

Now's the time to be mobile!

The importance of adapting and moving with mobile

by Gareth K Thomas, Reserve Apartments

The use of the web via mobiles, smart phones and tablets is constantly increasing and with that, so is the need for 'mobile friendly' websites and services. In a lot of cases, a mobile friendly site is now viewed as necessity, rather than a demand. Yet, some of the larger ecommerce sites have yet to get to grips with the concept.

✖ Huffington Post notes that 2015 will see a shift to a "mobile-first" mentality, whereby being "mobile-friendly" is no longer enough. Ecommerce businesses must think about how to make content and distribute across various platforms, bearing in mind that the majority of followers are likely to be accessing web pages via mobile. Optimising the functionality of links, landing pages, transaction pages and data input etc. are paramount to mobile marketing success.

Smart Insights confirms that 2015 shall see the number of million global users in mobile confidently surpass fixed internet access. So what does this mean for mobile marketing and business? From marketing to operations and sales to logistics, CRM and customer service – so many opportunities arise from adapting a business to mobile. Interestingly, it is projected that half of global hotel bookings will be made via mobile by 2017, hence the need for businesses to move with this demand. After all, customer interaction begins with search and analysis, leading to the booking process; it's imperative that these elements are succinct.

✖

In addition to the uptake in the use of mobile technology, the movement toward a 24/7 connectivity culture in technology in

general spells out an even more prosperous future for business and mobile marketing. It's widely accepted that Scotland's capital city is at the forefront of Wi-Fi technology, having been credited as one of the top cities in the world for technology¹. Edinburgh looks forward with its plans to implement free Wi-Fi for everyone in the city centre by this summer, with over a thousand hotspots included in the overall plan. A free Wi-Fi system is already available on the city's trams and buses.

Edinburgh-based [Reserve Apartments](#) is actively adapting its business to these latest trends and technological advances, with the development of new booking screens to synchronise with its mobile site. Following on from a complete rebuild of their website in a responsive format Reserve Apartments saw mobile/tablet traffic increase by 55% within the space of a year. However, the holiday apartment specialist found that the associated rise in bookings were not instantly apparent, seemingly due to the lead-time from a potential guest carrying out research, to then booking. As the bookings gradually increased, it was clear to see that mobile was vital at a very early stage within the booking process, research and inspiration.

Following on from this, [Reserve Apartments](#) recently launched new booking screens that are wholly responsive. It's becoming clear that, as tablets replace PCs and as mobile phones become more powerful, people utilise these devices for more than just research. Statistics show that a growing number of users are finding inspiration, researching, interacting, and making bookings, all via mobile devices. Hence, the irreversible shift in the mobile market is one well worth moving with and investing in. Interestingly, there may not be as many companies on board with this as we think...well-known SEO and Search Engine Land editor, Barry Schwartz recently said "I bet it is more like 80% of the web pages on the internet are not mobile friendly."

Surely, it's time more businesses woke up

Armed robber jailed for seven years at High Court



A man who carried out three armed robberies at bookmakers in Edinburgh last year has been given a sentence of seven years at the High Court in Edinburgh today.

Sean Orman, who is 24 years old, pled guilty to assault and robbery at the three bookmakers in September and October last year in which he stole three figures sums of cash.

On 24 September he robbed the branch of William Hill on Bernard Street, on 29 September he robbed Ladbrokes on Longstone Road and on 6 October he robbed William Hill on Balgreen Road.

Orman was arrested and charged after a witness recognised the description of a car he made his getaway in.

DCI Stuart Houston said: "We welcome the sentencing of Sean Orman who targeted three bookmakers in the city, stole quantities of cash from each one and caused great distress to those working in the premises at the time. This sends a clear message that we will not tolerate this behaviour in our communities, and perpetrators will be brought before the courts."

Seven arrested over thirty housebreaking offences in Edinburgh



Police have arrested and charged seven people for over 30 offences related to housebreakings.

On February 25 an 18-year-old man was arrested in connection with 11 housebreakings to businesses and a vehicle theft in Edinburgh. He appeared at Edinburgh Sheriff Court on Thursday, February 26.

A 15-year-old youth from Edinburgh was charged with over 10 offences following the recovery of a Ford Ka, stolen on January 29, which contained various items linked to recent housebreakings. A report has been submitted to the Children's Panel.

On February 12, SART and the Domestic Violence Reduction Unit (DVRU) officers executed two search warrants in the Moredun area of Edinburgh where they recovered a large quantity of stolen bicycles, some of which were taken from housebreakings.

A 39-year-old woman and three men aged 52, 35 and 28 were arrested and charged in connection with seven offences and £5500 worth of stolen property was recovered. All bikes were identified and returned to their rightful owners.

A 16-year-old man from Edinburgh was found to be in possession

of a stolen vehicle at 9pm on February 24. The vehicle was searched and various electronic items stolen through housebreakings were recovered, and the vehicle seized. On February 25, an address was searched in connection with these thefts and further stolen items were recovered.

The male was arrested and charged and appeared at Edinburgh Sheriff Court on Thursday, February 26.

Chief Inspector Stevie Dolan said: "Through comprehensive and dedicated investigations we have managed to recover thousands of pounds worth of property and report various prolific offenders to the procurator fiscal.

"Enquiries are ongoing and we have more work to do, but this is testament to Police Scotland's dedication to pursuing offenders of housebreakings and ensuring that they are brought before the courts."

Further to this, Sergeant Philipa Campbell ran a Domestic Security event for members of the public at Davidson Mains Church on Wednesday, February 24. Over 100 members of the local community attended and gave extremely positive feedback regarding the learning and reassurance provided by officers and council representatives. They also provided vital input into policing in their community.

The next meeting will be held at Drum Brae Hub on 18 March, 6pm – 7:30pm.

If you have any information about these crimes, please contact Police Scotland on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Edinburgh University students win global coding competition



Two students from Edinburgh University have triumphed at this year's CodeVita, one of the world's largest coding competitions with more than 49,000 university teams participating.

The competition is run by global technology firm Tata Consultancy Services, with \$10,000 awarded to the winners, along with a paid internship opportunity with the company.

The six-hour final, which took in Mumbai in India, included 15 teams from across the world solve coding problems and algorithms in a highly gamified environment which tested the competitors' technical knowledge, their ability to execute and implement computer code in a structured setting as well as their speed, agility and creativity.

Marijonas Petrauskas and Karolis Greblikas from University of Edinburgh were the ultimate winners, taking first place ahead of rival teams from India and Peru.

The team comprising Marijonas Petrauskas and Karolis Greblikas from University of Edinburgh, UK bagged CodeVita's 1st prize of \$10,000. The team from IIT Hyderabad – Vinay Guthal and Pushkar Singh walked away with the 2nd prize of \$7,000, while Jonathan Anthony and Luis Alberto from Universidad Nacional from Peru bagged the third prize of \$3,000.



Exhibition at the Queen's Gallery – Gold



The beauty and symbolism of gold, from the Early Bronze Age to the 20th century, is celebrated in an exhibition opening at The Queen's Gallery, Palace of Holyroodhouse on 27 March.

Through over 60 items drawn from across the entire breadth of the Royal Collection, *Gold* explores the distinctive qualities that make this rare and precious metal an enduring expression of the highest status, both earthly and divine.

Over millennia and across diverse cultures, gold has been used to represent and reflect royal wealth and power. Among the most striking examples in the exhibition are the Rillaton gold cup, from a Bronze Age burial around 1700 – 1500 BC, a gold crown from Ecuador that pre-dates the Inca invasion, and a tiger's head in gold and rock crystal from the throne of Tipu Sultan (1785–93), ruler of Mysore in India.



Many of the sacred and ceremonial items associated with the coronations of British monarchs incorporate gold. The exhibition includes a design from 1760 by Sir William Chambers and Giovanni Battista Cipriani for the Gold State Coach, then the most expensive coach ever made. It has been used at every coronation since that of George IV in 1821. The text of John Whittaker's illustrated account of the *Ceremonial of the Coronation of King George IV in the Abbey of St. Peter's Westminster*, 1823, is printed entirely in gold. Only six copies of the book were ever produced, one for each of the crowned heads of Europe, and the project bankrupted the

author. The painting *Queen Victoria Receiving the Sacrament at her Coronation, 28 June 1838* by Charles Robert Leslie shows the Queen dressed in the shimmering Dalmatic Robe standing in a pool of golden sunlight.

Highly malleable and versatile, gold has been used to decorate every possible surface, from paper and silk to wood and leather. The exhibition shows gold incorporated into lacquer on a pair of 18th-century Japanese bowls and applied over carved gesso on a table by James Moore, who created furniture for Queen Anne and George I. Gold leaf and gold paint are used to decorate scenes on a Chinese-inspired fan which belonged to Queen Adelaide, consort of William IV. The fan's guards are made of solid gold, studded with amethysts and rubies, and bear Queen Adelaide's cipher.

The Padshahnama is the finest Islamic manuscript in the Royal Collection. Written on paper flecked with gold, the manuscript chronicles the first ten years of the reign of Shah-Jahan, the fifth Mughal emperor and builder of the Taj Mahal (reigned 1628–58). It includes beautiful miniature paintings by some of the finest artists working at the Mughal court in the mid-17th century and an elaborately decorated frontispiece, which features a golden *shamsa* (sunburst or image of the sun). The *shamsa* was said to be a divine light 'which God directly transfers to kings, without the assistance of men'.

Among other highlights of the exhibition are Simon van de Passe's engraved gold portrait medallion of Elizabeth I, two landscapes by the 17th-century artist Pier Francesco Cittadini drawn in pen and ink on paper covered in gold leaf, and William Nicholson's still life, *Gold Jug*, 1937 – a study of the play of light on metallic surfaces.



Letter from Scotland



I may be a
fat cat but
I've not
done
anything
wrong.

So, the fat cats are outed again. The politicians and bankers – among them some Scots, to our shame – have this week proved themselves to be as gloriously out of touch as the participants at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party. Sir Malcom Rifkind, until this week a much respected former cabinet minister, thought himself “entitled” to more than his MP's salary of £67,000 a year and was caught on camera apparently offering his services as a lobbyist to a fictitious Chinese company.

It was cheeky sting by the Daily Telegraph and Channel 4. It also snared another former foreign secretary Labour's Jack Straw, so it wasn't particularly biased against the Tories or the Scots. But it showed us that “sleaze” still flows quite freely through the drains at Westminster, despite the MPs expenses scandal five years ago. They just don't get it, do they?

Not to be outdone, The Royal Bank of Scotland announced this week that it is to pay out bonuses to its staff worth £421m, despite the fact that the bank turned in a loss of £3.5bn in 2014. The bonuses were dismissed as a “distraction” from the overall improvement in the bank's performance (the loss in 2013 was £9bn) by Ross McEwan, the New Zealand farmer brought

in to turn the bank around. He himself has waved his bonus of £1m – but don't worry on his behalf, his basic salary is £2.7m a year !

Just what makes men like Sir Malcolm and Jack Straw and Mr McEwan – indeed all honourable MPs and senior bankers – lose touch with reality when they enter the Bermuda Triangle of Westminster, the City of London and the leafy suburbs of Knightsbridge and Islington ? Some people say it's power that corrupts, but it's more likely to be money. £67,000 a year is a world away from the average man's £26,000.

It leads MPs to the quaint belief that to keep in touch with the outside world they must take on highly-paid directorships or lobbying jobs or demand lecture fees of £5,000 a day. It never occurs to them that they might see more accurately how the lower classes live if they were to spend a day volunteering at a food bank, or working as a plumber's mate, or a care assistant.

It makes you wonder how people living in the rarefied atmosphere of Westminster and the City can make sensible decisions on large and real issues like business investment, "austerity", welfare cuts, NHS reforms, Trident, wars in far-away places. Perhaps we ordinary folk should help them out on May 7th.

Here in Scotland our own political class have been presented with difficult issues of their own this week. NHS "bed-blocking" has continued to make news. The cost of returning Prestwick Airport to private ownership, after its rescue by the government, has doubled to over £40m. And there are fears that the Longannet power station – which produces a quarter of Scotland's electricity – will have to close next year because of high transmission charges by the national grid.

Meanwhile the renewables industry is celebrating the award of 11 contracts by the Department of Energy for wind farms in

Scotland to produce electricity for the national grid. They include projects in the Highlands, Morayshire and Dumfries and Galloway and the huge 75-turbine wind farm Neart na Gaoithe (strength of the wind) off the Firth of Forth.

Happily someone else is thinking about other long-term solutions to our energy crisis. Professor Martin Tangney of Napier University says part of the answer lies in Scotch whisky ! His research centre has produced a fuel called "biobutanol" from the waste products of the distilling industry. Apparently 90 per cent of the raw materials used to make whisky are thrown away but a spin-off company from Napier, called Celtic Renewables, has revised a 100-year old recipe to produce oil from biological material.

Another Celtic made our spirits soar last week when they held Inter-Milan to a 3-3 draw at home in Glasgow. This week however, at the return match in the San Siro stadium in Milan, they were beaten 1-nil. But they held out valiantly till the second last minute, despite having a man sent off in the first half.

I was heartened see a picture of the Dandie Dinmonts visiting Sir Walter Scott's house in the Borders this week. There are only 300 of them left in the world, we were told. I happen to know about these wee dogs because I live in Dinmont Drive on the Walter Scott estate in Edinburgh where every street is named after a place or character in Scott's novels. Dandie Dinmont is a large and worthy farmer in "Guy Mannering" who breeds terriers, calling them all either "Pepper" or "Mustard". "They're fell chieles at the vermin," he boasts. And I'll bet they could catch a fat cat or two !

Friday in Edinburgh – What's On Today



One Red Pebble: Mary Frith



Wading In: Marion McFarlane



Midnight, Traprain Law:
Karen Rogers



Lemon Jig: Janet McCrorie

Riccio Gallery: a new exhibitions of paintings and glass by artists **Karen Rogers, Janet McCrorie, Mary Frith** and **Marion McFarlane**. Preview tonight 7-9pm, then 10am-4pm Monday to Saturday until 1st April 2015, [Riccio Gallery](#), 17 South Street, Dalkeith.



Wester Hailes Employment Fair: advice, information and support about jobs, training and learning opportunities in South West Edinburgh, and help with your CV, applications, interview technique, and skills development. 10.30am-1.30pm, [Wester Hailes Library](#), 1 Westside Plaza.



Edinburgh Studio Opera: *The Magic Flute*. Mozart's ever popular magical tale, set in Persia is 'a vibrant and colourful re-imagining of a classic'. The two-act opera follows **Prince Tamino** and bird catcher **Papageno** as they attempt to rescue the

beautiful **Princess Pamina**; along the way Tamino and Papageno have many adventures, and discover that not all is what it seems 'A light-hearted but profound examination of man's search for love and his struggle to attain wisdom and virtue'. 7.30pm tonight and at the same time on Saturday, [Lauriston Hall](#), 28 Lauriston Street, Tollcross. Tickets cost £10/£6 and can be obtained via We Got Tickets [here](#). For further information and ticketing enquiries, please contact esoproducer@gmail.com or call 07946 149968. Edinburgh Studio Opera was founded as Edinburgh University Opera Club in 1968. For some time it has been very successfully run by students, with professional directors and musical directors whenever possible: this production is directed by **Lloyd Llewellyn Jones**, Senior Lecturer in Ancient History at the University of Edinburgh, with musical direction by renowned conductor and cellist **William Conway** (Chamber Orchestra of Scotland) 'an artistic director with an eye for intelligent programming and...a flair for the unpredictable' (Financial Times), assisted by **Peter Keenan**.

Boroughmuir High School PTA Race Night: prizes for the winning owners! 7pm for 7.30pm, **St Oswald's Hall**, Montpelier Park. £5, which includes first £1 bet and a welcoming drink. Own a horse for £5. Tickets and more information from The School Office on 0131 229 9703, or Christinablack76@gmail.com.



Crafty Fridays: an activity for children every week at 3pm, [McDonald Road Library](#), 2 McDonald Road, Leith. All welcome!



The Cyrenians Good Food Programme Fundraiser: a packed night of live music featuring **Poor Things**, **Battery Face**, **Hagana**, **Black International**, **FUKIP**, **BRITNEY**, **Plastic Animals** and **Trapped Mice**, with proceeds going to the Cyrenians Good Food Programme, a social enterprise with a mission to bring good

food and healthy lifestyles to people who are experiencing disadvantage, isolation, poverty and homelessness – through food redistribution, food education and cooking classes, and traineeships towards employment. 7pm-3am, [Henry's Cellar Bar](#), Morrison Street. £6.



Image courtesy of Andrew Coyle

Lunchtime Concert: Michael Bawtree (organ) plays JS Bach, Nielsen, Buxtehude, Vogler, Judith Bingham, George Berg and Louis Merchand. 1.10pm, [Reid Concert Hall](#), Bristo Square. Free and open to all.



Children's Arts and Crafts Afternoon: 2pm [Blackhall Library](#), 56 Hillhouse Road. For ages 4+. All welcome but please book by calling into the library or phoning them on 0131 529 5595. Free.



Portobello Poetry Circus Presents The Circus Slam: a competition where poets pit their performance, content and style against each other in the presence of three secretly-placed judges. sixteen performers take the stage for 2 minutes each, six get through to the second round and only three reach the final. The winner receives a bottle of Prosecco from the Dalriada and a place in the **Scottish National Slam Championship**. 8pm (doors open 7.30pm), [Dalriada](#), 77 Promenade, Portobello. Tickets cost £3 each. The Portobello Poetry Circus is a self-funded spoken-word organisation started by **Max Scratchmann** and **Emily Elver**; it aims to present poetry performances, competitions and workshops outside the city centre.



Alexander McCall Smith: Friendship, Places and People. An event hosted by the St Giles' Neighbourhood Group, in aid of the homeless. There will be a book signing after the talk. 7.30pm, [St Giles' Cathedral](#), High Street. Admission is free, no ticket is required, but donations are invited for Cunningham House, a Crossreach short-stay, supported hostel for homeless people in the heart of Edinburgh.



Lunchtime Music Hour: The History of Jazz Piano, with the wonderfully charismatic **Richard Michael**. Food and drinks are available to buy, and lunch may be taken into the venue. 12.30pm, Zero Degrees, Students Union, [Heriot-Watt University](#), EH14 4AS. Free.



Common Weal Edinburgh North & Leith: Common Gathering. An opportunity for all activists to come together to share ideas and plans with wine and music! 7pm for 7.30pm, [Area C Coffee House](#), 239 Leith Walk. All welcome.



Play Talk Read! The Play Talk Read bus is coming to Royston/Wardieburn Community Centre today! For pre-school children and their parents/carers. Hop on board to read stories, sing songs, play games and have fun. It's free! 10am-1pm and 2-4pm, [Royston/Wardieburn Community Centre](#), Pilton Drive



Frequent Flyers: Electro Swing Funk/Soul DJ Set. 9pm, [Boda Bar](#), 229 Leith Walk.



One Touch Theatre: *Love 2.0*. Gary is a catch – on Facebook at least; he's virtually a virtual dream man – smart, funny, profound, a certified Lad. He even likes all the same things as Susie..but when the pair try to move their whirlwind virtual romance into the real world, things don't go quite according to plan. *Love 2.0* is an outrageous new comedy about dating in the age of social media, where Facebook profiles are brought vividly to life on stage, and nothing is quite what it seems. Written and directed by **Andy McGregor**. For ages 16+. 7.30pm, Netherbow Theatre, [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#), 43-45 High Street. Tickets cost £10/£8 and may be booked online [here](#) or by calling the Centre on 0131 556 9579. Also at the same time on Saturday 28th February.



Landscape with a Huntsman and Dead Game ('Allegory of the Sense of Smell') by Jan Weenix. Ailsa Turner, art historian, explores the virtuoso character of Weenix's allegorical work, which demonstrates his prowess in all branches of 17th century Dutch painting. 12.45-1.15pm, Gallery, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed.



Swing and Sway with the Swingettes: this award-winning a *capella* quartet have performed in the Usher Hall, the Queen's Hall and the Netherbow Theatre, and at the Edinburgh Jazz Festival with Todd Gordon and James Torme. Sit back and relax as they showcase their unique close harmony singing and swinging rhythms, and present an evening of timeless classics and contemporary songs. 7.30-9pm, [Penicuik Community Arts](#), West Street Arts Centre, 4 West Street, Penicuik. Tickets cost £8 (£6 for Penicuik Community Arts Association members) and can be bought online [here](#).



Guid Crack: The Many Faces of Jack. From silly Jack to trickster Jack, storyteller **Heather Yule** shares tales from the Scottish traveller campfire and the Appalachian mountain hollers. This is Edinburgh's monthly storytelling night, upstairs at the Waverley. 7.30-10pm, **Waverley Bar**, 1 St Mary's Street. Free: a donation of £3 per person is suggested. Accompanied young adults welcome. For more information contact the [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#).



Les B0F! 'The one and only French sixties band from Scotland'. Edinburgh-based Les B0F! play a raw garage style with an entertaining French touch. For over-18s only. 7.30pm, The Ballroom, [The Voodoo Rooms](#), 19a West Register Street. Ticket price TBC.



Dalriata: single launch party for the acoustic duo (**Ricardo Pereira** and **Tegan Blaikie**) from Edinburgh, with special guests **The Woods**, **Freddie Pretorius** and **Katya Mansell**. For over-18s only. 7pm, The Speakeasy, [The Voodoo Rooms](#), 19a West Register Street. Tickets cost £5 and are available from Dalriata; advance purchase is strongly advised.



Gallery Social – The Two Roberts: Robert Colqhoun and Robert MacBryde. A relaxed and informal guided tour with refreshments for anyone affected by dementia and their friends, relatives and supporters. 10.30am-12 noon, [Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art TWO](#), Belford Road. To book a place please call the Information Desk on 0131 624 6560.



Marcus Bonfanti: 'As if Jimmy Page had been reborn as Seasick Steve. Utterly spellbinding' (*The Times*). 7-10pm, [Sneaky Pete's](#), Cowgate. Strictly for over-18s: no refunds will be given for tickets bought for under-18s. Tickets cost £8/£7 and can be booked online [here](#) (transaction fee applies).



Neu! Reekie! Frozen Lovers: Glaswegian band **Hector Bizerk**, poet **Helen Mort**, musician **Eyes of Others (John Bryden)**, poet **Paul Hullah** and artist/musician **Martin Metcalfe: Scenes**, plus a series of curated animations including a live showcase, with Scottish snacks available from chef Owen Morrice. Hosted by Leith Late's own **Morvern Cunningham**. 7-11pm, [Pilrig Church Hall](#), Pilrig Street. Tickets cost £8.50/£7 (+ transaction fee) and can be purchased via Brown Paper Tickets [here](#).



Electrikal: Dillinja and Chimp. Arguably the most prolific producer within the Drum and Bass scene, Dillinja set about building the legendary **Valve Sound System** with friend and collaborator **Lemon D** in 2000. Bass music legend Chimp's style defies genre boundaries; both his DJ sets and productions see him fuse grime, drum n bass, dubstep, trap, garage, dancehall and hip hop to create a unique sound that never fails to destroy dancefloors. Electrikal return to The Bongo Cub for their second night in 2015. 11am-3pm, [The Bongo Club](#), 66 Cowgate. £10 in advance, £12 on the door. The Bongo Club is a nightclub, live venue and all-round artistic hub owned by local arts charity **Out of the Blue**, 'putting the sounds of the underground and imaginative aspirations before the mighty dollar'.

Five things you need to know today



Slow Food

What's on this weekend

Tron Kirk

Careers Open Day at Edinburgh College

Community Garden

We might be the latest converts in the Slow Food Movement. We attended an event hosted by the Gastronomy course at Queen Margaret University on Wednesday night and it was very thought provoking. [Read more here.](#)

If you are interested in this way of eating good clean fair food then you can meet the President of the global moveement, Carlo Petrini, on Saturday morning at Edinburgh Farmers' Markt on Castle Terrace between 9 -10.30am. He will be visiting the Slow Food Market Stall there to speak to producers and members of the public.

We know you like to be in the know so what better way than to read the What's on listing for this week [here](#). Scroll down to Friday and you will be in the know for today until Sunday.

Next week's listing will be published on Sunday evening in our [What's on section here.](#)





If you have been missing Kevin Buckle from Avalanche Records then you should know that he has popped up again!

He has joined the lovely new indoor market at Tron Kirk on the High Street curated by Pete Jackson of Earthy Foods. Kevin told us he is very excited about it and looking forward to seeing you all!

Edinburgh College is throwing open its doors next week and inviting anyone interested in careers in the creative industries to find out how they can get on course to success.

The college's Centre for Creative Industries is hosting three open days to introduce prospective students to its range of courses across three of its campuses, including art and design, computing, broadcast media, photography, music and sound production, and the performing arts.

There will be opportunities to speak to lecturers and students, experience the cutting-edge facilities at each campus, and get hands-on with interactive activities.

The Creative Industries Open Days will take place from 3-6pm at Sighthill Campus on Tuesday 3 March, at Milton Road Campus on Wednesday 4 March, and at Granton Campus on 5 March.

[More information here](#)

The Clovenstone Community Garden is holding an open day tomorrow and if you fancy growing your own vegetables then get along and find out more. The Community Garden is just in front

of the Community Centre.



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North Edinburgh residents concerned about new street lights



Residents in North Edinburgh have been expressing concern about the new street lights that are currently being installed across the area.

Some locals are worried that the new lights are too dull and will result in an increase in crime.

Local councillor Lesley Hinds has asked for “an appraisal” to be carried out on the new lights.

You can read the full article [here](#).

Slow Food movement racing across the globe



I went along to the Slow Food Event organised by Queen Margaret University knowing very little really about what it stands for and what it means. I had some idea that it was local food served locally in season.

The global grassroots campaign works to give everyone in the world the opportunity of taking pleasure in food that is good for them, good for the planet and good for the people who produce it.

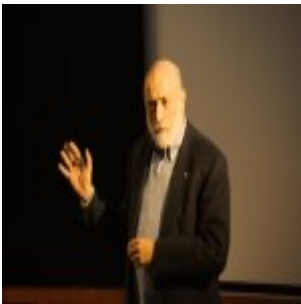
But I could not have had a better introduction to it than to listen to the President of the Slow Food Movement formed in December 1989, Italian Carlos Petrini.

Petrini is a bit of an evangelist but it is easy to be swept up in these kind of ideas if you have any thought for your health, what you eat and if you can perhaps be encouraged to understand how cavalier the world has become with the food it produces.

Carlo Petrini had been invited to speak by Queen Margaret University's MSc Gastronomy team at the Hawthornden Lecture Theatre at the National Gallery of Scotland and the evening began with a welcome from Petra Wend the principal of the university. She explained that the course is very timely but also the university was founded as the Edinburgh school of cookery in 1875, and its ethos was about improving the health of working classes by improving the food they ate.

The course they run is the only masters programme in the UK based around studies of food culture and food systems. (It sounds great principally because they get to go on field

trips!)



The audience assembled in the Scottish Café owned and run by Victor and Carina Contini who prepared the tasty canapés served before the lecture.

Mike Small of the Fife Diet and Denise Walton of Peelham Farm

also spoke about their own take on the importance of Slow Food.

Small talked about the good, the bad and the ugly in food production in Scotland. He said: "We have gone from joking about deep fried Mars bars to boasting about Timbervyard. We have access to great fresh produce. We have a distinct anti-GM policy and there are great signs of positivity in Scotland."

He stated that on the bad side 17m hectares of agricultural land is owned by 0.25% of the UK population, and that in Scotland we have the most unequal land ownership model in Europe. Small told us that half of the UK's privately held land is held by 432 owners while only 16 people hold 10% of the land in Scotland.

Small explained that we have problems with both childhood obesity and food banks in 2015. There is now a staggering half a million people in the UK who regularly depend on food banks.

You might recall that one of the recent food scandals involved horsemeat but according to Small it resulted in very few prosecutions. Tesco was involved in the scandal but he told the audience that the supermarket chain is now involved in food education in schools which Small thinks is most troubling.

Denise Walton said that in the last two years their customers are coming to buy because 'their food is hurting them'. For them food has become a battleground, and they suffer from allergies to ingredients such as gluten. She claimed that in their shop what she witnesses is that people now look for food without preservatives which will cause them any further harm. What she urged is that Scotland must become a good food nation and that our food journey must start off with breast-feeding.

Petrini explained that in 2015 people spend more on losing weight than to eat and the other side of the coin is that we

throw away 40% of the food we produce. In 2050 there will be 9 billion people in the world, but our food production system is based on waste and only looks at profit margins. He suggests that the world is in a terrible crisis and cannot continue in this way.

While we need food to live, Petrini is adamant that we appear to expend far more energy producing the food than it gives us, and he insisted that there must be a paradigm shift. He asserted that our resources are finite and every corner of the world is losing degrees of fertility after using chemicals and pesticides for 150 years. There will soon be no water left for example and as most of our water is used for agricultural it is wasted.

We are losing genetic species in fruit vegetable and livestock. Losing this biodiversity is what troubles the Italian most. In his native country the so-called "Milk Mountains" were used to rear cows for milk for centuries. These cows produced beautiful milk used to make great local cheese called Provolone del monaco, but it is no longer possible to make this cheese owing to the industrialisation of the dairy industry. Each native cow produced only 12 litres of milk per day but the price paid is now so low that the farmers needed to produce more milk. The native cows were replaced by Friesians which produced 40 litres of milk per day, but the milk is no good for making cheese so the cows and the cheese have both disappeared.

This was the most graphic demonstration of the dangers of ignoring local produce and a good reason for at least knowing more about the Slow Food Movement.

Slow Food in Edinburgh began in 2001 and on the second Monday of every month they hold a relaxed informal dinner at an Edinburgh restaurant featuring a local producer or guest speaker. On 9 March 2015 the Big Table will be held at Café St Honoré and will feature Sascha Grierson from Hugh Grierson

Organic Farm Newmiln explaining the organic philosophy behind their business. Learn more on their [website](#) or on Café St Honoré's website.

The UK movement runs educational programmes promoting forgotten foods and working with top British chefs to help everyone find a better way to eat.

Carlo Petrini's outstanding contributions in the field of the environment and sustainable development have also been recognized by the United Nations Environment Programme, which named him Co-Winner of the 2013 Champion of the Earth Award for "Inspiration and Action".

His skills as a communicator and the originality and importance of his message, implemented through Slow Food projects around the world, have aroused the interest of international opinion leaders and media. In 2004 he was named a 'European Hero' by Time magazine, and in January 2008 he was the only Italian to appear in the list of '50 People Who Could Save the World' drawn up by the prestigious British newspaper The Guardian.

Hibs' Ladies ready for new season



Hibernian Ladies concluded their pre season preparations ahead of Sunday's opening game against Hamilton with a 0-0 draw against Sunderland from the FA Women's Super League.

After the game, Manager Chris Roberts told the club website : "We knew Sunderland would be a tough game and so it turned out. They had a few full internationalists in their side whilst we were missing a few of our girls, however it was still a pleasing run-out. Sunderland probably had one really good opportunity whilst we had quite a few half chances. We could've won it but a draw was probably the fairest outcome."

Sunday's game was the girls' fourth of the close season following a closed door match with Heart of Midlothian, a 5-0 victory over Spartans and a narrow 1-0 defeat against Aberdeen.

Roberts moved to secured the signatures of former Celtic quartet Heather Richards, Chloe Arthur, Emma Brownlie and Abilgail Harrison to bolster his squad at the turn of the year and he admits they have all settled in very well.

He continued: "The [new] girls have all settled in great which I think is down to them knowing so many of our squad from the national set-up.

"We are as much of a good fit for them as they are for us and to be honest they don't really feel like new signings as they have slotted in so well."

"We have a few injuries to contend with and the Hamilton match may be too soon for those girls.

"That said, we have a decent sized squad this season and excellent competition for places so I have complete faith that no matter who plays we can get the job done.

"Our targets for this season are simple; we want to improve on last term and challenge for every competition we enter."

Hibs match against Hamilton at Albyn Park, Broxburn on Sunday gets underway at 2pm so come along and cheer on the girls. Admission prices are Adults £5 and Concessions £2.

Renewed appeal to trace missing teenager



Police are still appealing for information to help trace a 15-year-old boy reported missing from the Gracemount area.

Thomas Wilson was last seen on Friday, February 13, at around 6pm, walking towards Cameron Toll.

The teenager has links to the Drylaw area of Edinburgh and may have made his way towards there. He also has links to the Niddrie/Craigmillar area.

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

Thomas is described as white, 5ft 6inches tall with a medium build and short dark brown hair. He was last seen wearing a grey hooded top with a blue logo, grey tracksuit trousers, a white t-shirt and a silver watch.

Inspector Euan Smith said: "We are still concerned for Thomas's welfare and urge anyone who thinks they may have seen him to contact us."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Police Scotland as soon as possible on 101

Edinburgh man admits explosives offences



A man has admitted possessing explosive substances after a significant number of items were found in two properties in Edinburgh last year.

Faris Al-Khori, aged 62 has today, Thursday 26 February 2015, pleaded guilty under the Explosive Substances Act 1883, Section 4, following the recovery of material from two flats in Fidra Court and Persevere Court in April 2014.

The items were discovered following a fire in a communal area of Fidra Court flats on Friday 18 April 2014. Both flat complexes were evacuated whilst suspect items were recovered by army explosives experts.

Detective Superintendent David Gordon, who led the investigation said: "This was a significant and complex inquiry for Police Scotland, working with our partners from the outset to safely deal with the volatile items that were being stored, and to seek to establish Al-Khori's motives for keeping them. Extensive inquiries both nationally and internationally were carried out, which did not identify any link to terrorism or extremism. We are satisfied there is no immediate threat to the community.

"Counter terrorism is one of Police Scotland's highest priorities, and whilst Al-Khori has no such known links we will always treat all information received with the utmost importance where any risk to the public is identified. Members of the public can call 101 or the anti terrorist hotline on

0800 789 321.

"We welcome the conviction at the High Court today and await sentencing."

Dylan McGeouch looks forward to Alloa game



Dylan McGeouch believes that the Hibs' squad are far stronger and more confident than they were when they lost to Alloa Athletic at Recreation Park earlier in the season.

The on-loan midfielder who joined the club from Celtic has been in sparkling form alongside his long time pal Scott Allan who also lives in Glasgow. The pair travel together and have known each other from the international scene. Their form has been one of the highlights of the season and supporters are hoping that McGeouch will move to Easter Road should Celtic fail to extend his contract.

The Parkhead club recently signed two midfielders from Dundee United which could mean that McGeouch has dropped even further down the pecking order and could therefore be available in the summer.

His form is likely to attract the attention of other clubs, but he is clearly enjoying his time in Edinburgh and working under Alan Stubbs.

McGeouch told Hibernian TV ahead of this weekend's fixture: "I think Alloa is a difficult place to go with the astroturf and everything, but as every game goes by we are

getting stronger as a group.

“The manager has added a few new players to the squad too and everyone is pushing each other for places.

“I had a wee set-back through injury, so to be able to get back into the team and get a run of games has been great.

“We’ve had a few positive results and decent wins, so hopefully we can keep that run going until the end of the season and I can play a part in it.”

Swan rescued from tree in East Lothian



A swan is recovering following a dramatic rescue involving the Scottish SPCA and the fire service in East Lothian.

Scotland’s animal welfare charity was alerted on Wednesday (25 February) after a member of the public spotted the bird trapped in branches in Haddington.

The swan is now receiving treatment at the Royal Dick Veterinary School in Edinburgh.



Animal Rescue Officer Fiona Thorburn said, “The swan was about 16ft up the tree and clearly in distress. It’s possible he had been up there overnight as it wasn’t until early on Wednesday morning he was discovered.

“The firefighters were able to get the bird to safety using a rope pulley system and I examined him. Thankfully, he had no obvious injuries other than being quite weak.

“It’s likely the swan was looking for somewhere to land and was blown off course due to the severe winds.

“We would like to express our sincere thanks to the fire and rescue service who were absolutely brilliant throughout the operation.

“It’s very unlikely the swan would have been able to free himself had we not been able to help him.

“Hopefully we’ll soon be able to release him back into the wild where he belongs.

“This is the second time this week firefighters have helped us to save a swan after another one became trapped on Monday. Luckily both swans are recovering well from their ordeals.”

Anyone who discovers an injured or distressed wild animal should call the Scottish SPCA Animal Helpline on 03000 999 999.

Photos by David Morgan

Warning after deer mauled by dogs in Blackford area



The Scottish SPCA is appealing for information after two dogs mauled a deer in Edinburgh.

Scotland's animal welfare charity was alerted on Tuesday after a member of the public witnessed two dogs attacking the animal in a field near Blackford Glen Road.

Animal Rescue Officer Fiona Thorburn said, "When I arrived the deer was in a terrible state, the bite marks were awful and you could see the muscle had been ripped off her back legs. Sadly, the deer was in severe pain and wouldn't have recovered so the most humane thing to do was to put her to sleep.

"Passers-by described the dogs as two Jack Russell types who were off their leads.

"It is extremely worrying that these two dogs were able to carry out this attack. It could be that they were being walked by their owner who lost control of them.

"Unfortunately we have been unable to trace the owner but we are hopeful someone in the area may have information.

"We always advise dog walkers to take extra care when they are in areas with wildlife. In this instance, an animal has lost its life because these dogs were not under their owner's control."

Anyone with information relating to the attack should contact the Scottish SPCA Animal Helpline on 03000 999 999

Photo by Scottish SPCA

Two men arrested after drugs

valued at £45k seized in capital



Two men have been arrested and charged after police in Edinburgh recovered a large quantity of drugs and cash during a day of enforcement in the Capital.

Officers from the Organised Crime Counter Terrorism Unit carried out searches at addresses in the city yesterday as part of an intelligence-led operation.

During a search of a home in Bavelaw Road £16,000 of cash was seized along with evidence of drug packaging.

Further activity was undertaken at a commercial property in Home Street where 28 mature cannabis plants and around 3kg of herbal matter were found inside.

The recovered drugs have a potential street value of £45,000.

The men, aged 31 and 33 have been charged with drugs and serious and organised crime offences and are scheduled to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court today (Thursday).

Detective Inspector Paul Grainger said: "Once again, vital intelligence from our communities has resulted in large quantities of drugs and cash being seized.

"Drugs and the proceeds of criminal activity can cause untold harm to our communities and Police Scotland is committed to tackling serious organised crime and associated offences.

"We will continue to act on information from the public to bring those responsible to justice.

"Anyone who wishes to report drug crime or any other illegal

activity can do so by contacting 101 or making an anonymous call to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.”

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) appoints new head of Service Delivery for the East of Scotland.



The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) has appointed John Miller as head of Service Delivery for the East of Scotland.

As the new Deputy Assistant Chief Officer he will oversee the Local Senior Officers (LSO's) who work with individual Local Authorities and community partners to maintain dedicated local fire and rescue services across the area.

He began his Fire Service career in 1992 and said: “I’m delighted to have been given this opportunity and I look forward to working with colleagues in the East, including our fire board members, to help shape and deliver the best possible service to the communities in the East of Scotland.

“We work alongside various partners to ensure the best deployment of local frontline services and we have a commitment to build on the positive outcomes that have already been delivered through the antecedent fire and rescue services. In particular we will continue to focus on our prevention activities whilst ensuring an operational response where required.

“My role is to promote consistency and make sure we continue to deliver the excellent fire and rescue services that the public expect and deserve.”

DACO Miller, who was the former LSO for North Lanarkshire, lives in Motherwell and has served 22 years in the service. He has had a number of national roles during his career including Road Safety with the Chief Fire Officer's Association in Scotland (CFOAS) and a four year period in Fire Investigation where he helped draft the National Occupational Standards. He was also the secretary of the Business Engagement Forum where he worked closely with key partners to help develop a national business plan.

He added: “I've been taken out my comfort zone and I'm looking forward to the challenges that come with this new role. I'm very fortunate in that I'm surrounded by a range of expertise across the east which I'm sure will be a great benefit to me.

“I'll be out and about meeting staff and finding out what's important to them during what is a huge period of change.”

His passion lies within Community Safety and with that he would like to remind everyone of the SFRS FREE home fire safety visits.

“Our visits are designed to be a straightforward process for householders, the visits are easy to arrange and will be conducted at a time suitable for the individual.

“They only take around half an hour to complete and see local crews assess risks before providing advice to householders and families. The crews also fit smoke alarms where needed.

“Encourage those around you to get a free home fire safety visit. Call the SFRS freephone number 0800 0731 999 or text 'FIRE' to 80800. You can find out more by visiting www.firescotland.gov.uk or by contacting your local fire station.”

Rugby – Finn Russell's Ban Upheld

The appeal of Scotland stand-off Finn Russell was heard today at London Heathrow before an independent Six Nations Appeal Committee, chaired by Christopher Quinlan QC (England), together with Jean-Noel Couraud (France) and Mike Rafter (England).



How it should
have been
done.

The Scotland outside half appealed against the finding by an independent Six Nations Disciplinary Committee that he had committed an act of foul play under law 10.4(i) of World Rugby's laws of the game in the RBS 6 Nations match between Scotland and Wales on 15 February 2015 and consequently given a two-week suspension. The Appeal Committee, having considered submissions on behalf of the player and on behalf of the Six Nations Disciplinary Officer, dismissed the appeal with the result that the original sanction of a two-week suspension stands, with Finn Russell able to return to play on 2 March 2015.

Law 10.4(i): Tackling the jumper in the air. A player must not tackle nor tap, push or pull the foot or feet of an opponent jumping for the ball in a lineout or in open play.

Five things you need to know today



Bridge 8 Hub

At the National Museum of Scotland

Dragon Boat Challenge

Drumbrae Employment Fair

Upcycling this Saturday



Our chums at Bridge 8 Hub have had good news this week:

“We have been granted planning consent from Edinburgh Council to build Edinburgh’s First Canal Based Outdoor Activity Hub!”

[Bridge 8 Hub](#) is run by Sean Barry out at Wester Hailes where he offers courses in everything from canoeing to archery right by the Union Canal.



This week marks the last chance to see *Indian Encounters* at the National Museum of Scotland.

The exhibition, which finishes this Sunday (1 March) showcases a newly commissioned painting, *Casualty of War: A Portrait of Maharaja Duleep Singh*, by renowned contemporary British artists The Singh Twins. Alongside the commission, beautifully

crafted 19th century jewellery and intricate Indian miniature style paintings from the 18th century, which once represented the wealth and status of their owners Maharaja Duleep Singh and Captain Archibald Swinton, are displayed.

Indian Encounters explores British-Indian relations through the lives of these two men who had very different experiences of British rule in India.

The Scot, Archibald Swinton, served in the East India Company's army at the beginning of its military expansion. During his time in Bengal, Swinton collected traditional Indian miniature paintings, a selection of which is on display in the exhibition.

Duleep Singh became the first resident Sikh in Britain after he, at the young age of 10, had to surrender the Sikh Punjab and all his treasures to the East India Company. During his exile in Britain, he was a favourite of Queen Victoria who often invited him to Buckingham Palace when he was a young man and later became the godmother to several of his children. For a time he lived in Scotland where he became affectionately known as the Black Prince of Perthshire. The exhibition displays treasures and jewellery once worn by him.

Duleep Singh's jewellery and personal belongings have been reinterpreted by The Singh Twins in *Casualty of War*, a painting commissioned by National Museums Scotland, with financial support from British Council Scotland.

The Dragon Boat Regatta organised by Leith Rotary, Ocean Terminal, Barnardos, and the Retail Trust, has become one of the most exciting and colourful events in the calendar.

The call now goes out to teams to enter and gather sponsorship money for the event.

The Regatta will be held on 7 June 2015 at Ocean Terminal and organisers are hoping that this year's response will exceed our spectacular record of 28 teams who helped to raise over £50,000 for local and national charities.

Cron MacKay, from Leith Rotary said,

'This is a huge event for Leith, one of the most fun ways of raising money that we can think of. It's always been popular with the participants and with the hundreds of spectators and supporters who crowd the harbour to cheer on their team.

'We're also delighted to be bringing together the partners in the event – Ocean Terminal, the Retail Trust and Barnardos. We are very grateful for their support and enthusiasm for the Regatta.

'We know that the community won't let us down and that more teams than ever will take to the water in June. We know that the spectators will have as much fun as the participants. And we also know that dozens of good causes all across the country will benefit from the huge spirit of generosity that surrounds this event.'

Michelle McLeod Deputy Centre Manager at Ocean Terminal added,

'The Dragonboat Regatta is one of our biggest days of the year at Ocean Terminal. We're delighted to be working with our partners on this huge fund-raising spectacle. Race-Day creates an excitement that you have to experience. Whether you are out on the water or enjoying the onshore entertainments it's a fabulous day out for everyone. We hope that this year even more teams will want to be part of the action. Time to get paddling!'

Application forms are available at www.leithdragonboats.com



[Drumbrae Library Hub](#) will host an employment fair on **Tuesday 3rd March** aimed at those looking for work, wanting to improve their skill set or seeking advice on volunteering opportunities. Put it in your diary now!

South West Neighbourhood are organising a free event this Saturday:

Come to our free event on Saturday 7 March in Gorgie Dalry Parish Church, 12.30pm to 4.30 pm where you can donate unwanted items, such as clothes, books and small household objects, and swap them for free from other people's donations. (We won't be able to accept electrical items, broken items or mattresses). Or come along to one of the workshops to pick up some new skills and tips:

- Computer repair workshop – an expert technician from Remade in Edinburgh will be on hand to diagnose and fix problems with laptops, tablets or phones. Bring along your laptop for a health check. From 12.30pm to 4.30 pm.*

- Sewing workshop – an expert crafter from Remade in Edinburgh will demonstrate sewing machine basics – how to thread, adjust the stitch size, sample simple stitches, and give you the opportunity to try it out. From 12.30pm to 4.30 pm.*

- Furniture upcycling demonstration – an expert from Upcycled World will show you how to use various techniques to give furniture a new lease of life. From 1.30 pm to 3.30pm.*

The event will be at Gorgie Dalry Parish Church, 190 -192 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh, EH11 2NX on Saturday 7 March from 12.30pm to 4.30 pm.

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.

Thursday in Edinburgh – What's On Today



Ecumenical Friends at St John's: Fiona Bennett speaks on **The Story of Augustine United Church**. 1-2.30pm, [St John's Church](#), Princes Street (please note change of venue and time for this week). £1.50 per person: bring your own packed lunch, tea and coffee provided. These events are organised by Edinburgh City Centre Churches TOGETHER.



Wester Hailes Wildlife Walk: a two-hour fully guided flat walk, with binoculars provided and tea and coffee afterwards. Meet at 10.30am at [Wester Hailes Library](#), 1 Westside Plaza.



Big Scream Club: for parents and carers with a baby under 12 months. Membership costs £5, lasts until the baby's first birthday and allows you to buy tickets for these screenings at Picturehouse Member's prices (babies admitted free). Only customers with babies will be admitted. Today: ***The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*** (PG). 10am, [Cameo](#), Home Street.



iWomen Scotland: a group supporting ethnic minority women with sight loss. Come along, meet the group, find out more about how you can get involved, and share your ideas with the members over lunch. 1pm, **RNIB Scotland, 12-14 Hillside Crescent**. For more information please contact enquiries@iwomenscotland.org or call 0131 474 6179. The group's website can be found [here](#).



Edinburgh College of Art Thursday Research Seminar Series – Please Touch: Artists in the Archive. Chaired by **Kirstie Meehan**, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, and followed by drinks served in the Common Room of Minto House. 5-5.15pm, Lecture Room 1, [Minto House](#), 20-22 Chambers Street. Free and open to all.



Guilty As Sin: 'foot-tapping tunes'. 9pm, [The Old Chain Pier](#), Trinity Crescent.

Mayfield Salisbury Thursday Club: **Donald Miller** will talk about **Pre-Columbian Cities**. 2pm, [Mayfield Salisbury Church Hall](#), West Mayfield. Everyone very welcome; please contact Florence Smith on 0131 663 1234 for more information.



Blast Radius: Edinburgh-based author **RL McKinney** launches her debut novel, which follows Sean McNicol as he leaves the Marines in Afghanistan to return home, bringing the ghost of his best friend Mitch and memories of their traumatic experiences. 'McKinney sensitively handles mental health issues, and the struggle for identity for those who have endured conflict'. 6.30pm, [Looking Glass Books](#), 36 Simpson Loan. Free but booking is required via [eventbrite](#) – or drop

into the shop, email hello@lookingglassbooks.com or phone them on 0131 229 2902.



Moon Hop: performances from some of the UK's most exciting musicians, plus sets from the Moon Hop DJs and their genre-defying record collection...expect Screammers, Bangers and Cosmic Synths. This month featuring **Lomond Campbell, River of Slime, Hamish Hawk and Jo Foster**. 8pm-1am, [Henry's Cellar Bar](#), Morrison Street. £3.



North Edinburgh Arts: Teen Scream – your local youth magazine. If you are aged 10-18 years and you'd like to learn more about **graffiti, art, creative writing, digital layout, photography and interviewing skills**, come along to these weekly sessions, which start TODAY! 3.15-4.45pm, [Muirhouse Library](#), 15a Pennywell Road. Snack provided too! For more information call 0131 529 5528.



LGBT History Month Celebration Event hosted by **Edinburgh & Lothian Regional Equality Council, LGBT Youth Scotland and Leith Academy** in collaboration with **Lothian LGBT Development Group**. Featuring keynote speakers, multicultural performances, dances and live music, this family-friendly evening will also be an opportunity to hear how improved equalities can support pupils and students to achieve. Light refreshments will be served. 5.30-8pm, [Leith Academy](#), 20 Academy Park. All welcome: free, but please book online [here](#). Read The Edinburgh Reporter's round-up of LGBT History Month [here](#).



Scotland-Russia Forum: *Nothing is True and Everything is Possible*. Author, documentary producer and Edinburgh graduate

Peter Pomerantsev, who worked for nine years in Moscow, has written extensively about how Putin's Russia has reinvented propaganda – and what the West should do about it. He is currently a senior fellow at the **Legatum Institute**, London. Peter's book, *Nothing is True and Everything is Possible*, was released in the USA in November 2014 and will be published this month in the UK; it has just been **Radio 4's Book of the Week**. The New York Times described it as 'dazzling and sparkling' while **PJ O'Rourke** called it 'the strangest book of note I have ever read...a calm and incisive report on the current state of affairs in Russia. Yet it reads like a comedy of manners, a dark and grotesque comedy of manners....' Peter will discuss his book and the activities and role of the Russian media – inside and outside Russia – with **Martin Dewhirst** former lecturer in Russian and now Honorary Research Fellow, at the University of Glasgow. There will be light refreshments and an opportunity to purchase the book after the talk. 7pm, Seminar Room 1/2, [Chrystal Macmillan Building](#), University of Edinburgh, George Square. Free but donations to the Scotland-Russia Forum's funds much appreciated.



Kirkliston Community Centre Ukelele Group! A new group for adults, starting tonight. Please contact the Centre for more details. 8-9pm, [Kirkliston Community Centre](#), 16-18 Queensferry Road.



Play Talk Read! The Play Talk Read bus is coming to Ratho Library today! For pre-school children and their parents/carers. Hop on board to read stories, sing songs, play games and have fun. It's free! 10am-1pm and 2-4pm, [Ratho Library](#), School Wynd.



Writers Return: The British Council presents four celebrated authors with suitcases full of travelling experiences, who will reflect on how travel can inspire and inform new writing. Novelist and playwright **Alan Bissett**, novelist **Anne Donovan** and poets **William Letford** and **Ryan Van Winkle** will tell stories about their excursions, from Iraq to Pakistan; they will read poems and fiction, and explore the unexpected narratives they uncovered along the way. The British Council Writers Return series is a programme that sees writers recently back from overseas share new work inspired by their trips abroad, talk about where they are going, where they have been, and how this informs their writing. For ages 16+. 6.30-7.30pm, Main Hall, [Summerhall](#), 1 Summerhall. Free tickets can be booked via eventbrite [here](#).



Quiz Night: a mix of music, film and general knowledge – from science to celebrities ‘a proper pub quiz with lots of smiles and laughs!’ Maximum of 6 per team. 8pm tonight and every Thursday, [The Skylark](#), 241/243 Portobello High Street. Free entry with prizes! Food is served until 9pm.



Babar Luck: ‘one of the most refreshing and unique performers around today’ – from rock to reggae, ska and sci-fi folk, plus support from **Small Feet**, **Little Toes** and **Grant McNeil**. 7pm, [Forest Cafe](#), Lauriston Place. Free: BYOB (corkage applies).

East Coast FM brings 60's

music legends to Haddington



Community radio station East Coast FM has teamed up with 60's legends The Animals and The Troggs as part of fund raising efforts to support the local broadcasting service.

The bands will appear live at the Corn Exchange in Haddington on Saturday 4 April 2015 and will play with members of their original line up in a night that promises to bring back fond memories and create many more.

The Animals were the second British band to top the American charts after The Beatles with the now multi-million selling and legendary anthem, 'House of the Rising Sun'. The band subsequently achieved over twenty global Top Ten hit records, many of which gained the Number One slot in various parts of the world. In Britain alone, the band had no less than twelve chart entries. The Animals were the first British band to tour Poland and Japan.

The Troggs also had a number of hits in the United Kingdom and the United States including the U.S. chart-topper "Wild Thing", "With a Girl Like You" and "Love Is All Around", all of which sold over 1 million copies.] "Wild Thing" is ranked #257 on the Rolling Stone magazine's list of The 500 Greatest Songs of All Time.



Ian Robertson, Station Manager at ECFM said, "We are incredibly excited to have these two legendary bands coming to Haddington for one night only. There are people coming from all parts of Scotland for this, gigs like this don't come along very often."

This celebration of music from the 60s and beyond takes place

over the Easter bank holiday weekend. Listeners of East Coast FM and supporters of the station are being encouraged to buy tickets earlier for the event before they sell out.

Tickets are £20 and available from Ticket Scotland, ECFM and Mike's Bikes in Haddington.

Dnipro kids charity worker Ira Polyashova seriously ill with pancreatic cancer



When Hibs visited Dnipropetrovsk in European competition in 2005, many fans took the time and trouble to visit a local children's sanatorium, and were so moved by what they saw that a group of supporters determined that Hibs' fans would do all they could to help and began to fund raise.

For 10 years supporters have run the Dnipro Kids Appeal, led by Stevie Carr, raising tens of thousands of pounds to support children in Dnipro. Their efforts provide equipment, toys, and much needed and morale boosting trips for the children. Stevie, as the charity's Chairman, and the others continue to be magnificent ambassadors for the club, however their work would not have been possible without the efforts of the people "on the ground."

Ira Polyashova has worked with the charity since the very start, and has been key to its many successes, but this week everyone connected to the charity were devastated to hear that Ira herself is now extremely ill.

Stevie said: "Last month I was informed by Ira that she has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. The outlook is not very good and the doctors have suggested that she may only have a few months left. This is especially difficult to take for us involved with Dnipro Kids as Ira has been a part of Dnipro Kids since our very first visit in 2005, where she acted as translator during the handing over of gifts to the children at the TB Sanatorium.

"Since that day she has been an integral part of the charity, and the organiser for so many events and tasks in Dnipropetrovsk. She has been a tower of strength for us, and often had to stand up to the red-tape and bureaucracy to ensure nothing got in the way of organising trips and events for the kids.

It has been down to Ira that many sponsored kids have had so many enjoyable excursions and birthday trips over the years. Ira has been at the heart of the planning and organisation of the many trips and birthday events that have been organised, right down to the shopping required to ensure that each child received the exact birthday gift that they wanted.

The Dnipro Kids committee are fully committed to supporting Ira during such a difficult time, and will assist her in whatever way we can."

The committee has established a justgiving page after receiving messages asking how Ira can be supported through this enormously difficult time in a country where medical help falls far short of the support that we enjoy in the UK, and where huge stress is being placed on hospitals and medical facilities by the country's ongoing troubles.

Anyone wishing to help should visit.

www.justgiving.com/dnipro-ira

First Minister pledges increasing funding for childcare

The First Minister the Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon has promised that there will be twice as much spent on free nursery places, early learning and childcare over the term of the next Parliament.

In a wide-ranging education speech at the David Hume Institute in Edinburgh, Ms Sturgeon laid out the Scottish Government's ambition to see every child have the educational opportunities that she benefitted from.



During her address, the First Minister set out the contribution education makes to tackling inequality and growing the economy, focusing on the importance of all children, no matter their background, having the best opportunities through early learning and childcare, strong school education and wider access to higher education.

In a move she described as “one of the best investments any government can possibly make”, she confirmed that free early learning and childcare provision would rise to 30 hours per week, matching the time children spend each week in primary school, by the end of the next Parliament.

Committing to funding this expansion, she pledged that by 2019/20 annual revenue spend on early learning and childcare will have increased from an anticipated £439 million this year to around £880 million.

The First Minister said:

“Today I want to highlight some of the areas where we can and must do better. In particular, I want to focus on how inequality in attainment – starting in the very early years, and persisting into adulthood – is weakening our society, holding back our economy, and constraining the life chances of too many of our fellow citizens.

“Early Learning and childcare promotes opportunity twice over. It enables parents to enter the workforce now and provide a better standard of living for their children, and it helps all children to make the most of their potential later in life. It’s one of the best investments any government can possibly make.

“In my view, it is central to any enlightened view of what modern Scotland should look like and that is why it is such a driving priority of my government. That’s why I can confirm today my intention that spending on early learning and care will double over the course of the next parliament.

“That’s in addition to the extra capital spending we will provide. The great capital investment project of this parliament is the Queensferry Crossing. If I am re-elected as First Minister next year, I intend that the great infrastructure project of the next parliament will be perhaps less visible, but arguably even more transformational.

“It will be the investment in care and learning facilities needed to ensure our early years provision matches our primary school provision. These facilities will create a bridge to a better future for children and families across the country.”

Addressing the need to widen access to university Ms Sturgeon said:

“When I became First Minister, I set out the clear ambition that a child born today in one of our most deprived

communities should, by the time he or she leaves school, have the same chance of going to university as a child born in one of our least deprived communities.

“And let me stress that – the same chance. Not just a better chance than they have today. But the same chance as anyone else. In other words, where you are born and brought up and your parents’ circumstances will not be the driver of how likely you are to go to university.

“But to ensure we’re doing everything we can, as early as we can, we are establishing a Commission on Widening Access. The Commission will propose milestones, measure progress, and identify improvements. It will be central to ensuring that our ambition of equal access within a generation becomes a reality.

“It is part of a far broader approach to post-school learning. After all, the key test we need to apply is not whether learning takes place in college, at work or in university. It’s whether the learning is relevant, engaging and widens people’s opportunities.

“So since 2007 we’ve focused colleges on promoting skills which help people to work, and which support economic growth. The number of students gaining recognised qualifications has increased by a third in the last 5 years.”

The First Minister concluded:

“So from supporting mothers in the early stages of pregnancy, to helping people gain their first experience of work, this government is committed to promoting opportunities and reducing inequalities. That’s not something that Government, schools, colleges and universities can do on our own – although our role is hugely important. It’s got to be part of a shared endeavour.

“I want Scotland to be a land of opportunity – a country where

every individual, regardless of background or race or gender, gets the chance to fulfil his or her potential. Can that be achieved? Yes, I believe it can and education is the key.

“The removal of obstructions to education, and the opening up of new opportunities, has been the focus of many of the major initiatives of my first 100 days. It is a subject which will receive sustained attention for as long as my government holds office. Because education is not just part of our sense of ourselves, it’s the key to a better future for young people growing up in Scotland today. And it is at the heart of the fairer, more prosperous Scotland, that all of us seek to build.”

Two plead guilty to attempted murder in West Pilton



Gary Reid (19) (pictured) and James Hogg (24) have today both pleaded guilty at the High Court in Glasgow to the attempted murder of Jie Yu, who was attacked in West Pilton Park on the evening of Wednesday, October 1, 2014.

Hogg pleaded guilty to attempted murder, while Reid pleaded guilty to attempted murder with racial aggravation.

Reid was arrested and charged the next day, while Hogg was arrested in the west of Scotland the following week.

Mr Yu was treated at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and St John’s Hospital for ten days. He continues to recover at home.

In the days following the attack, Police Scotland listened to

the concerns of local residents and launched, with our partners in Edinburgh City Council, Stronger North, an initiative tackling anti-social behaviour in the North Edinburgh area.

Detective Inspector David Pinkney said: “This was a brutal attack on a well liked and regarded member of the West Pilton community.

“Officers worked quickly in order to bring Reid and Hogg to justice for their crimes. Now that Gary Reid and James Hogg have pleaded guilty, I hope Jie and his family can move on from this ordeal.”

Community Inspector David Happs said: “This was an incident that shocked residents in the West Pilton community and led to the launching of Stronger North.

“This is an ongoing initiative, which has seen positive changes in the local area. While there is still work to do, we are committed to working with our partners to create and maintain a better community for the people of North Edinburgh.”

Police warning about fraudulent workmen after incident in Clermiston



Police are advising people to be vigilant after fraudulent workmen targeted an elderly resident in the Clermiston area of the city.

On the morning of Monday, February 23, three men attended a 79-year-old woman's address and offered to carry out, what they claimed to be, essential roof maintenance.

The victim later handed over a four-figure sum of cash before the suspects requested more money and went with her to the bank. Thanks to the vigilance of staff there, the suspects were unable to obtain any more money.

The first suspect is described as white, late twenties, 5ft 2inches tall, with a slim build and an Edinburgh accent. He had dark hair, which was swept to the side, and was clean-shaven. He was wearing a black or navy blue jacket with a collar and a tie.

The second suspect is described as white, in his thirties, 5ft 8inches to 6ft tall, with a heavy build. He had long side burns, fairish hair and blue/grey eyes. He was wearing navy dungarees, work boots, a navy parka, black beanie hat and was a smoker.

The third male is described as white, late thirties, and 5ft 6inches tall. He was unshaven with a thin face, was missing teeth from the sides, and had salt and pepper coloured hair. He was wearing a navy boiler suit and was also a smoker.

Officers are now urging the public to be wary of individuals who approach a property claiming that work needs to be done, and to never allow cold callers into your home.

If you are unsure of the intentions or identity of a caller and feel uncomfortable, intimidated or suspicious, please call Police Scotland on 101.

Detective Inspector Stuart Harkness said: "This was a despicable crime which targeted a vulnerable member of our community

"We have been working with the local banking industry to raise

awareness of this type of crime and it has, on at least three recent occasions, prevented monies from being withdrawn by elderly customers targeted by fraud.

“Given that there have been a number of similar incidents in the city, I am appealing to anyone with elderly neighbours or relatives to be especially observant in relation to potential bogus callers.”

If you have been the victim of fraudulent workman, or have further information about this incident or these suspects, please contact Police Scotland on 101, or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Further appeal to trace missing Raymond Paterson



Police are keen to trace an Edinburgh man who has not been seen since the weekend.

Raymond Paterson (63) was last seen on Saturday (February 21) at around 2.30pm in Glasgow Queen Street train station. He got off the Edinburgh train and walked towards the Dundas Street exit. He was also seen beforehand on Lothian Buses number 23.

Officers are continuing to carry out extensive enquiries and are appealing to the public for assistance in a bid to trace the man safe and well.

Raymond has strong links to the West Highlands and may have travelled by train to the to the Bridge of Orchy/Glencoe area using the West Coast rail line. Police are also keep an open

mind to the possibility that he may be in the Glasgow area and asking city residents for assistance.

He is described as white, 5ft 8inches tall, slim to medium build with blue eyes, short grey hair and has a Glaswegian accent.

He was last seen wearing dark green khaki hip-length jacket and dark green combat-style khaki trousers. He was also wearing a black baseball-style hat and a long black scarf. He also uses a brown wooden walking stick.

Anyone who can assist officers with their efforts to trace Raymond is asked to contact police immediately.

Inspector Graeme Nisbet said: "Police are continuing with their enquiries in a bid to trace Raymond safe and well.

"I would ask anyone who has seen him to contact police on 101 or alternatively the charity, Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

Government invests £14.3 m in Wave Energy Scotland



Scotland's first wave energy technology development body Wave Energy Scotland will receive a total of £14.3 million over the next thirteen months, Energy Minister Fergus Ewing announced today.

'Wave Energy Scotland' awarded its first contract to a group of 12 former Pelamis employees, led by former Chief Executive of Pelamis Wave Power Richard Yemm, to capture the knowledge

of the Pelamis technology development path for the wider benefit of the wave energy sector. [Pelamis went into administration](#) in November last year and earlier this month the debts owed by the company were announced at £15m including The City of Edinburgh Council.

Speaking ahead of the RenewableUK conference in Edinburgh Mr Ewing said:

“I am very pleased to offer a significant budget of over £14 million to kick start Wave Energy Scotland. This is the biggest technology development programme the wave sector has ever seen.

“We have adopted a completely new approach to funding the sector. It is one that will foster collaborative research and development and will encourage technology developers to work with large engineering companies, academics and each other to address shared challenges. As Professor Stephen Salter, the founding father of wave energy, said, “Developers need to be in alliance with each other against the hazards of the sea rather than fighting one another for inadequate funding”.

“I am also very glad that we were able to deliver on our aspiration to capture the know-how from device development and retain some of the best brains working in marine energy in Scotland. Only last month, Highland and Islands Enterprise, on behalf of Wave Energy Scotland, successfully acquired the intellectual property and a range of physical assets previously owned by Pelamis. And yesterday, Wave Energy Scotland agreed to work with 12 former Pelamis employees to capture the impressive learning they have acquired on their technology development journey.”

Alex Paterson, Chief Executive of Highlands and Islands Enterprise said:

“I am delighted to have confirmation of the budget for Wave Energy Scotland today. This is an exciting time for the wave

energy sector in Scotland and it offers a great opportunity to draw on the expertise which exists in industry and academia. The WES team don't underestimate the challenges which lie ahead. But this is a chance not to be missed and the team is relishing being able to take a fresh approach to resolving the issues which so often hamper the early stages of the development of innovative technology.

"HIE's head of Offshore Development, Tim Hurst, has been appointed interim director of Wave Energy Scotland. Using his experience across the energy sector, coupled with expert support from the Carbon Trust and Edinburgh University, Tim is leading the development of the operating model for WES. Good progress has been made and there will be announcements shortly on the first project calls and the recruitment of core staff for WES."

Hibernian Development Squad 7-0 Kilmarnock Development Squad



Hibernian Development squad produced a magnificent 7-0 victory over Kilmarnock at Ainslie Pak last night which included hat tricks for Jason Cummings (pictured) and Martin Boyle.

Both strikers have been regulars in the first team but were dropped to the bench in Saturday's 3-0 win over Dumbarton.

Although Head Coach Alan Stubbs' decision to play Dominique Malonga and Franck Dja Djedje was vindicated as both scored in

the win, the performance of Cummings and Boyle will give him a welcome headache for Saturday's game against Alloa Athletic.

After the game, Head of Development Coaching Joe McBride told the club website: "I thought the first 15 minutes was a really strange game, it was played at a frantic pace. I don't know if that was down to the cold and everybody was tearing about, but it was really frantic. It was in and out of possession for us, but the goal settled us down a bit.

"I still thought we could have moved the ball a bit better and kept possession a bit more, but with the two senior forwards up front we always looked dangerous when we got into the last third."

"Boyle and Cummings scored six goal between the two of them, so they had a lot to do with the outcome of the game. Overall I thought we done okay tonight, but those two made a big difference."

Members of the under-17 squad, Waugh and Jack Breen, both featured and the Development Coach was pleased with how both players performed in the game.

"It's the other end of the spectrum with Breen and Waugh as they are two under-17s players and I think Jack is only 15 years old. It's great for them to get experience like that. I thought Kevin looked assured when he came on and Jack showed some lovely touches."

Jordan Sinclair scored the other goal.

Hibernian under-20s: Kleton Perntreou, Aaron Dunsmore, Callum Crane, Neil Martyniuk, Jordan McGregor (Kevin Waugh, 55), Aaron Scott, Scott Martin, Jordan Sinclair, Jason Cummings (Taylor Hendry, 60), Martin Boyle (Jack Breen, 60), Duthie. Unused substitutes: Alan Combe, Oliver Shaw

Photo by John Preece

smART CRAFT from Wester Hailes at The Gallery on the Corner



Whilst all artists would say that they express themselves through their work, for the members of **smART CRAFT** art is a special way of communicating. smART Craft, which meets at WHALE Arts Agency in Wester Hailes, is a fully inclusive group for adults with mental health issues, learning disabilities or complex or additional support needs, led by a professional artist – and they are now staging their second exhibition at The Gallery on the Corner in Northumberland Street. Creative Release, says WHALE Arts Project Coordinator **Sarah Walker**, is ‘about expression, enjoyment and freedom. Each artist’s individuality is celebrated’.



Artist: Gavin Hendry

The exhibition unveils new work by the group, and is as diverse and colourful a show as you could wish to see. From **Gary Stewart’s** acrylics with their expressive streams of textured greens, blues, pinks and yellows to **Gavin Hendry’s** stunning clay tiles reminiscent of Egyptian hieroglyphics, the pieces on show are fascinating. Where else would you see a pom-pom rug?



This one, the creation of **Tommy Hall** and **John Wireko**, is both a work of art and a covetable soft furnishing, complemented by the suspended orbs of *Pom Poms – A Collective*. The purples and greens of **Damien McLean's** acrylic echo the colours in the pom poms, but here they are blocks of colour, fans and triangles – the latter mountain-like, with dark pink strokes suggesting the evening sun, or perhaps even the descent of lava.



Artist: Miranda
Pender

Andrew Veitch's contributions are two highly effective pen and acetate drawings of figures; both suggest an inner life and make the viewer wonder, whilst **Miranda Pender's** striking acrylic brings to mind Edvard Munch's iconic *The Scream*, as the figure covers its ears with its hands. **Sarah Maloney's** precise, almost architectural drawing is a complete contrast; it could be the bare bones of a car park – or even one of the futuristic buildings from *The Minority Report*.



Artist: Sarah Maloney

In **Gary Stewart's** pen and perspex work we again see waves of colour, but here there are sharp shapes which, on closer inspection, could be weird distorted faces or perhaps a strange, long-beaked bird. Two mixed media pieces by **Stewart Dalziel** bring to mind the work of Jean Dubuffet or even Jackson Pollock, whilst **Kevin Liston** has used orange, brown and white wools to create a most interesting, tapestry-like picture.



Another face is seen in **Betty Merritt's** acrylic piece, and

again the viewer is drawn in, wanting to know more about the subject with its enigmatic, startled blue/black face. The bold primary colours of **Wai Yin Chan's** dazzling pen and pencil work fill equally mysterious shapes – could they be ice creams? Drinks? Or faces? **Debbie Muir's** acrylic features vibrant pinks and oranges that appear almost tactile, like scrunched up tissue paper.



Artist: Wai Yin Chan

This small exhibition is more thought-provoking than many you might see by established artists; do call in to the gallery to see it. Gallery acting manager Paul Penrice rightly describes smART CRAFT as a 'creative fountain'.



Artist: Michael Dawson

The Gallery on the Corner is also showing some fabulous mixed media work by **Michael Dawson**, who describes his work as 'a universal experience filtered through my life' and neo-expressionist in style; '(it) is often mistaken as 'outsider' but I take that as a compliment'. A stunning landscape *Ardroil Bay, Harris* by celebrated Edinburgh artist and photographer **Erik Petrie**, 'an artist in the true sense of the word' (*Lux Lit*), has also just arrived and is for sale.



Ardroil Bay,
Harris: Erik Petrie

Creative Release is at The Gallery on the Corner until 28th February 2015. The Gallery on the Corner is a commercial art gallery and studio providing a platform to exhibit and sell artwork produced by artists who have a physical or mental health condition: it was the first social firm developed by

Autism Ventures Scotland, which was established by Autism Initiatives UK. AVS also runs the lovely **Cafe on the Corner** in Hill Street (which exhibits art too) and **The Hermitage**, a 9-hole golf course and cafe in The Braid Hills.

WHALE Arts Agency is a community arts centre providing opportunities for the people of Wester Hailes and South West Edinburgh to access and take part in a range of arts activities.

