinburgh International Book Festival – 26th August



A flying visit to the EIBF yesterday, but did manage to capture two of the current crime-fiction favourites, Alex Gray and Yrsa Sigurdardottir. And, as Greg Proops was waiting in the wings for his turn in front of the cameras, it would have been rude not to....







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# Hibs at home to Aberdeen in League Cup third round



Hibs will face on-form Aberdeen in the third round of the Scottish League Cup at Easter Road next month.

The draw was made at 2.30pm at Hampden Park by former Celtic keeper Pat Bonner and TV presenter Johnathon Sutherland.

After the draw Hibs' Head Coach Alan Stubbs told the club website "It's obviously a really exciting draw for us – over the past couple of seasons, Aberdeen have consistently shown how strong they are and they will be difficult opponents.

"But it's a challenge we're looking forward to; testing ourselves against one of the country's top teams.

"It should prove to be memorable Cup tie under the floodlights at Easter Road and hopefully this fixture will excite our

supporters.”

Ties will be played on Tuesday 22 or Wednesday 23 September.  
Full ticket information will be announced in due course.

**Scottish League Cup third round draw:**

Kilmarnock v Hearts

Livingston v Inverness CT

Ross County v Falkirk

Rangers v St Johnstone

Celtic v Raith Rovers

Morton v Motherwell

Dundee United v Dunfermline Athletic

Hibernian v Aberdeen

*The ties are scheduled for 22/23 September.*

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# Edinburgh Festival Fringe – Origin Festival Events



Coincidentally, The Edinburgh Reporter’s JP was invited along to the High Street’s Carrubbers Christian Centre on Wednesday to photograph, amongst others, The Austin Sound Exchange.

There’s no point in repeating here what Rosemary Kaye of the Reporter has said in her article from [Central Hall](#) so we

won't, and will just leave a small gallery of images for your perusal.

The ASE are playing at both the Carrubbers Centre tonight and on Sunday, starting at around 8:00pm and are well worth a listen to. And it's free.....





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# Leith Walk rubbish an ongoing issue

Leith Walk has been a main area (at least the lower half up till now ) for much improvement in recent times with the council spending £9m on the [Leith Programme](#). As a cyclist the lower part of Leith Walk is now a delight to use. Part of the remodelling was to find space in the street to site rubbish containers.

But it seems that no matter how many bins are installed for domestic waste there is still a need for more, or perhaps a need that the council empties them more often.



These pictures from Leith Walk this morning have been provided to us by Keith Hales who runs a barber's business in Edinburgh. Keith has been involved in the remodelling of Leith Walk at all stages, and continues to express his disappointment in the way that the council deals with rubbish collection.

There is of course also the question about the people who simply dump their rubbish at the side of a bin rather than finding somewhere else to put it, but that requires a behavioural change which may take longer to address!

Keith said: "The issue of cleanliness of Leith Walk is not just down to the mismanagement of side loading vehicles. It is



amazing the continued systemic problems in the waste department. This collection method was first mooted for Leith Walk nearly 3 years ago and firmed up 18 months ago.

“Emptying of litter bins along Leith Walk at times seems to be non-existent, leading to increased litter and rubbish on the Walk. This is only compounded by the reduced presence of street cleaning along the street.”

Transport and Environment Convener, Councillor Lesley Hinds responded to Mr Hales: “Thank for bringing this to my attention. I have already asked the Acting Head of Waste to monitor the frequency and number of communal bins in Leith Walk and surrounding areas. I will get back to you when I have a reply. In the meantime I have asked for the communal bins you have highlighted to be serviced.”

If you see any overflowing bins anywhere in the city then do add them to our [Rubbish](#) storyboard here!

*Photos courtesy of Keith Hales*

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## House to stand down as Chief Constable of Police Scotland

✖ At a meeting of the Scottish Police Authority held in Stirling this morning Chief Constable of Police Scotland Sir Stephen House indicated that he was handing in his notice and would step down in three months' time.

Sir Stephen said after nearly 35 years as a serving officer, the time was now right for the search for his successor to begin.

Chief Constable Sir Stephen House said: "As the leader of a national organisation that provides a vital public service 24 hours every day of the year, there can never be a convenient time to move on, but after nearly 35 years as a police officer and the last 9 as a Chief Constable in Scotland, I believe the time is right for me to take up a new challenge and thereby allow the process to recruit my successor to begin.

"Much has been achieved since the creation of Police Scotland and I firmly believe that Scotland is better served for it. Not only in managing the changes brought about by reform and substantial financial cuts, but most importantly in the public service we provide.

"I want to take this opportunity to recognise the contribution made to policing in Scotland by Vic Emery and former Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Kenny MacAskill, their support and commitment has been of great value.

"From building confidence in victims coming forward to report crimes, to ending the postcode provision of specialist services, to improving our ability to respond to major incidents and events – I am proud of the hard work and commitment to the public, police officers and staff deliver each and every day.

"I would like to pay my personal tribute to the unstinting work they do in serving the people and communities of Scotland. It is their work that keeps people safe across Scotland and it is their work I would like recognised."

At the board meeting, Sir Stephen acknowledged the challenges the organisation had faced and the strengths on which the service would continue to build.

He added: "Policing has always faced many challenges and will continue to do so. There remains much to do but knowing – as I do – the quality of our officers and staff, I am confident that the challenges will be met. The dedication and commitment

of our people is outstanding and will serve Scotland well in the future under a new Chief Constable.

“I am immensely proud to have been the first Chief Constable of Police Scotland and to lead the men and women in it. I want to use this opportunity to pay public tribute to the men and women of Police Scotland who all deserve the recognition of the public. But the time has come to move on and take up new opportunities.

“I would like to thank the Chair in particular, as this is his last public board meeting, and the Members for their contribution during Police Scotland’s first years and I wish you well in continuing to work together to deliver a policing service that Scotland can be proud of.”

The First Minister said: “I would like to thank the Chief Constable for his dedicated service with both Strathclyde Police and Police Scotland during which time he oversaw the transition to a single police service.

“Strong policing has ensured recorded crime is at a 40 year low. Sir Stephen provided leadership at a crucial time and his strong focus on tackling violent crime made a major contribution to that achievement.

“I also recognise his powerful and long-standing focus on tackling domestic violence and sexual crime. At a time when we are celebrating a century of women in policing, his track record in encouraging and supporting women in the service should also be recognised.

“The policing of major events when Scotland was in the international spotlight such as last year’s Commonwealth Games and the Ryder Cup was also exemplary.

“Reform of policing in Scotland was absolutely vital to sustain the policing upon which Scotland’s communities depend and Sir Stephen’s contribution to that was invaluable.

“As a result, policing in Scotland continues to perform extremely well and the police service deserves great credit for this. Moving to a single service is safeguarding frontline policing from Westminster cuts.

“Over that period, we have seen record numbers of police officers – more than 1000 higher compared to 2007 – and those additional officers are ensuring communities across Scotland are safe and strong.”

Commenting on the Chief Constable’s announcement and on policing more widely, Cabinet Secretary for Justice Secretary Michael Matheson said:

“I would also like to thank the Chief Constable for his service and contribution to policing in Scotland.

“There have been challenges but we are learning the lessons and addressing the issues. We continue to make good progress on the reform journey to deliver a truly integrated single service and all the benefits that brings and I will expand on this in a statement on policing to parliament next Thursday.

“The people of Scotland deserve exemplary policing delivered by an exemplary police service and we will continue to work with Police Scotland, the Chief Constable and his successor, and the new Chair of the Scottish Police Authority to ensure this is the case.”

*UNISON issued this statement:*

*“This announcement is unsurprising. Chief Constable Sir Stephen House was put in an impossible position. The problems which beset Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Board are not down to one individual. They will not be fixed by his departure.*

*“The Scottish government’s arbitrary political target of maintaining police officer numbers should be ended, as it is leading to the dismantling of our modern police force with thousands of civilian posts being lost. We need a fundamental review of the long term funding of our police services in Scotland.*

*“George McIrvine, branch secretary of UNISON Police Staff Scotland, “I wish Chief Constable Sir Stephen House all the best in whatever he chooses to do in the future. We disagreed on some decisions he made but the problems with Police Scotland are not down to one person. Sir Stephen House was given the impossible task of merging Scottish policing into one police force, while having to meet political targets of 1,000 extra police officers, and at the same time introducing £1.1 billion efficiency savings target. These targets had little to do with good policing.*

*“Over 1,700 police staff have left their jobs while Police Scotland has been beset with problems. The Scottish Government must now review their manifesto pledge to maintain 1000 extra police officers as it is not working. They must also take a fundamental look at how we properly fund a modern police force in Scotland”*

*“Sir Stephen House should have publicly called on the Scottish Government to scrap all political targets and called for proper funding of our police service. Maybe now we can have a proper discussion about these issues.”*

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# New House of Lords 'to cost £1.2m per year'



**Commenting on the Prime Minister's announcement appointing 45 new Peers to the House of Lords, Katie Ghose, Chief Executive of the Electoral Reform Society, said:**

"At a time when the government is talking about reducing the cost of politics, this announcement is an expensive insult to the public. These new appointments will cost at least £1.2m per year, and that's before increased operating costs are taken into account.

"Today's further expansion of the Lords – part of the constant arms race to pack the chamber with loyalists, whichever party is in power – shows the system is well and truly bust. The rapid growth in size and cost of our 'upper chamber' is a national scandal, and the sooner we sort out this mess the better.

"The Prime Minister says he regrets not reforming the chamber in the last Parliament, and given the escalating cost of the Lords it's something the Chancellor may be beginning to regret too. So instead of more partisan packing of the Lords, now is the time to do the right thing and get on with the vital work of ensuring we have a democratic upper House, where the public finally get a say."

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# Dissolution Honours List 2015 in full



Among the names on the Dissolution List 2015, Alistair Darling is the one which stands out for us here in Edinburgh, but there are other Scots in the form of Malcolm Bruce, Michelle Mone and Sir Menzies Campbell. Danny Alexander has given a knighthood too.

Here is the full list :

## Nominations from the Leader of the Conservative Party

- James Arbuthnot – former MP for North East Hampshire and Front Bench Minister
- Rt Hon Gregory Barker – former MP for Bexhill and Battle and former Minister of State at the Department for Energy and Climate Change
- Catherine Fall – Deputy Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister
- Simone Finn – Special Adviser to the Minister of State for Trade
- Stephen Gilbert – Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party
- Rt Hon William Hague – former MP for Richmond and former Foreign Secretary
- Robert Hayward OBE – former MP for Kingswood, Board Member of Dignity in Dying and Trustee for the YMCA
- Rt Hon Douglas Hogg QC – former MP for Sleaford and North Hykeham and held several ministerial roles
- Rt Hon Andrew Lansley CBE – former MP for South

Cambridgeshire and former Cabinet Minister

- James Lupton CBE – Chairman of Greenhill Europe and former Co-Treasurer of the Conservative Party
- Ruby McGregor-Smith CBE – CEO of Mitie Group PLC
- Anne McIntosh – former MP for Thirsk and Malton and Chairman of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee
- Michelle Mone OBE – leading entrepreneur and sits on the Board of Directors for The Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust
- James O'Shaughnessy – Managing Director of Floreat Education
- Emma Pidding CBE – former Chiltern District Councillor and former Chairman of the National Conservative Convention
- Stuart Polak CBE – Director of the Conservative Friends of Israel
- Councillor Gary Porter – Councillor for South Holland District Council and Chairman of the Local Government Association
- Councillor Elizabeth Redfern – Leader of North Lincolnshire Council
- Rt Hon Andrew Robathan – former MP for South Leicestershire and several Front Bench and government roles
- Kate Rock – Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Party
- Councillor Jane Scott OBE – Leader of the Wiltshire Council
- Kevin Shinkwin – longstanding voluntary sector professional
- Philip Smith CBE – Chief Executive of the Association of Conservative Clubs
- Philippa Stroud – Special Adviser to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
- Rt Hon David Willetts – former MP for Havant and several Front Bench roles
- Rt Hon Sir George Young Bt CH – former MP for North West



Hampshire and former Cabinet Minister

## **Nominations from the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Party at the time of Dissolution**

- Sir Alan Beith – former MP for Berwick-upon-Tweed and former Chair of the Justice Select Committee
- Sharon Bowles – former MEP for South East England
- Sir Malcolm Bruce – former MP for Gordon, and former Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats
- Lorley Burt – former MP for Solihull and former Chair of the Liberal Democrats
- Rt Hon Sir Menzies ‘Ming’ Campbell CH, CBE, QC – former MP for North East Fife and former Leader of the Liberal Democrats
- Lynne Featherstone – former MP for Hornsey and Wood Green and held several ministerial positions
- Don Foster – former MP for Bath and former Liberal Democrat Chief Whip
- Jonny Oates – former Chief of Staff to the Deputy Prime Minister in the coalition government
- Shas Sheehan – former Councillor for Kew and involved in several community groups
- Sir Andrew Stunell – former MP for Hazel Grove and former Department for Communities and Local Government Minister
- Dorothy Thornhill MBE – Mayor of Watford; former Councillor and Assistant Headteacher

## **Nominations from the Leader of the Labour Party at the time of**

# Dissolution

- Rt Hon David Blunkett – former MP for Sheffield Brightside and Hillsborough and former Cabinet Minister
  - Rt Hon Alistair Darling – former MP for Edinburgh South West and former Cabinet Minister
  - Rt Hon Peter Hain – former MP for Neath and former Cabinet Minister
  - Rt Hon Tessa Jowell DBE – former MP for Dulwich and West Norwood and former Cabinet Minister
  - Spencer Livermore – senior Campaign Strategist for the Labour Party
  - Paul Murphy – former MP for Torfaen and former Cabinet Minister
  - Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo DBE – former MP for Bristol South and former Minister
  - Dave Watts – former MP for St Helens North and former Chair of Parliamentary Labour Party
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## Darling set to continue his political career in the Lords



Despite protestations to the contrary, it seems that former Labour MP Alistair Darling is to maintain a presence in Westminster following his elevation to the Lords in the Dissolution Honours list just published.

The former Edinburgh South West MP had announced his retirement from politics prior to the 2015 General Election. His seat was snapped up by Joanna Cherry QC on behalf of the

SNP.

Darling was leader of the Better Together campaign during the Scottish Referendum campaign, Chancellor of the Exchequer for the fateful three year period between 2007 and 2010 when the global meltdown took place.

He first became an MP in 1987, and held a variety of posts including Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and Secretary of State for Scotland. He also held the Transport and Trade and Industry portfolios.

His grandfather was the retailer in Princes Street, owner of the great women's outfitters, Darlings. Alistair Darling is an old boy of Loretto School in Musselburgh, and he achieved LLB at Aberdeen University.

He is a former councillor with Lothian Regional Council, and has largely been a career politician with the exception of his apprenticeship to become a solicitor and then admission as an advocate at the Scottish Bar. He resigned from the Faculty of Advocates in 2010 when it was widely reported his financial affairs were being investigated.

In 2009 the Daily Telegraph reported that Darling had 'flipped' his house four times in expenses claims. LibDem calls for his resignation fell on deaf ears.

Sir Malcolm Bruce who was the former MP for Gordon and formerly Depute Leader of the Liberal Democrats, Rt Hon Sir Menzies Campbell and Michelle Mone OBE have also been given peerages. Former Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Danny Alexander who lost his seat for Inverness, Nairn Badenoch and Strathspey at the General Election has been knighted. His Wikipedia page has already been changed when we checked it at 1.30pm!

It is a long list of peerages which is published today, when the Government was also issuing news about net migration

figures which have hit a record high, thus attracting media comment that this was a good day to bury bad news.

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# Six Hibernian Ladies in Scotland Under-19 squad



Hibernian Ladies stars, Chelsea Cornet, Abigail Harrison, Amy Lynch, Simone McMahon, Cailin Michie and Liz Tweedie have been named in Gareth Evans' Scotland Women's Under-19 training squad in preparation for the upcoming UEFA European Championship qualifiers.

Scotland, who drew twice with the Republic of Ireland last week travel to Austria next month where in the first round of qualifiers they will face Austria, Ukraine and Albania.

## Scotland Women's Under-19 Training Camp Squad

Brogan Anderson (Hearts LFC)  
Carla Boyce (Glasgow City FC)  
Sarah Clelland (Rangers LFC)  
Chelsea Cornet (Hibernian LFC)  
Cassie Cowper (Aberdeen LFC)  
Erin Cuthbert (Glasgow City FC)  
Rebecca Flaherty (Aberdeen LFC)  
Amy Gallacher (Forfar Farmington LFC)  
Laura Hamilton (Celtic FC)  
Kirsty Hanson (Liverpool LFC)  
Abigail Harrison (Hibernian LFC)  
Kodie Hay (Glasgow City FC)  
Kirsty Howat (Rangers LFC)

Katie Jones (Bristol Academy WFC)  
Amy Lynch (Hibernian LFC)  
Rachel McLauchlan (Aberdeen LFC)  
Simone McMahon (Hibernian LFC)  
Cailin Michie (Hibernian LFC)  
Claire Adams Mullen (Rangers LFC)  
Georgie Rafferty (Glasgow City FC)  
Hayley Sinclair (Rangers LFC)  
Lia Tweedie (Hibernian LFC)  
Alyshia Walker (Glasgow City FC)  
Courtney Whyte (Glasgow City FC)

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## Missing teenager found safe and well



Louise Davidson, the teenager reported missing yesterday has been found safe and well.

The 19-year-old was traced in Henderson Street, Edinburgh, just before midday on Thursday 27th August.

Police have thanked for their assistance during this inquiry.

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## Business – System Four offers

# a way to really improve your business



*Experienced business performance coach is bringing a new business improvement tool to the Fife, Edinburgh and Lothians marketplace.*

Edinburgh, Fife and the Lothians are to become one of the first areas of the UK to benefit from a unique business improvement methodology called System-Four, which could dramatically improve business growth; staff motivation and wellbeing in a variety of different industries as they continue to recover from many years of recession and economic uncertainty.

 Created by Corporate Coach and NLP Practitioner, Wendy Chalmers Mill, System-Four began life as a series of Training Conferences, which Wendy and her co facilitator in the system, Mark Douglas, held throughout Scotland.

Following the development of the methodology as a flexible business tool, System-Four can now go directly into companies and businesses of all sizes, and is jointly facilitated by two practitioners.

As it is highly tailored to each individual company using it, System-Four can be facilitated by Wendy and Mark over a single day, or, depending on what the client wants, perhaps up to three days of training. It can also be applied to very specific problems or challenges in the workplace.

Said Wendy: "I am delighted to introduce System-Four directly into a business environment. The training conferences were very successful, but my ultimate aim was to bring the system right to my client's door. I see huge potential in many

industry sectors, to boost morale and improve business performance. Rather than have to attend a specific training conference, the system can now come to you, the employer.”

“What is different about System Four is that it is collaborative learning,” said Wendy, who has twenty five years experience of the physical, emotional and communication needs of businesses, and lists The House of Commons and The House of Lords as long term clients.

“It is as far removed from the old Power Point way of learning and training as you can get,” said Wendy, “in the past staff were trained “at” rather than facilitated “with”.

“We use visual learning methods to carry out the training. System-Four is all about getting staff in an organisation to become accountable and take ownership of their problems. Then they can develop a realistic action plan which ensures that the necessary changes really do happen.”

Added Wendy: “We need two facilitators to carry out the System-Four system, so it is immediately much more interactive. Mark works within the corporate world as a Change & Leadership Specialist, partnering CE’s and Directors to unleash profits. We work well together and bring different areas of expertise to the table.”

✘ System Four encourages participative leadership in an organisation, it is designed to enable co-workers to start talking to each other in the correct way and to come together to problem solve.

“Based on my many years of experience in interpersonal and non verbal skills, I have found that staff are less competitive and work better together when they have a joint goal. System Four enables them to make decisions together,” said Wendy.

“The evidence of our last extremely damaging recession was that in many cases, keeping the right staff in the firm was

vital for when better times returned. System-Four is an investment in your staff, they are best placed to deal with their own challenges if they have the right problem solving techniques," she finished.

System-Four is a UK wide operation, and since developing the workplace based system from the original Training Conference hybrid, Wendy is expecting to boost her parent business Positive Performance too. The firm deals with personal development and leadership training to motivate staff and improve job satisfaction and well being. For 2015-16, System-Four is projecting to double its turnover, with a number of companies across Scotland already signed up to collaborative sessions.

For further details checkout <http://www.system-four.com> or contact Wendy on 07973 262005.

Submitted by [CLARE GRAHAM](#)

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## **Golf – Deer Park Masters played with real team spirit**



Many Scottish club professionals have played the Deer Park Masters for a number of years now, but in relation to the recent competition certain stalwart professionals have praised what they see as the tremendous support and camaraderie the Tournament offers.

Ross McConnachie from the Drumoig Golf Centre said of the event, which was won by Greig Hutcheon for the third time in a



row: "To have a double shotgun two days in a row and obtain 100 pro-am teams is a tremendous achievement and testament to all the hard work that goes into running the event." The Tournament, now in its 12th year, attracts 100 pro-am teams with many business sectors represented to play with the pros in a team of four.

Paul Wardell, professional at Berwick Golf Club said: "I hope that the Muir Group and Deer Park will continue to offer the event for many years to come, such is the importance placed on it by myself and my fellow pros." During the past few years when many clubs struggled during recessionary times the Muir Group has kept the event going with cash prizes for the best performing professional players and Tartan Tour points of merit up for grabs too.

Mark Kerr, professional at the Marriott Dalmahoy said: "The Deer Park Masters is one of the strongest events on the Tartan Tour schedule, an event which is greatly appreciated by the golf professionals of Scotland." He also congratulated the club on the work carried out on the course over the last few years which had made a "tremendous difference."



Winner Greig Hutcheon

Alan Muir, Business Development Director for Muir Construction said: "This event is epitomised by a fantastic team spirit, and the pros who take part year after year giving us amateurs so much enjoyment are an integral part of what the Tournament is all about . We really appreciate their support and making the time to come out and play the event. We designed the event originally to thank and support them."

Mr Muir also thanked the Gold Sponsors of the event, Emtec. "They have shown us terrific support over the past few years, as have many of the firms who come back to the Masters time

and time again.”

The [Deer Park](#) Masters was conceived as a means of supporting the club professionals of Scotland, a grass roots support which has been greatly appreciated over recent years of recession and decline in golf club membership. At the same time, the pro-am tournament, which sees both a pro-am team competition on day one, and a contest strictly between the club professionals on day two, enables amateur golfers to gain valuable insight into the game they love by playing with fifty leading club and team professionals from all over Scotland.




Deer Park Golf and Country Club, part of the Muir Group of Companies, was opened in 1978 and forms the centrepiece to what has become a thriving community of homes, offices and leisure facilities built by Muir and offering the ideal blend of lifestyle and location.

The club has recently hosted a Tartan Tour Senior Open and a Ladies Open, both completely new professional events for Deer Park.

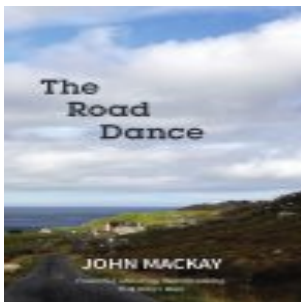
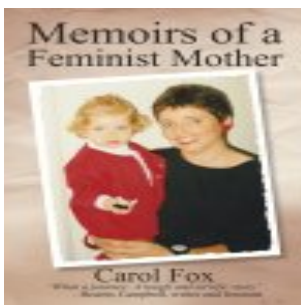
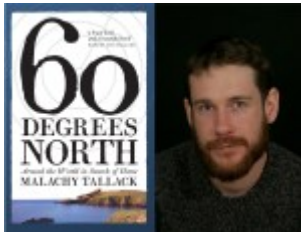
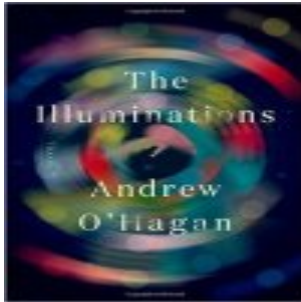
Submitted by [CLARE GRAHAM](#)

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## Thursday in Edinburgh – What's On Today

**Milk and Honey? Edinburgh Macmillan Art Show.** Original  artwork and jewellery for sale, with all proceeds going to Macmillan Cancer Support. The show launched in 2003 and has raised over £140,000 for the charity to date. Over 120 artists

will exhibit, including **Norman Ackroyd, Trina Bohan, Aileen Grant, Rona MacLean, Cat Outram, Sheena Fleming Phillips** and **Jack Vettriano**, plus ten jewellers, including **Angela Boag** and **Caroline Temple**. 10am-7pm today, 10am-4pm on 28th, 29th and 30th August, [Bonhams](#), 22 Queen Street. Free admission.




**Blackwell's Edinburgh Presents Writers at the Fringe:** every Thursday throughout the Fringe, Blackwell's invites a

selection of Scottish performers to give a taste of their work. New and unpublished works of literary art stand alongside established novelists, with any and all genres free to be expressed, from poetry to cutting-edge drama, folk music, contemporary fiction and all that is found between. Tonight's line-up is **Michael Cannon, Malacky Tallock, Carol Fox, John Mackay and Andrew O'Hagan**. 5.45pm for 6pm, [Blackwell's](#), South Bridge. Free tickets may be obtained from the shop's front desk, by calling 0131 622 8229, emailing [events.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk](mailto:events.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk), via eventbrite [here](#) or from the Fringe Box Office [here](#).

**St Mary's Cathedral Lunchtime Recital:** **Oksana Mavrodii** (*soprano*) and **Anna Mavromatidi** (*piano*). 1.10pm, [St Mary's Cathedral](#), Palmerston Place. Free.

**The Chalmers Ensemble:** the horn and string quartet returns to the gallery to play works by **Mozart, Hoffmann and Rebay**. 6-6.30pm, [Scottish National Portrait Gallery](#), 1 Queen Street. Free and unticketed.

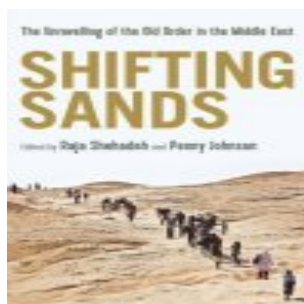
 **Cameo Big Scream:** screenings exclusively for parents and carers with babies under one year old. Membership of the **Big Scream Club** is free (ask at the Box Office) and lasts until your baby's first birthday. Today's film is **Casablanca (U)** starring **Humphrey Bogart** and **Ingrid Bergman**. 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](#).



M.C. Escher, Day and Night,  
1938, All M.C. Escher works  
copyright © The M.C. Escher  
Company B.V. -B

**Escher: A Mathematician's Eye View.** **Ian Stewart**, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics (University of Warwick) looks in

simple, non-technical terms and with many illustrations, at the relationship between Escher's art and mathematics, and explores applications of these mathematical concepts to the real world. No specialist mathematical knowledge is required, just an interest in visual patterns. 12.45-1.30pm, Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed.



**Edinburgh Book Fringe:** daily events – all of them free (donations appreciated) – for two weeks at **Word Power Books**, Edinburgh's independent radical bookshop. Today: writer and academic **Penny Johnson** (Birzeit University, Ramallah) and Palestinian writer, lawyer and human rights activist **Raja Shehadeh** discuss their new book, ***Shifting Sands: The Unravelling of the Old Order in the Middle East***, which brings together fifteen impassioned and informed voices to talk about a region with unlimited potential and yet which can feel 'as though the world around me is on fire'. 'This intelligent, reasoned perspective on life in the Middle East is a breath of fresh air'. 1.30pm, [Word Power Books](#), West Nicolson Street. All welcome! No booking required, but arrive promptly as space is limited.

☐ **Meet the Glasshouse Staff:** find out more about this stunning collection of plants from the people who care for

them. Every month meet a different member of the indoor horticulture team, each with different specialist knowledge. 1-2pm, Glasshouses, [Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh](#), Inverleith Row. Free with Glasshouse entry (£5/£4, children under 5 and essential carers free).



Image (c) Neil Hanna

**Phill Jupitus Sketch Comic in Conversation:** each Thursday evening during the festivals, Phill Jupitus will be in conversation with a special guest – a passionate, personal and irreverent look at art, a chat about what Phill has seen in the galleries this week, and possibly some sketching! The guests' identities will be announced nearer the time. 7-8pm, Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed.

 **Edinburgh Art Festival – Spotlight Tours of Scottish Art: *People, Places, Ideas*.** Guided tours of the City Art Centre's Scottish Art collection, focusing on people, places and ideas. 11am or 3pm, (meet at reception) [City Art Centre](#), 2 Market Street. No booking required, free – suggested donation £2. Also at same times on Saturday 29th August 2015.



**Made in Prague: the New Czech Cinema UK Tour 2015.** The biennial UK showcase of contemporary Czech cinema is back for the fifth time, with five titles capturing the country's dramatic past and its influence on contemporary life and culture. Today's film is ***Nowhere in Moravia (Dira u Hanusovic)* (15)**, Miroslav Krobot's humorous debut focusing on eccentric characters living an isolated life and looking for love. 6pm, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Tickets may be obtained from the Box Office in person, by calling 0131 228 6382 or online: prices vary.

**The Big West Fest: *Together Enjoy Being Together*.** The latest play from the **WHALES without a Cause** drama group is set in the resort of **Hailes Castle**. It's always been a popular spot for holidaymakers looking for cheap drink and fun times, but how will its new upmarket appearance go down with the regulars? And what is the shady manager Rupert up to? 7pm, [WHALE Arts](#), 30 Westburn Grove. Also at same time on Friday 28th and Saturday 29th August, with an additional show at 2.30pm on Saturday 29th. This event is part of **The Big West Fest**, WHALE's on-site festival offering a programme of free performances and activities from today until Saturday 29th August for anyone over the age of 16.



the guardian  
**EDINBURGH  
INTERNATIONAL  
TELEVISION  
FESTIVAL**  
powered by YouTube



**The Guardian Edinburgh International Television Festival:** the only event run both by and for the television industry, celebrating the creativity, diversity and inspirational talent in the field, and debating the major issues facing the industry. Today: (1) At 6pm, ***Hand of God*** – an **Amazon Original**

**Series.** A psychological drama about a morally corrupt judge who suffers a breakdown and believes God is compelling him onto a path of vigilante justice. The screening will be followed by a Q & A session chaired by **Andrew Collins**, with series creator **Ben Watkins**, director **Marc Forster** and cast members **Ron Perlman**, **Dana Delany** and **Alona Tal**. (2) **Doctor Who: *The Magician's Apprentice*** – a chance to see the opening episode of BBC1's new series, written by **Steven Moffat**, produced by **Peter Bennett** and directed by **Hettie Macdonald**. The screening will be followed by a Q & A session with guests to be announced later. [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Tickets may be obtained from the Box Office in person, by calling 0131 228 6382 or online: prices vary.

**Guilty As Sin:** 9pm, [The Old Chain Pier](#), Trinity Crescent. 

**JUST Festival: Moving Minds: A Community-Led Dialogue/Workshop.** **Gypsy/Travellers** and **MECOPP** (Multi-Ethnic Carers of People Project) will lead this interactive workshop – a chance to dispel myths and promote dialogue. This seminar should be of relevance to all who are interested in looking at their own policies and practices with regard to minority groups, and especially to those who work with carers. 12.30pm, [St John's Church](#), Princes Street. Free but booking is essential and may be made by emailing [donna@mecopp.org.uk](mailto:donna@mecopp.org.uk). Read The Edinburgh Reporter's article on the JUST Festival event ***Gypsy Travellers – Has Time Run Out?*** [here](#).



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## Five things you need to know



# today!



**New route from Edinburgh Airport**

**Council rejects demolition at Canonmills Bridge**

**Fringe Tip of the Day**

**Q & A with Val McDermid**

**Computer Classes in Craigmillar**

Another new route to New York's JFK Airport [will begin next year](#) when Delta begin their daily service at the end of May.

Colin Keir MSP for Edinburgh Western has welcomed the announcement by Delta Airlines/Virgin that their joint venture will launch the new service.

Mr Keir said: "All new routes from Edinburgh are welcome as they boost employment and tourism opportunities, something that is vital to the Edinburgh and wider Scottish economy.

With direct flights to New York, Edinburgh will link with the most influential global financial centre. Add to this the tourism potential and it makes this a real diamond route.

Well done to Edinburgh Airport CEO Gordon Dewar and his team for securing this route and to Delta and Virgin for identifying Edinburgh as a positive destination."

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The council rejected an application to demolish the buildings on Canonmills Bridge yesterday amid loud cheers from the public gallery.

Green candidate for the Leith Walk by-election Susan Rae

said: "It's been clear for weeks that there was widespread community dismay about plans to demolish the buildings at Canonmills Bridge. So I'm delighted that the planning committee has thrown out the plan.

"It's not just about the physical appearance of the buildings. It is also about sustaining a hub which has gathered a lot of affection among local people.

"So I hope the views of local people are now heard loud and clear."

[Read our report here.](#)

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**At** 15:45 today for 1 hour you can go to Assembly Theatre, George Square, EH8 9LH and pay £10 to £14 per ticket plus special offers for family and children and go and see the performers from Japanese hi-tech dance show SIRO-A.

The Edinburgh run lasts until 31 August at the Assembly George Square Theatre.

The SIRO-A group was formed in 2002 by classmates from Sendai, in Japan, each with their own finely honed set of skills.

Audiences are treated to a visual feast in which the Siro performers interact with spectacular video projection, light animation, stunning laser effects and a pulsating techno beat. The show crosses all boundaries of language and culture, and is a treat for people of any age.

Reality and animation are blended in a constantly shifting landscape which combines playful humour and astonishing beauty in what they describe as a "virtual hyper-reality". There is even a fresh interpretation of the ancient Japanese art of shadow puppetry.

**Bookings:** [assemblyfestival.com](http://assemblyfestival.com), 0131 623 3030 or Assembly box offices at Assembly Hall and Assembly Roxy, Assembly George Square and Assembly Checkpoint or Edinburgh Fringe at <https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/siro-a>

**Website:** [www.siro-a.co.uk](http://www.siro-a.co.uk), [www.siro-a.com](http://www.siro-a.com)

\*\*\*

Best-selling author, Val McDermid, and two forensic experts will be joining Future Learn for a live video Q&A today from 16:45 – 17:30 GMT+1.

Edinburgh resident Val wrote the murder mystery behind the University of Dundee's free online course available on Future Learn, [Identifying the Dead: Forensic Science and Human Identification](#). The course allows you to be a forensic investigator and solve the crime yourself!

She and the experts will be answering your questions about forensic investigation, the different roles that exist, and where crime writers get their ideas from. Click [here](#).

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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.

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# Hibernian 1-0 Stranraer



Hibs progressed to the last 16 of the Scottish League Cup thanks to a second half own goal from Stranraer's Scott Rumsby at Easter Road earlier tonight.

The last time these teams met, Hibs won an eight goal thriller but fans expecting a similar scoreline were to be disappointed.

Following another busy week in the transfer market, Head Coach Alan Stubbs made two changes to the starting XI that lost narrowly to Rangers on Sunday. New signing Darren McGregor took over from injured skipper David Gray while Dylan McGeouch replaced Dan Carmichael in midfield. Summer signing James Keating was listed amongst the substitutes for the first time following a period on the sidelines due to injury.

There was a familiar face in the Stranraer line up with Paul Cairney returning to Easter Road after a spell with Kilmarnock.

Hibs started brightly and Fraser Fyvie brought out a good save from Conor Brennan then Jason Cummings went close with a long range effort.

In the 22nd minute John McGinn found Fyvie on the left. The midfielder cut inside and fired a powerful effort against the crossbar.

Although Hibs continues to dominate possession, it took a world class save from Mark Oxley to keep the scores level. A hopeful ball into the box was headed down by Mark McGuigan into the path of Craig Malcolm and the striker's effort was heading to the top left hand corner of the goal but Oxley managed to tip the ball over the bar.

Hibs eventually grabbed the lead that their pressure deserved when McGinn won the ball in midfield and sent an inch perfect pass into the path of Fyvie, The former Wigan midfielder cut the ball across the face of the box and with Cummings waiting to pounce, Rumsby intercepted the ball but could only knock it past his own keeper into the net, much to the relief of the home supporters.

Six minutes later Fyvie had to leave the field with a tight hamstring and was replaced by Carmichael. The wingers first act was to fire a long range shot goalwards which clearly struck a defender's arm inside the penalty area, but the referee waved play on to the fury of the Hibs' fans. considering the similarity to the decision against Rangers at the weekend.

Cairney was booked for a foul on McGeouch then substituted, leaving the field to a standing ovation from both sets of fans.

Hibs continued to create chances although Stranraer looked dangerous on the break.

Keatings replaced Cummings with six minutes remaining and Hibs held on to secure the victory.

Hibs: Oxley, McGregor, Stevenson, Hanlon, Fontaine, Fyvie, McGinn, McGeouch, Henderson, Boyle, Cummings. Subs: Reguero, Bartley, Stanton, Carmichael, Keatings, Malonga, Martin

Stranraer: Brennan, Robertson, Pettigrew, Rumsby, Mair, Thomson, Cairney, Bell, Malcolm, Stirling, McGuigan. Subs: Currie, Keenan, Aitken, McCloskey, Longworth, McGill, Rowan.

Referee Kevin Clancy

Attendance 5224

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# Just Festival 2015: Austin Sound Exchange



It's 2pm in Edinburgh, but it's only 8am in Austin, Texas. Not many of us look too bright at that time in the morning, but Sarah Dossey (banjo/vocals) and Jesse Schaefer (especially Jesse Schaefer...) (bass) are all smiles and enthusiasm, and if Andrew Goolsbee is a little more serious it's only because he's concentrating on his violin. The trio throw themselves into the opening sets of Austin Sound Exchange's first performance at Central Hall, Tollcross with two numbers, *Don't Ya Cut Me Down* and a lively rendition of *Blind Billy*.

The Exchange is a non-profit collaboration of musicians and vocalists who have come together to share the country, folk, blues and Americana of their home city – one which has more live music venues per capita than any other in the US. This is their first visit to Scotland; at least the sun is shining intermittently, and if they're freezing, they manage not to look like it.



More Exchange members now join the stage, including singer Marie Ring, whose strong singing blends well with Dossey's higher pitch. Clayton Ring, one of the Exchange's featured artists, now takes the lead role, and the sound is amped up with drums, keyboard and electric guitar. Ring's assured voice has a wonderful rich tone; he reminded me of Glen Campbell, but that is because I am Very Old. His self-penned *I'll Be The One* is inspired, he tells us, by the idea of living in the moment, seizing the day. *I Won't Back Down Again* was written

when Ring was suffering from acute Meniere's Disease, during which time he wondered if he would ever be able to perform again; luckily for us he's much better now.



After a slightly chaotic changeover (this is, after all. their first encounter with the venue), the lead is taken over by another Sound Exchange featured singer and blues guitarist, Chris Beall. Beall's voice is quite different from Ring's, slightly husky, rougher around the edges; to me it says saloon bars and railroads and all those things we – no doubt erroneously – associate with the West. *Dug Down Deep* is the story of his father's ('the motorcycle man') debilitating bike racing accident and subsequent rehabilitation; it's played to a thumping beat, which does threaten to drown out the vocals a little bit at some points. It's followed by *Half A World Away*, in which Beall is accompanied by singer Amy Hooper; the two voices complement one another excellently, Beall now well into his stride and sounding more confident with each number. Hooper also plays flute, though the sound system could probably do with a little adjustment to allow us better to enjoy this.



The Exchange bring the session to a close with a rip-roaring finale; all of them clearly get a kick out of performing, and it's refreshing to see people not afraid to look happy on stage. I am sure that the issues with the sound system in this first performance will now have been resolved, so if you like a bit of foot-stomping Texas music of an afternoon, get yourself along to the Central Hall this week.

Austin Sound Exchange will be at Central Hall, Tollcross as part of the 2015 Just Festival at 2pm every day this week, last performance on Saturday 29th August. Tickets cost £10 and are available from [eventbrite](#), the [Fringe Box Office](#), the [Just](#)

[Festival Box Office](#) or on the door (subject to availability).  
All images (c) Austin Sound Exchange and members.



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## **Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015 REVIEW – Markus Birdman: Grimm Realities \*\*\*\*\***



Markus Birdman's free Fringe show is a triumph. Grimm Realities deals with Birdman coming to terms with his daughter growing up, with a mixture of comical perspectives and re-imagined fairy tales.

He has re-written, and re-illustrated tales made famous by the Brothers Grimm, such as Cinderella and Little Red Riding Hood, to get a clearer, truer message across. Not so filthy that it's crass, but filthy and clever enough to warrant constant laughter from the audience.



Birdman is a realist, and isn't afraid to push the limits of what society deems appropriate. He has created an hour of thought-provoking, hilarious stand-up with the added metaphors he has sculpted from well established fairy tales.

From dealing with the role of a parent and all its challenges, Grimm Realities is an engaging hour of insightful black comedy that aims to inspire a rethink of traditional viewpoints.

Canons' Gait (Venue 78)

August 26-30

Time: 15:40 (55 minutes)

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## Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society announce new Board members



The Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society has just announced the outcome of the elections to the Society's governing body, the Board of Directors.

The elections were held to coincide with the Annual General Meeting of the Society which took place on Tuesday 25 August at the Balmoral Hotel in Edinburgh. Anyone is allowed to join the Society and all members of the Society were entitled to vote. This year the turnout in the election was 52%.

Since 2010 the Society has had a constitution in which candidates for the board were able to stand in three categories: show participant, venues and an open category.

In the Show Participant category **Harry Gooch** was elected over

Tamsin Fitzgerald.

In the Venue category **Luke Meredith** was successfully elected over J D Henshaw and Sam Gough.

**Matt Panesh** won the election in the Open category ahead of Brian Cleary, Thomas Goodwin, Alister O'Loughlin, Bridget Stevens and Barrie Taylor.

The elections were carried out using the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system of preferential voting and were managed on behalf of the Society by Electoral Reform Services.

Each of the newly elected Board Members will serve a four year term.

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## Leanne climbs Kilimanjaro for charity



Just last week Leanne Ross, who works for the Scottish SPCA, climbed almost 6000 metres and raised over £5,500 for the charity in the process.

Last February she made the decision to start fundraising and that she would climb the highest freestanding mountain in the world – Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa, and she did it just a week ago!

Leanne said: “Over the last year and a half I have done bag packing in various stores, car boot sales and even held a 1950’s themed night in Glasgow City Centre raising over £5,500 in total to date.

“On the 14th August I set off to Tanzania in order to fulfill my challenge of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. After 5 long agonising days filled with sweat and tears on Thursday the 20th August at 9:30am I reached the Uhuru Peak (5895m).

“This adventure was a massive accomplishment for me as I do not keep in the best of health. I have a rare blood disease called Neutropenia, this affects my immune system, leaving me open to infection and making it harder for me to fight any illness that if not dealt with promptly can become life threatening. I have to inject myself on a weekly basis to help me live out a normal life but can still become very ill very quickly.

The animal welfare charity, [Scottish SPCA](#), works to help rescue and rehome as many animals as possible in Scotland.

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## Growing concern for missing Fife woman



Police are appealing for information to trace a missing Fife woman who did not return from a night out in Edinburgh.

Louise Davidson was last seen outside the Espionage nightclub in the Capital's Victoria Street at around 4.30am yesterday morning (Tuesday).

However, the 19-year-old has not yet made her way back to her home in St Kilda Crescent, Kirkcaldy and concern is now growing for her welfare.

It is believed Louise was heading towards the Underbelly in

the Cowgate area and may have been in the company of two men and anyone who can assist police in finding her or these individuals is asked to come forward.

Louise is described as white, 5ft 5ins tall with long black hair, and green/hazel eyes. She was last seen wearing light-coloured denim jeans that were ripped at the knee, a cropped black top with the number 21 on the front, black heeled shoes and a black clutch bag.

The two men are described only as being white and wearing tracksuits.

Sergeant Neil McGurk said: "It is unlike Louise not to get in contact with friends or family and let them know where she is and as such we are eager to establish her whereabouts as soon as possible.

"Anyone who believes they have seen her since the early hours of Tuesday morning is asked to contact police immediately.

"We would also urge Louise to get in touch with a family member, friend, or with police to let us know she is safe."

Those with information can contact Police Scotland on 101.

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## **Serious sexual assault on 25 year-old man on George IV Bridge**



Police have confirmed that the incident on George IV Bridge

this morning is now being treated as a serious sexual assault on a 25 year-old man.

The area has been cordoned off to allow for a forensic examination.

A Police Scotland spokeswoman said: "Police in Edinburgh are investigating following the serious sexual assault on a 25 year-old man.

"The incident occurred today at around 6.30am. Cordons are in place at the corner of George IV Bridge and Chambers Street and at Greyfriars Kirkyard.

"Enquiries into the full circumstances of this incident are ongoing.

"Anyone with information is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101."

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## Canonmills Bridge demolition application refused



The council's Development Management Committee considered the [application](#) to demolish the Victorian building at Canonmills Bridge this morning for more than two hours before deciding to refuse it to resounding cheers from the public gallery.

They heard deputations from [Save Canonmills Bridge](#), local ward

councillors, the Cockburn Association and other local groups with an interest along with a representative speaking on behalf of the owner.

The report put before the council recommended demolition of the building. There is planning permission already in place for a development of 2 restaurants, 6 flats and 3 townhouses granted in 2013 when a legal agreement relating to transport requirements was signed.

Councillor Maureen Child commented that the whole sense of place in Canonmills depends on the building on the bridge. Councillor Hinds and the other two local councillors Councillor Barrie and Councillor Gardner pleaded with the committee to refuse the application on the basis that this would lead to the break up of a real 'place' in the capital.

Councillor Ronnie Cairns exhorted the committee to refuse the application. He said: "These shops are beautiful!"

Jan Anderson of Save Canonmills Bridge said: "My involvement started with Ross McEwan and I getting together and putting a leaflet through local residents' doors. We were pushing against an open door. We have around 7,000 signatures for our petition to save the buildings. We have had a lot of people speaking to us on our stall on the bridge. There was a shocking lack of communication in relation to the earlier stages of this process."

She quoted the well known line from that well known Joni Mitchell song "Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got till its gone" and pleaded with the council to save the buildings that are there and which she said now seem to have a successful economic future.

Ms Anderson explained that Canonmills is a busy road junction with four bus routes, and a unique and open skyline. In more recent times the buildings have been used in different ways and at the time of the last planning permission the

building was a bit forlorn. This is not about saving Earthy this is about saving the essence of the area.

The group had gathered ideas and comments from members of the public on luggage labels and these were passed round the councillors attending the meeting. It became clear as the discussions progressed that the mood of the committee was to refuse the demolition order of the Victorian building.

Marion Williams Director of the Cockburn Association told The Edinburgh Reporter: "I am delighted that the committee were unanimous in refusing permission to demolish this building. Demolition would have had a detrimental impact on the urban setting and sense of place Canonmills enjoys. The community made a clear case and the councillors have responded well to their heartfelt representations to save the building."

The committee took the decision after two hours of deliberation and discussion that they would refuse the application to demolish the building. This leaves the planning permission for the new building in place, but it would appear that the developer will be unable to do anything with it if they cannot demolish what is already there.

We are currently awaiting comment from Fouin and Bell on behalf of Glovart Holdings who own the property.

Here is a round up of some comments on Twitter:

[\[View the story "Canonmills Bridge" on Storify\]](#)

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# Edinburgh International Book

# Festival – 25th August



Slightly quicker off the mark with yesterday's authors. Amongst those visiting the photographers yesterday were Edwin Collins, Ian Rankin, Festival Director Nick Barley and ex-MI5 head, Stella Rimington.











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# Pygmy hedgehog abandoned in Newington



The Scottish SPCA is appealing for information after a pygmy hedgehog was found in a box within a cage in Edinburgh.

Scotland's animal welfare charity was alerted on Thursday (20 August) after a member of the public found the animal in the communal garden of South Clerk Street in the Newington area of Edinburgh.

The hedgehog is now in the care of the charity's animal rescue and rehoming centre in Balerno, where staff have named her Nawari.

Animal rescue officer Stephanie Grant said, "Pygmy hedgehogs can legally be kept as pets in the UK.

"These animals are becoming increasingly popular as household pets but some people may not realise the specialist care they need. We think this could be why Nawari has been abandoned."

"Nawari was thin when we found her but she has been eating well since then and we will be looking to rehome her to a new owner that will give her the love and care she deserves.

"We are asking anyone with any information to contact our animal helpline on 03000 999 999."

Abandoning an animal is an offence under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 and anyone found guilty of doing so can expect to be banned from keeping animals for a fixed period or life.

Photo by Scottish SPCA

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# Police investigation following possible assault on George IV Bridge



Parts of George IV Bridge have been cordoned off by police who are investigating a possible assault.

Officers were called to the scene earlier this morning and an enquiry has commenced into the circumstances.

A Police Scotland spokeswoman said: "Police in Edinburgh are investigating following a possible assault on George IV Bridge.

"The incident was reported to police today at around 6.30am. Cordons are in place at the corner of George IV Bridge and Chambers Street and at Greyfriars Kirkyard.

"Enquiries into the full circumstances of this incident are ongoing."