

Hibernian Development Squad

0-5 Celtic Development Squad



A young Hibernian Development Squad were defeated 5-0 by Celtic in the SPFL Development League at Ainslie Park yesterday.

Goals from Lafferty, Miller, Nesbitt, Breslin and Hendry secured the points for the Hoops and to make matters worse, Callum Crane suffered a suspected metatarsal injury.

After the game, Joe McBride, Hibs U20 Development Coach, told the club website: "I didn't make much of their first half performance.

"Celtic have good players, but we made them look even better by standing off them and running alongside them and no physical challenge – I think we made it far too easy for Celtic in the first half.

Had Scott's effort found the net, the game would have gone to 2-1, but McBride felt that the miss did not matter as he feels his side should have been performing better.

"It shouldn't take a goal for the players to apply themselves better. They should be applying themselves from the first whistle and taking on the challenge of playing against the top sides and the top players.

"You want to be the best player in your own team and then the best player on the pitch. If you can say that against the better teams, then it means you're making progress. I was really disappointed in the first half, a little bit better in the second – but the game had gone then."

"We lost two in the game against Falkirk and ended up with

nine men and we ended up with ten men today. But that happens – that's football."

Hibernian Development Squad: Sean Brennan, Aaron Dunsmore (Donaldson, 71), Jordan McGregor, Kevin Waugh, Callum Crane, Ali Smith, Aaron Scott, Ben Stirling, Conner Duthie (Murray, 69), Adam Watson (Breen, 61), Oli Shaw.

Police warning following thefts of Transit vans in West Lothian



Police in West Lothian are urging owners and drivers of Ford Transit vans to take additional measures to secure their vehicles following an increase in thefts.

The latest incidents occurred in Barton Terrace, Fauldhouse in the early hours of 27th August 2015 where a distinctive Sport Edition Ford Transit was stolen. This vehicle is blue with white stripes.

Another white Ford Transit was stolen during the same time period from Gardner Terrace, Stoneyburn.

The suspects are using a keyless method to overcome the security of the vehicle allowing it to be started and driven away.

Officers are advising motorists to ensure their vehicles are locked, to consider using tracker systems and to use steering or gear stick locks.

Officers are also urging anyone with information about these incidents to get in touch.

Detective Sergeant David Black said: "Anyone who has any information as to the whereabouts of any of these vans or indeed who is responsible is asked to contact us in the Community Investigation Unit at Livingston Police Office using the 101 number."

If you have information about a crime you can also contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Dame Sue Bruce appointed Chair of RSN0



Following her retiral from local authority roles earlier this year Dame Sue Bruce DBE has just been appointed Chair of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSN0).

Dame Sue was previously Chief Executive of Aberdeen Council from 2008 and headed up The City of Edinburgh Council from 2011 until earlier this year.

She is also a non-executive director with SSE, Chair of Young Scot and Vice-Chair of SCDI. She is a Burgess of the City of Aberdeen and a member of the Merchant Company of the City of Edinburgh and has recently been appointed a Professor at the University of Strathclyde. Dame Susan is the recipient of many awards, including Chief Executive of the Year in 2013 and UK City Leader of the Year in 2014.

Sue succeeds previous incumbent Dr. Brian Lang, who leaves the

post after serving seven years, during which time the organisation experienced a rise in average audience figures to the highest in a generation, undertook a successful tour of China with its Music Director Peter Oundjian, and conceived and delivered on plans to rehome the Orchestra and choruses to a new, purpose-built rehearsal, recording and office space adjacent to the existing Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

Sue is joined by new board appointment John Heasley, Divisional Managing Director, Weir Power & Industrial, Weir Group plc, who replaces Weir Group plc Chief Executive Keith Cochrane as RSN0 Treasurer. In addition to Cochrane's departure, RSN0 Deputy Chair Stephen Carter OBE also leaves after seven years' service. Finally, Cllr Karen Doran from The City of Edinburgh Council succeeds previous Edinburgh representative Cllr Norma Austin Hart.




New RSN0 Chair Dame Sue Bruce said: "I am delighted to take up the role of chair of RSN0 – this is a particularly exciting time for our national orchestra and I am looking forward to working with our new Chief Executive Krishna Thiagarajan and the whole team at the RSN0's new home adjacent to Glasgow's Royal Concert Hall. I would like to pay tribute to the work of Dr. Brian Lang, the outgoing chair, during whose tenure the new facilities were brought to fruition. The RSN0 has a proud record of excellence whilst at the same time working hard to ensure that the joy of music is widely accessible and I will seek to build upon that strong foundation."

Newly appointed RSN0 Treasurer John Heasley: "It is with great pleasure that I accept the position of RSN0 Treasurer. It is an honour to be invited to contribute to the governance of such an esteemed arts organisation. I look forward to working with Sue and the rest of the team to further develop the RSN0 on the national and international stage."

Departing RSN0 Chair Dr. Brian Lang: “I warmly welcome Sue and John to the RSN0. They bring a wealth of experience and expertise, an impressive network of contacts, and the ambition to seek the new achievements that the RSN0 deserves. I leave the RSN0 having greatly enjoyed my seven years with one of the gems in Scotland’s arts and culture crown. Together with newly-arrived Chief Executive Krishna Thiagarajan, the Orchestra is in the hands of a very capable team.”

In October 2015 the RSN0 begins celebration of its 125th anniversary, coinciding with the organisation’s relocation to a new, purpose-built rehearsal and performance space in the centre of Glasgow. For more information on RSN0 concerts and events, visit www.rsno.org.uk.

New Edinburgh Fringe green award crowns first winner

 The UK’s largest car sharing site Liftshare.com launched a brand-new Fringe award to help foster a community of sustainability and green thinking among performers and audiences at this year’s festival.

As one of the Fringe’s official green travel suppliers, Liftshare learned that festival organisers placed issues such as CO2, air quality and congestion in Edinburgh as top priorities that needed tackling.

With this in mind Liftshare launched its inaugural Festival Fringe Award and quickly saw an influx of entries from eco-conscious performers from all walks of life.

The criteria for submissions was simple, and invited acts to

send the site a video of themselves talking about their green views, steps they were taking to lower their impact on Edinburgh, and of course, to tell a joke or two in the process.

Four weeks and several entries later, Liftshare's panel of top judges has chosen comedian Jon Seagrave (AKA: Jonny Fluffypunk – pictured above) as their 2015 winner. The panel consisted of critically-acclaimed comedian Jonny Awsum, Creative Edinburgh's Janine Matheson, Joe Tree of Scottish Enterprise, Richard Skinner of Responsible Travel and Social Tailor's Colin Gilchrist.

You can watch all entries [here](#) – but the panel felt Jonny's stood out above the pack.

You can watch Jonny's entry [here](#) – in which he discusses the virtues of thinking green, and delivers a great poem about transport options. His show 'Man Up Jonny Fluffypunk' will continue beyond the Fringe and will be performed across the UK throughout the rest of the year.

Upon learning of his win, Jonny said:

"I'm chuffed to have won this award; a timely reminder in Fringe season that there's a beautiful country lying beneath the piles of discarded flyers. We need to keep it beautiful. I've always been an ecologically-minded performer; my props and sets are all recycled, and a good proportion of the jokes are, too.

"Each year I and thousands of other financially-challenged performers make our way to Edinburgh by whatever means we can – bargain coach, train tickets bought a decade in advance, hitch-hiking with a suitcase full of props... all sociable and all environmentally-friendly.

"Liftshare is a perfect, eco-minded addition; you'll make new friends, you'll do a little bit to reduce the carbon footprint

and with a bit of luck, whoever you share a lift with might even come to your show.”

Liftshare hopes to return to Edinburgh with this award again in 2016, following a successful first run. It aims to be bigger, better and more engaging based on this years superb feedback.

Which entry do you like best from the list above?

Submitted by [Dave Cook](#)




Edinburgh International Book Festival: Jim Crumley and Adam Thorpe



‘Symbols of hope in an uncivilised world’

So says **Jim Crumley**, and for the moment he’s not talking about sea eagles or wolves. No, the acclaimed nature writer is talking about us – the audience for the Edinburgh International Book Festival session he is sharing with writer and poet **Adam Thorpe**. Nature writing, Jim says, is ‘the jazz of book festivals – you never know if anyone will come’.

 Well come they have, and for anyone who’s heard Jim speak before, it’s not surprising. To write about nature properly, you need to spend time alone with it; Jim does lots of that, but he’s also able to write and talk about it in ways

that bring it alive for us less hardy souls. Similarly, a book about a Neolithic mound in Wiltshire might not be the first thing you'd think of as exciting, but after you've heard Adam read from ***On Silbury Hill*** you'll be as keen as he is to find out more. Journalist **Susan Maitland**, who's our excellent chair for this hour, asks Adam to start.


The point of Silbury Hill, says Adam, is that it has no  point. In an enthralling reading from his book, he tells us that even though he's known Silbury since he first went to board at **Marlborough** at the age of 13, 'she's not very forthcoming'. There are plenty of things this four thousand year old mystery is not; it's neither a slag heap nor a burial ground (according to **Jim Leary**, archaeologist for **English Heritage**, there's nothing special inside it), though recent work has established that it's definitely a contemporary of **Avebury** (one mile away) and **Stonehenge** (15-20 miles to the north). Indeed, Adam's interest in it was piqued by **Merlin's Mound**, a 'baby Silbury' in Marlborough's grounds – and it turns out that this one too can be dated to 2,300-2,400BC. They were, says Adam, all 'part of the same statement', but what that statement was, and what sacred beliefs this great landscape answered to, no-one knows.



Image (c) Mike Pitts

The how of Silbury is as much a question as the why. It's about thirty metres high, covers five acres of land and must have been built with few tools, although it may be associated with the arrival of copper from Spain. In a time when the average life expectancy was around 35 years, the building of it crossed three generations. Archaeologists infer from this that the society that made it must have been complex. Jim Leary thinks that the construction process was as important as the finished object, that every bit of earth meant something to those people, the building being part of 'a continuous

storytelling ritual'. Although it's now grassed over, Silbury was probably as white as the Taj Mahal when it was first built; was that whiteness part of its essence?

In Adam's book, facts about Silbury and her sisters are interspersed with snippets of life at Marlborough – boiled beef, initiation ceremonies, the smell of drains – and of Adam's own visits to Silbury (which he's climbed but you mustn't) and also to **West Kennet Longbarrow** near Avebury, one of the largest Neolithic chambered tombs in Britain, where, on All Hallows Eve, he encounters Pagans and feels far from welcome. And Adam does have his own theory about why Silbury was built – but you'll have to buy his book to find out what it is.

Theories are part and parcel of Jim Crumley's writing, but above all he believes in getting out into nature. He quotes his own favourite nature writer, **Aldo Leopold**, who says that most books don't mention the wind because they are 'written behind a stove',

'I hope you get the smell of the wind in my books'

✗ ***Nature's Architect*** is Jim's thirtieth book – and he only started writing them when he was 40, 'I should be about 98 by now' (he's actually thirty years younger, which means a prodigious production rate of more than a book per year). His last, ***The Eagle's Way***, was about the re-introduction of sea eagles on the west and east coasts; this one looks at the resurgence of the beaver, a mammal that hasn't lived in the UK for 400 years. Nature writers, he says, need their own patch; they need to become intimate with it. Gradually the patterns and rhythms underpinning that landscape will make themselves known, and anything new will 'make the antennae twitch'. *The Eagle's Way's* inspiration was the arrival of sea eagles in Jim's Tayside 'territory'; when he came across a beaver dam, the first he had ever found, near **Callendar**, another spark was fired.

Beavers are especially important to Jim because they bring together his interests in nature and architecture (they've yet to play jazz...). The architect **Frank Gehry**, one of Jim's heroes, referred to his work as '*liquid architecture*', a term that fits beavers perfectly,

'Beavers build landscapes from scratch and from water that flows and timber that grows in the wrong place. All life is improvised liquid architecture, to which end water must be taught not to flow and timber not to grow, at least not there...' (p2)



Image (c) Yorkshire Rose

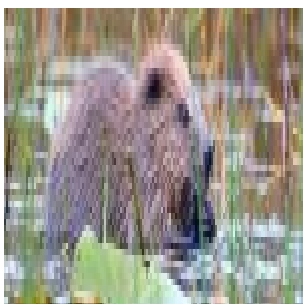


Image (c) Rob Munro

Susan points out that there's a lot of suspicion and negativity about the reintroduction of beavers; do we need to listen to it? Jim does not; he thinks it's unfounded, and stems from our lack of cultural memory of the species. Beavers are vital to the enhancement of our wetlands, which are some

of Scotland's most endangered areas. The official reintroduction trial is already being assessed, just five years after it started; this is ridiculous, he says, when beaver colonies take 45-50 years to re-establish. The same thing happened with **sea eagles**, who were brought in from Norway as chicks and hadn't been taught by adults how to behave. It all takes time.

The **Scottish Natural Heritage** beaver trial was based in Argyll – so how, asks Susan, did Jim come across them in Perthshire? SNH calls this lot 'illegal beavers'; the colony started with a few who are said to have escaped from a private collection and entered the **River Earn**. Was the 'escape' really an accident?

'As with a political party, there's always a provisional wing...'

He's much more interested in this colony because it is essentially free-range. No-one knew these beavers were there at first, so they decided where they wanted to go, which was all over the Tay catchment area – **Angus, Perthshire**, even the **Trossachs**. The SNH trial cost £2 million; every beaver move was logged; with the 'free-range' beavers nature was effectively saying 'Don't do it your way, do it mine'. Jim's friend, the New Hampshire naturalist and artist **David M Carroll**, has said

'Let wildlife manage wildlife'

and it's a view that Jim very much shares. Scotland has plenty of unpopulated land, but we're not great at managing it; if we could just apply Carroll's advice on a national scale, 'conservation would not be a problem' – wolves and beavers could manage the land.

✘ We are, he feels, far too keen to try to control nature when it's inconvenient to us; grouse moors and deer forests are 'grotesque Victorian interferences with nature'. Native

species are being allowed to die out whilst at the same time there is talk of reintroducing the lynx,

‘Common sense is absent from both the conservation and the land management side of the argument’

Asked by an audience member what they think about the – allegedly essential – cull of **badgers**, both Jim and Adam are unequivocal. Bovine TB, says Jim, is a disease of cattle not badgers, and rather than face up to our basic misuse of land, we look for something to blame,



Image: One More Shot Rog

‘It’s a preposterous idea that a badger cull will cure TB’

The one good thing to come from the ‘PR disaster’ of the cull, Jim thinks, is that the Scottish government may now think it’s easier to leave beavers alone. He sees a desperate need for enlightened environment ministers; he’s not optimistic about that in Westminster, but thinks the situation is slightly better in Edinburgh. For Adam, badgers are far less of a problem than pumping cows full of hormones and antibiotics,

‘Badgers have a wisdom about them that we have lost’

‘Rewilding’ is a fashionable word, and one that Jim doesn’t like, though he approves of the sentiment behind it. He prefers to speak of ‘giving back to nature what we have taken away’ and his abiding hope is that we will now see the reintroduction of wolves in Scotland. He believes that if sea eagles, beavers and wolves are returned to the wild (and the wildcat population restored),

‘The face of wild Scotland will transform’.

Adam says that Silbury Hill, which has in the past been damaged by successive excavations (a shaft dug in 1776

actually collapsed in heavy rains in 2002, although the site has now been repaired – and the collapse did give archaeologists the opportunity to carry out a few more investigations), has now been ‘healed’ and is respected as ‘sacred in a secular way’. For Jim, nature herself will not be healed until we stop imposing our – often selfish – ideas on it and instead listen to what it tells us,

‘Animals are the teachers. We need to look and learn.’

On *Silbury Hill* by Adam Thorpe is published by Little Toller Books; *Nature’s Architect* by Jim Crumley is published by Saraband.

Letter from Scotland



Lanark no more

As the Edinburgh Festival comes to an end, I find myself reflecting on the image it has left on modern Scotland. It’s been a popular festival. Ticket sales have been at record levels, the crowds in the streets and at pavement cafes patrons have been enjoying unusually warm, sunny weather. The concerts and shows I’ve been to have been pretty good...with one exception, the Citizens Theatre production of “Lanark.”

This dark story of an artist growing up in post-war Glasgow is just what Scotland doesn’t need. It’s depressing and pointless. I hesitate to disagree with Joyce McMillan, one of Scotland’s leading theatre critics, but I would give this production only one star, not her five. I found it

pretentious, self-absorbed, gratuitously shocking, too long and too clever by half, much like the huge book by Alasdair Gray on which it is based. You would think the Edinburgh International Festival and the Citizens Theatre could find a subject more exciting and relevant in modern Scotland than this James Joyce look-alike of jumbled up thoughts and mad references. At one point, the heroine appears as a crocodile imprisoned in a 1984-style "institute."

Scotland is better than this. To hark back to the bad old days in Glasgow does us all a disservice, particularly when there is no suggested way out. It's putting our self-doubt, our persecution complex and the chip on our shoulder on the stage for all the world to see.

The reality is different. This week we got the results of the annual Scottish Household Survey of over 5,700 Scots. It found that 90 per cent of us are happy with the neighbourhood in which we live. 85 per cent of us feel safe walking home at night. Just over half feel positive about household finances, despite the recession. A third do some form of voluntary work. 80 per cent have access to the internet at home. 60 per cent of us own our own homes. Only a fifth of us now smoke. Half describe ourselves as Christians and almost half believe climate change is an urgent problem we need to do something about. This is a nation whose glass is half full, not half empty.

Of course the opposition parties have seized on the empty end of the glass. They've been pointing out, for instance, that parents' satisfaction with schools has fallen below 80 per cent for the first time for years. And although overall crime is at a 40 year low, more than 10 per cent of households continue to be bothered by drug misusers and rowdy behaviour.

On Thursday, the Chief Constable of Scotland, Sir Stephen House, surprised everyone (or no-one? Ed.) by [announcing that he's to resign](#) in December, nine months before the end of his

contract. And it isn't because of rowdy behaviour. He is the first chief constable of the new Police Scotland, after the merger of the eight regional police forces in 2013, and – to put it mildly – his period in office has been controversial.

There was considerable opposition to the merger in the first place but the new force made a number of early errors. It deployed armed officers on routine patrols without any public announcement. It had an aggressive policy of stop-and-search, especially in Glasgow. It failed to explain the sudden death of a black man arrested in Kirkcaldy last May. And in July, a young couple died after police took three days to respond to reports that their car had skidded off the M9 near Stirling. Too many mistakes in too short a time; the man at the top had to go.

The row between the BBC and the SNP has been rumbling on this week. It began with Alex Salmond accusing the BBC of behaving “like Pravda” during the referendum campaign. The BBC's Nick Robinson hit back by accusing the SNP of organising a Putin-style protest outside the BBC's headquarters in Glasgow which was designed to intimidate its journalists. By the end of the week, Nicola Sturgeon was calling for a “federal” BBC with a separate TV channel for Scotland and a second radio channel.

But in this final Festival week, I don't want to give the impression of a divided and moaning Scotland. There were two heart-warming stories that caught my eye. One was that red squirrels are to be introduced into ten new areas in the west Highlands. It's to be organised by the Highland Foundation for Wildlife and the Trees for Life charity and it follows the pioneering work of the naturalist Roy Dennis who has shown it can be done in woodlands near Dundonnell.

The other story concerns a man I met while I was a cub reporter on the Alloa Advertiser almost 40 years ago. Colonel Frank Saunders was a quiet, old-style army officer, who had survived Dunkirk, fought with the 8th Army in North Africa and

served for over 20 years with the Royal Engineers. In the 1960s and 70s he was a free-thinking Conservative Councillor in the then Central Region. He died 18 months ago at the age of 106 and this week we learned that he left most of his estate, some £750,000, to his old school Glasgow Academy to help towards the cost of building of its new science and technology department. Now that's the kind of Glasgow spirit I would like to see celebrated.

Supermarket staff scale Ben Nevis for charity



The staff at the Moredun branch of Morrisons took on a 'Ben Nevis at Sunrise' Challenge earlier this month to raise funds for Sue Ryder.

The weather was foggy but the team consisting of Gordon Strong, John Crawford, John Venters, Aston Hadden, Jessica Thomson, Imran Zaman, Sarah Rose, Owen Johnstone, Benjamin Tomes and Gwen Hunt all climbed the UK's highest peak to raise money for the supermarket's national charity partner.

Despite the poor weather conditions, they managed to reach the summit and hope to raise over £1,500 towards the Morrisons Raise a Smile partnership, which funds the expansion of Sue Ryder's end of life care services across the UK.

The 'Ben Nevis at Sunrise' challenge was organised following the success of another Ben Nevis climb held in May, which was completed by the store's Community Champion Sandie Bell and Dry Cleaning colleague Christine Hunter. They raised £912 by

taking on the challenge alongside Morrisons colleagues from across England and Wales.

Sue Ryder also held a 'Snowdon at Sunrise' event for Morrisons colleagues last year, which raised over £12,000 towards the Morrisons Raise a Smile partnership with Sue Ryder.

Gordon Strong, one of the managers at the store on Gilmerton Road, said: "We were told to prepare for bad weather and it was a tough climb; but still a great experience. The whole team is really proud of what we achieved and we're delighted to have raised so much towards our national charity partnership with Sue Ryder."

Money raised through the Morrisons Raise a Smile partnership with Sue Ryder is funding new community healthcare services, family support teams and Sue Ryder's Online Community and Support (www.sueryder.org/support), providing the best possible care to people at the end of their lives and support for their families.

For more information or to get involved, call the dedicated partnership hotline on 0800 949 6000 or email morrisons@sueryder.org. Alternatively, show your support today by texting 'SMILE' to 70123 to donate £3, or buy a scratchcard from the kiosk at Morrisons Moredun. You'll be helping people at the end of their lives, and supporting their families.

Work to begin on Mortonhall memorial garden



Work will begin on Monday on the walled memorial garden at Mortonhall required following the babies' ashes scandal which rocked Edinburgh Council when first uncovered.

The matter led to a full-scale enquiry led by Dame Eilish Angiolini into the way babies' ashes were dealt with in Edinburgh and a nationwide inquiry into other crematoria across Scotland.

Parents were asked to choose between [four different designs](#) designed to provide a private and peaceful place for personal contemplation.

The walled garden design emerged as the favourite, and will include beech hedges, birch trees, a stone ball water feature, rocks, a pathway and seating and will be located off the existing memorial walkway within easy reach of the main chapel.

There will also be a sensitively designed plaque recording the names of individual babies who have been affected, where parents have indicated they wish their names included.

Councillor Lesley Hinds, Environment Convener for the City of Edinburgh Council, said: "I'm sure parents will be pleased to see work starting on the walled garden. It will be a fitting memorial and provide a tranquil area for reflection."

The Mortonhall Multi-Agency Working Group worked closely with independent garden landscape designers to develop the initial design options. Affected parents were then consulted through an online survey and a series of consultation events hosted by

SANDS Lothian, SiMBA, and the Council.

The memorial is expected to be completed in November.

In line with parents' wishes an alternative memorial is being progressed in Princes Street Gardens.

Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015 – Mischief Theatre present **Lights! Camera! Improvise!**



The cast of the three night show at The Pleasance have just arrived in Edinburgh in recent days, and The Edinburgh Reporter met with two of them this morning.

Given that their show is not till 10:00pm tonight it was an early start to ask of them!

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

'Best New Comedy' 2015 Olivier Award winners and creators of the West End smash hit, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, Mischief Theatre return to the Edinburgh Festival for their 8th consecutive year with their hugely popular, award-winning improvisation show *Lights! Camera! Improvise!*. The show that earned the company the 'Spirit of the Fringe' Award in 2013, *Lights! Camera! Improvise!* will run at the Pleasance Courtyard

in Edinburgh for strictly 3 performances only: Friday 28, Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 August at 10.50pm.

Ever dreamed of creating your very own Hollywood motion picture? Imagine the possibilities. Awesome action sequences, heart-warming romances, ingenious plot twists and surprises at every turn. You choose the genre, the location and the title and the movie is brought to life before your very eyes while OSCAR, the resident 'film buff' can pause, rewind and fast forward scenes... with hilarious results!

They were then off to flyer and promote their show which is on at the Pleasance Beyond tonight, tomorrow and Sunday.

[Tickets here](#)

Sean Taylor coming to The Royal Oak Wee Folk Club next month



To celebrate the release of The Only Good Addiction Is Love, Sean Taylor will be touring the UK during 2015 which includes an appearance at The Royal Oak Wee Folk Club on Sunday 13 September.

The new album has had an incredible response, airplay on BBC Radio 2 from three programmes, Bob Harris Sunday, The Folk Show with Mark Radcliffe and Paul Jones blues show, it's very rare to get airplay on all three shows. The album has also

received airplay on BBC Radio Scotland, BBC Radio nan Gaidheal, BBC Radio Wales, BBC Radio Foyle and BBC Radio Ulster plus countless regional plays up and down the UK. The album has been featured in the Telegraph as one of the best folk albums of the year and was included on the Guardian playlist. More reviews are due to be published soon.

Sean is soon to start a European tour including shows in the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and France, including opening shows for John Mayall and Eric Bibb.

Sean said: "Being an artist is about making connections. Sometimes the connections are straight forward like writing a love song when you're in love or a song about being heartbroken when she's gone. On my latest album 'The Only Good Addiction Is Love' I have searched for more abstract and demanding references. The album's title is a quote from the former President of Uruguay Jose 'Pepe' Mujica who gave 90% of his salary to charity and refused to live in the presidential palace preferring a farm with his wife and a three legged dog.

"The song 'Rothko' is homage to the abstract expressionist painter Mark Rothko whose ambient works are a hymn to beauty. Similarly the Spanish instrumental track 'Lorca' is a shout out to my favourite poet Federico Garcia Lorca. The first time I read Lorca the whole world illuminated and I wrote twenty songs in a few days. Lorca is referenced again in 'Tienes Mi Alma En Tus Manos' the title of which comes from the Don Winslow novel 'The Power Of The Dog', a deeply violent piece of work but with moments of great humanity.

"'Desolation Angels' is a novel by Jack Kerouac where the Beat writer escapes the wild temptations of the city for life as a fire ranger in the forest giving him serenity to create his piece of art. 'Les Rouges Et Les Noirs' is inspired by a painting by Paul Klee, a multi-talented artist who cut across different movements.


“The album closes with a poem by W B Yeats ‘The White Birds’ turned into an upbeat song and celebration of the white birds on the foam of sea. Poetry and the celebration of language is a huge influence on my songwriting ... I have always believed words are more than words.

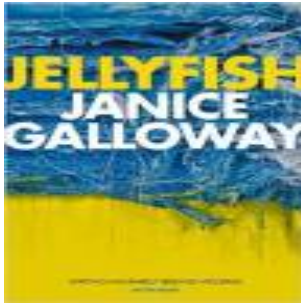
“My previous albums have focused on my hometown London and the hard living existence of a troubadour. ‘The Only Good Addiction Is Love’ is a deliberate step towards the more challenging world of aesthetics. Truth in beauty, beauty in truth ...

‘The Only Good Addiction Is Love’ was recorded in Congress House Studios in Austin with producer Mark Hallman (Carole King, Ani Di Franco) and features double bass legend Danny Thompson who is my regular touring partner.”

Playing Sunday 13 September at The Royal Oak Wee Folk Club.
8.30pm £5 Tel 01315572976

Friday in Edinburgh – What’s On Today

St Mary’s Cathedral Tours: free tours of Scotland’s largest  cathedral, a renowned masterpiece of Victorian Gothic architecture designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott. 2.15pm, [St Mary’s Cathedral](#) (meet inside West Door), Palmerston Place. Free.



Edinburgh Book Fringe: daily events – all of them free (donations appreciated) – for two weeks at **Word Power Books**, Edinburgh's independent radical bookshop. In today's closing session, **Janice Galloway** reads from ***Jellyfish: A Short Book of Short Stories*** and discusses her work. 'Stories that walk with steady, nerve-cracking skill down a nightmare edge. A virtuoso work'. (*New Statesman*). 1pm, [Word Power Books](#), West Nicolson Street. All welcome! No booking required, but arrive promptly as space is limited.

✖ **The Big West Fest: Whale-Pod – an introduction.** A drop-in session for anyone who feels that they could do more with their creative skills; **David Henderson** of **WHALE Arts** will talk about the Whale-Pod, a space in the WHALE Arts Centre for anyone from the community with an interest in arts, crafts and design to come to to think about the possible development of their skills. Local crafter **Margaret Stewart**, who makes and sells her own jewellery and cards, will also be available to chat. 12 noon-1pm, [WHALE Arts](#), 30 Westburn Grove. Tea & biscuits provided! 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 Macular Society: **Sarah Kilbey** will talk about her work ✖

with deafened and hard of hearing people. Sarah, who has had hearing loss since her teens and is now profoundly deaf, is a non-stipendiary priest at St John's Episcopal Church in Edinburgh. She spent 25 years initiating and developing a lipreading service for Lothian Region, for which she was awarded an MBE. 10.30am, Church Hall, [London Road Church](#), corner of London Road and Easter Road. All very welcome; feel free to bring a friend. **The Macular Society** was formed to help those with macular degeneration to understand their situation and find resources of help and support; through the society, people can receive information about research, discover their capabilities and discuss problems and solutions with others who have macular problems. The main Edinburgh branch meets on the last Friday of every month except December, and there are also local support groups meeting regularly in **Morningside**, **Stockbridge** and **Portobello**. For more information contact the group leader on 0131 449 7716 or deputy leader on 0131 667 3598. Further information may also be found on the Macular Society's website [here](#).

✖ **The History of Whisky with Cadenheads: Mark Davidson**, Jolly Toper, whisky tasting host of over 10 years and manager of **Cadenheads Whisky Shop**, Canongate, will explore a short history of whisky production and blending in Edinburgh. You will also be invited to sample five different types of whisky; a blend, a single grain, a malt, a whisky influenced by sherry cask maturation, and finally a peaty dram. For over 18s only. 7pm, [Museum of Edinburgh](#), Huntly House, 142 Canongate. Tickets cost £10 each and must be booked in advance via the [Usher Hall Box Office](#), in person, by calling 0131 228 1155 or online [here](#).




A Venetian Family
Presented to the
Virgin by Saint
Lawrence and a

Bishop Saint,
Tintoretto (Jacopo
Robusti), 1570

In Focus: Jacopo Tintoretto and Workshop, A Bishop Saint, and St Lawrence Interceding with the Virgin and Child on Behalf of a Group of Girls and Boys, 1570s-80s. Deputy Director of the Scottish National Gallery **Tricia Allerston** explores this rarely hung painting, about which little is known; it is possible that the girls in it are orphans, and this suggestion will be explored with reference to the many charitable institutions in Venice in the 16th century. 12.45-1.30pm, Ground Level, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed.

St Mary's Cathedral Coffee Concert: John Bryden plays Dvorak on the Cathedral Steinway. The recital will be followed by coffee and shortbread. 10.30am, [St Mary's Cathedral](#), Palmerston Place. Free.

Royal Edinburgh Hospital Summer Fete. Stalls, games, tombola and much more! 11am-2pm, [Royal Edinburgh Hospital](#), Morningside Terrace.

 **The Greg Proops Film Club:** a new podcast covering old and new movies. Comedian Greg Proops invites listeners to sit down and watch some of his favourite films with him. At these screenings, Greg will record 30 minute live introductions, which will be recorded for the podcast; after the film join him in the foyer, where he will be signing copies of his new publication, ***Smartest Book in the World***. Today's film is ***Young Frankenstein*** (PG) starring **Gene Wilder**, **Marty Feldman** and **Madeline Kahn**. 8.30pm, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Tickets may be obtained from the Box Office in person, by calling 0131 228 6382 or online: prices vary.



St Mary's Cathedral Lunchtime Recital: City of Edinburgh Music School. 1.10pm, [St Mary's Cathedral](#), Palmerston Place. Free.



Guid Crack: A Canuck in Scotland. Canadian storyteller **Michael Williams** shares stories that link Canada and Scotland, gathered during his thirty years of living in his adopted home. Come and celebrate your own stories of home and adopted homes at Edinburgh's monthly storytelling night. Accompanied young adults welcome. 7.30pm, **The Waverley Bar**, St Mary's Street. Entry by suggested donation of £3.

 **Planet Earth Rock and Roll: 'with at least one kaftan'...** 9pm, [The Skylark](#), 241-243 Portobello High Street.

Five things you need to know today!



Leith Walk By-Election

Big Beach Busk

Royal Edinburgh Summer Fete today

Ingliston Revival

Fringe tip of the Day

WE have already met with two of the candidates in next month's by-election for two new councillors in the Leith Walk Ward, and have plans to interview the remainder over the next few days.

Here are the interviews that we have in the bag shown below – if you are a candidate then get in touch with us on 07791 406 498 or by email theedinburghreporter@gmail.com

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

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

The by-election takes place on 10 September 2015 and has been brought about by the resignation of SNP Councillor Deidre Brock who was elected to Westminster earlier this year and of Green Party Councillor Maggie Chapman who is standing in the Scottish Parliamentary election next year.

Back for its sixth year, the Edinburgh Big Beach Busk will take place from 12 noon tomorrow! Edinburgh's Portobello seaside gets mixed up and musical for a day. People of all ages are encouraged to head along and entertain the public on the promenade.

A spokesman for The Edinburgh Big beach Busk said: "No rules. Just Busking. You can be any kind of street entertainer you like from a one man band to an orchestra, a mime/robot, a choir, balloon modeller or magician. We've had brass bands and tenko drummers alongside salsa bands and some amazing singer songwriters."

So basically, anything goes.


No need to book a place or buy tickets, just turn up and have fun!





Ingliston race circuit used to be the main place to watch car racing in and around the city. To mark the fifty years since it was set up there will be a Revival weekend next month.

[Read more here.](#)

 Our Fringe tip today is to go and see Bette Midler... and Me – Gilded Ballon Nightclub : 9:30pm (1hr) : Runs until 31st

‘When I’m on stage – it’s a party,’ quipped Bette Midler. So join in the fun, and catch Sue’s Kelvin’s rollercoaster ride through the Divine Miss M’s fabulous career. Sue covers songs like Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy, The Rose, I’m a Woman and Wind Beneath Your Wings, accompanied by Tony Award-winning Sarah Travis. She explores how Bette inspired her to don seven inch platform shoes, and become a West End diva herself, starring in Wicked and Chicago. Oh, and the show also features an outrageous three minute puppet show version of Beaches. Simply divine!

[Tickets here.](#)

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.

Film Review: We Are Your Friends (Max Joseph, 2015)



In the shadow of the Hollywood hills, a group of four wasters earn a living as failing nightclub promoters – but amongst them lies a musical gem. Cole is an inspiring DJ, reluctantly left to make his money in real estate. When he finds himself sharing a smoke with an EDM (Electronic Dance Music) idol, his life takes a crazy turn, forcing him to balance his new profession and his deadbeat friends.

We Are Your Friends lacks the grimy authenticity that made the year's other electronic music ode, Mia Hansen-Løve's 'Eden' so great. There's a sore lack of understanding in its circumstances. Here we have an exceptionally well groomed Zac Efron as our protagonist, an apparently broke DJ who "totally loves electronic music". He's the kind of guy you would spot in a nightclub and avoid at all costs; a poser of the dancefloor – or the decks, rather.

For a film about someone's rise to the top, we're never truly presented with Cole's progress nor the dingey, penniless lifestyle these musicians all apparently live. Director Max Joseph brings this story to the screen with barely a stroke of authenticity. A real shame, considering the cast does a swell job, particularly Efron who's slowly edging into better roles with this as a silly setback.

We're expected to root for this wolf pack of irresponsible twenty somethings, cruising the San Fernando Valley and peddling drugs at flashy music festivals. They're the kind of characters that work in the hands of people who know how to use them – the real portrayers of youth like Harmony Korine or Céline Sciamma. First time feature screenwriter Meaghan Oppenheimer (no relative of Joshua) tries to dip the film's toes into every type of youth subculture that seems relevant. So much so, that none are explored deeply enough. This is all cinematic surface water – all aesthetic with no shuddering, effective bass.

Compliments do go to Brett Pawlak, the film's Director of Photography who gorgeously puts the parts of Los Angeles in the shadow of the Hollywood Hills into grainy cinematic form. His talent transfers from these rugged grounds to the plasticine, sparkling towers and sculptures of Las Vegas in one of the film's most visually impressive, if scripturally reductive sequences. As Efron and Emily Ratajkowski run through the glittering streets in shades of butter gold and lilac, a damn good remix of Years and Years' Desire by producer Gryffin plays. It's one of the film's most care free and surprisingly coherent moments – a rare piece of genuine pleasure in something wholly staged.

The film's original musical composition (supposed to be crafted by Cole) that we're meant to see as hit-making and revolutionary lacks any sort of genuine EDM substance. Arguments could go back and forth about the 'quality' of Electronic Dance Music in its most mainstream form, but even this feels totally unbelievable. With a saccharine-sweet overarching message that comes in the form of a cringe worthy closing number, we're left to believe that that's what this loud, hyperactive genre is all about: heart. We're. Not. Convinced.



We Are Your Friends opens in UK cinemas August 27th

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.

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 (OOCTU).

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."

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.

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.

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....







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.

Edinburgh Festival Fringe – Origin Festival Events

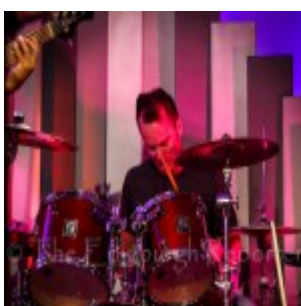


Coincidentally, The Edinburgh Reporter’s JP was invited along to the High Street’s Carrubbers Christian Centre on Wednesday to photograph, amongst others, The Austin Sound Exchange.

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.....





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

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.”

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."

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.

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)

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.


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](#)

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](#)