

Urbane Gallery – art and science in harmony



The Urbane Gallery, Edinburgh's dynamic and leading edge art gallery, is taking part in this year's International Science Festival, featuring the work of artists who have made use of science or technology for the making of their artwork.

Artists taking part in the exhibition, which is entitled 'Art Of The Matter', include the award-winning Scottish artist Fraser Ross, who makes fascinating sculptures out of magnetic liquid. The fluid not only provides striking, monochrome sculptures through interaction with the adjacent materials, but also behaves in its solid form as a receptor to external environmental changes.



The project explores the possibility of futuristic wearable textiles through the creation of magnetic surfaces embellished with magnetic fluids, creating an ever-changing, sensory silhouette. The textiles will act as a protective shield whilst allowing users to interact with their environment through new tactile senses and organic forms.

Also showing will be 'Nobody Does it Better' – an impressive life size bronze and stainless steel sculpture based on the famous sketch of the Vitruvian Man by Leonardo da Vinci – by artists Björn and Amanda Sjoling, exhibiting for the first time in Scotland. The Vitruvian man symbolises the science of its day.

The gallery is also hoping to showcase artist Angela Palmer who has, working in collaboration with Renault Sport F1, deconstructed the world's most successful F1 engine, the RS27,

to realise an extraordinary collection of sculptures.

Gallery Director, Tracey Robertson, said: "Science and art are very compatible, and many technological innovations are highly aesthetic and visually stimulating. The element of the extraordinary creates a buzz about the work, whereas the art of nature might conversely create a calming effect. The work we will be showing is exciting and energising, and will hopefully inspire and delight visitors."

The Edinburgh International Science Festival, takes place 4th -19th April at various venues. The Art Of The Matter Exhibition will take place at Urbane Gallery at 25 Jeffrey Street, Edinburgh.

Photos: 'Nobody does it better' (Vitruvian Man) by artists Björn and Amanda Sjöling; and 'Dark Senses' by Fraser Ross

Submitted by [Rosemary Walker](#)

Two men due in court after diazepam tablets and cannabis seized



Two men have been arrested and charged under the Misuse of Drugs Act after police in north Edinburgh recovered a large quantity of Class C drugs when officers conducted a search of a vehicle in Pennywell Road at around 2pm yesterday.

Around 30,000 diazepam tablets were recovered and two men aged 25 and 20 were detained as part of Operation Quarterlight.

A further 400 diazepam tablets, half kilo of cannabis and a quantity of other suspected stolen items were later recovered following a search of two addresses by police.

Both men are scheduled to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court on Monday 26th January.

The recovered drugs are valued at over £35,000.

Inspector David Happs said: “This was a significant recovery of potentially harmful drugs, which have been seized before they could cause harm to our communities.

“Operation Quarterlight action continues across Edinburgh and in addition to identifying those responsible for vehicle crime, this initiative will assist us in targeting criminals using their vehicles for committing other crimes, such as the transportation of illegal drugs.

“Police Scotland is committed to tackling drug crime within our communities and will always act on information we receive from the public.

“Anyone wishing to report crimes of this nature in their local area can do so by contacting us on 101 or by making an anonymous report via the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.”

Edinburgh hotel is one of the best



The Chester Residence scooped two top TripAdvisor awards this

week.

Five-star Edinburgh hotel, The Chester Residence, has been named as the 'No1 Luxury Hotel in the UK' and the '7th Best Luxury Hotel in Europe' in the TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice® Awards 2015.

These awards follow on from The Chester Residence's success of 2014, when they were named as TripAdvisor's 'No1 UK Small Hotel of the Year 2014' and 'No1 UK and European Luxury Hotel of the Year 2014', and 'Serviced Apartments of the Year 2014' in the Scottish Hotel Awards, to name but a few. The hotel has now received 17 industry awards in total since opening in 2006.

The Chester Residence comprises 23 luxury Georgian townhouse apartments located in Edinburgh's chic West End. Each suite is individually designed using the most luxurious, contemporary décor and furnishings, with all the comforts of a five star hotel as well as full reception and concierge service, offering guests a personalised and memorable experience.

Owner of The Chester Residence, Graham Wood, said: "We are delighted that our guests have recognised the efforts of our team in the Travellers' Choice® awards for the third year running. It's always great to receive feedback and winning these coveted awards is the highest compliment.

"Our team works exceptionally hard to ensure each guest's stay is as luxurious and enjoyable as possible. They provide a personal, yet not intrusive, service which is both relaxed and friendly. It's an incredible achievement and I'd like to thank all of our team for their dedication and the excellent service they provide."

Submitted by [Stacey Dent](#)



Five things you need to know today



Edinburgh Napier University looks after the planet

Places available on cooking course at Gate 55

Smith Commission announcement in Edinburgh

TED Talks

Best bits of 2014

Edinburgh Napier University has been rated best in Scotland in a nationwide survey of environmental and ethical standards.

The university was also ninth in the whole of the UK in the People & Planet University League 2015.

Plymouth University came out top in the country's only comprehensive and independent ranking of universities by ethical and environmental criteria, which is now in its eighth year.

The study identifies the universities which set policy, implement strategy and give staff and students the means to grapple with the sustainability issues which affect their communities and the wider world.

[The People & Planet University League is compiled annually by the UK's largest student campaigning network, People & Planet.](#)

Edinburgh Napier was one of the 30 universities to achieve a 'First Class' ranking.

Hannah Smith, who compiled the data, said: “The progressive universities at the top of our league are proving their ability to change their impact on communities and the wider world. We’ve seen a rise in the number of universities stepping up to meet student expectations for an education that supports them to respond with speed to the biggest challenges of our time.”

Over half of all university senior management teams now receive an annual report evaluating the performance of their institution’s environmental policy and the latest figures show an overall reduction in university carbon emissions of 3.6% on last year’s figures.





The Prime Minister was in Edinburgh on Thursday and made a speech announcing the draft proposals. No 10 were in charge of all the arrangements. Here is what he said to the invited audience:

There was a TED xEdinburgh event at Edinburgh Napier University towards the end of last year.
Here is what we all missed:

EDINBURGH & THE LOTHIAN TOURISM DIRECTOR REVEALS HER ‘BRILLIANT MOMENTS’ OF 2014

As the New Year gets underway, Manuela Calchini, Regional Director of national tourism organisation VisitScotland, has

been taking time to reflect on the highlights of 2014 – a year of unprecedented importance for Scottish tourism.

2014 was the year Scotland welcomed the world to major international events including the Commonwealth Games, The Ryder Cup and MTV EMAs – all of which were hugely successful and attracted global audiences. The Homecoming Scotland 2014 programme was also an outstanding hit, achieving a record-breaking 2 million attendances to more than 1,000 diverse events – many of which were sell-outs – across the country.

Throughout the year, VisitScotland ran extensive marketing campaigns to ensure the world's spotlight shone on Scotland, with 'Meet The Scots' and 'Brilliant Moments' promotions targeting the international and home markets respectively.

Before revealing her personal 'brilliant moments' for tourism in Edinburgh & the Lothians and favourite memories of the year, Manuela Calchini said:

"2014 was a great year for tourism in Edinburgh & The Lothians, with Scotland playing host to major events on an international stage and VisitScotland's Brilliant Moments campaign helping to attract more visitors from the UK to our capital city and this fantastic part of Scotland.

"There's also much for us to look forward to this year when we will work in partnership with stakeholders and local businesses to capitalise on the opportunities of Scotland's Year of Food and Drink by building on the momentum gained in 2014 and harnessing the growing global interest in Scotland and in visiting our country."

Manuela summarised her highlights of 2014:

The Edinburgh International Festival – Watching the James Trilogy at the ice skating rink in St Andrews Square for Edinburgh's Christmas. Also the Field of Light installation in St Andrews Square was fantastic.

The Forth Bridges Festival – as part of the Forth Bridges celebrations we climbed the Forth Rail Bridge, which was amazing.

The Commonwealth Baton came to Rosslyn Chapel in Midlothian and was carried, among others, by Brian Cox which was a very memorable moment.

The Aberdeen Assets Ladies Scottish Open at Archerfield – a beautiful day, an outstanding venue and a fantastic sport.

National Mining Museum's 30th birthday celebration – what a fantastic place and this was a great celebration of one of Scotland's five star visitor attractions.

Beyond these 'brilliant moments of 2014' within her 'patch' of Edinburgh and the Lothians, Manuela's personal highlights also included welcoming The Ryder Cup to St Medan Golf Club in Dumfries & Galloway during its tour of Scotland before the world-famous tournament got underway, attending a practice day at Gleneagles, and enjoying discussions between authors Kathy Reichs and Ian Rankin at the Bloody Scotland literary festival in Stirling as her top tourism moments of the year.



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.

Saturday in Edinburgh – What's On Today



Today there will be two showings of films designed to have you on the edge of your seat in awe rather than fear. Get along to the Festival Theatre to be thrilled by the two and a half hour long film showcase of from the Banff Mountain Film Festival. In fact you could go to both the afternoon and the evening shows as they will feature different films!

✖ Among this year's films the Tour features some of the UK's most talented adventurers, athletes and film makers, such as the star of 'The Ridge' Danny MacAskill (from Scotland), and Yorkshireman Rob Jarman in 'All my own stunts'. 'Into the empty corner' follows the amazing journey of British adventurers Alastair Humphreys and Leon McCarron, and the inspirational story of 'Tashi and the monk' is brought to the big screen by film makers Andrew Hinton and Johnny Burke.

[Tickets here.](#)



Victoria Bar Singles Night! 8pm, [Victoria](#), 265 Leith Walk

Polish Rhymetime: 11am today and every second Saturday, [Piershill Library](#), 30 Piersfield Terrace. All very welcome to come and join in the fun.

GENERATION Tours at Modern One: free, discussion-led tours of the exhibition, focusing on key themes and artists. 11-11.45am or 1-1.45pm, [Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art ONE](#), Belford Road. Free: no booking required.

Tiger Tales: stories and crafts for children aged 4-8 years. 3-4pm, [Fountainbridge Library](#), 137 Dundee Street. Free.



Edinburgh League of Comics Manga Workshops: learn how to create your own characters, script a story and take home your very own comic book! For ages 10+. 2-4pm, [Kirkliston Library](#), 16 Station Road. To book your place drop into the library and

speak to Nicola, or call her on 0131 529 5510/email kirkliston.library@edinburgh.gov.uk. If you can't make it today, there will be another workshop on 31st January 2015.

ABJAD: an exhibition by four artists, **Jane Bustin, Kevin Harman, Paul Keir** and **Jeff McMillan** 'who, in their sometimes sideways approach to abstraction, balance conceptual concerns with an intuitive touch'. 10am-6pm Monday to Saturday until 21st March 2015, [Ingelby Gallery](#), 15 Calton Road.

Macastory: The Two Rabbits. A fun-filled show with not one but two Rabbin Burns, each claiming to be the real McCoy! The audience must decide who is telling the truth as the Rabbits tell outrageous tall tales of their amazing adventures, and perform songs and verses from the Bard himself. 12 noon, 2pm or 3pm (40 minute sessions), Hawthornden Court, Level 1, [National Museum of Scotland](#), Chambers Street. Free: just drop in. Also at same times on Sunday 25th January 2015.



Edinburgh Society of Musicians: Dream Team concert. **Kirsteen Davidson Kelly** plays new piano compositions by **Vroni Holzmann**, inspired by the landscape of the Alps, Swedish forests and seascapes. 7.30pm, [Edinburgh Society of Musicians](#), 3 Belford Road. Admission free.



Balerno Village Screen: *Les Misérables* (12). Set against the backdrop of 19th century France, *Les Misérables* tells an enthralling story of broken dreams and unrequited love, passion, sacrifice and redemption – a timeless testament to the survival of the human spirit. This screening will be a **#pitchfever** fundraiser for a 2G pitch at Balerno School, and coincides with the production of *Les Misérables* that Balerno High School pupils are currently preparing: some of them will be along to perform before the screening. 12.30-3pm (doors

open at 12 noon), [St Joseph's Hall](#), Balerno, EH14 7TZ. Tickets are free, and can be booked via [eventbrite](#) or collected from The Mill Cafe or Balerno Post Office. If you can't get a ticket, you are welcome to turn up and will be given a seat if there are no-shows: if you have a ticket and can't make it, please cancel so that someone else can come along. [Balerno Village Screen](#) is a community cinema funded by donations.

Works On Paper 2015: a selection of prints, drawings and watercolours from the storerooms of **The Fine Art Society** Edinburgh and London. Artists include **Gerald Brockhurst, Sir David Wilkie, Robert Austin, Walter Geikie, James McBey, Mabel Royds** and **Charles Tunnicliffe**. 11am-4pm (closes today), [Dundas Street Gallery](#), 6a Dundas Street.



It's In The Bag: rhymes, drama, creative games and puppets, with lots of well-loved Scottish songs throughout. **(1) Sam & Rosie's Tartan Tea Party** – for ages 0-2 years, 2.15pm (10am show already sold out), **(2) Sam & Rosie's Highland Adventure: The Mystery of the Lost Haggis** – for ages 3-6 years, 11.15am or 1pm, Storytelling Court, [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#), 43-45 High Street. Tickets cost £6 per child and can be purchased online [here](#) or by calling 0131 556 9579. Please remember to book a free adult ticket too.

Burns for Beginners: Robert Burns' key poems and songs are performed to a cracking live music accompaniment, along with discussion, context and English subtitles. A sell-out at **TradFest Edinburgh 2014** and **Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2014** 'this is the show about Burns that Burns would want to see!' For ages 12+. 7.30pm, Netherbow Centre, [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#), 43-45 High Street. Tickets cost £8/£4 and can be booked online [here](#) or by calling SSC on 0131 556 9579.

St Bride's Family Cinema – see your favourite film for free! Adventure, excitement, fun and laughs – they're all here. All

welcome: children under 16 years must be accompanied by an adult. Juice and choc ices available in the interval for 50p each. This week: ***The Lego Movie (U)***, next week: ***Dumbo (U)***. 10.30am-12.30pm (includes interval), [St Bride's Centre](#), Orwell Terrace.



Family Saturdays at the French Institute: La Galette des Rois. The first event in a new series of 'rendez-vous' in French; an opportunity for children aged 3 to 10 years to discover a popular piece of French culture. This time, the tales, songs and crafts are all about 'la Galette des Rois' – and is there anything better than finishing this event with a delicious Galette tasting? 12 noon-2pm, [Institut francais d'Ecosse](#), 13 Randolph Crescent. Price per child £5/members £3. No booking required. **Please note: parents must stay with their children.**

Winter Guided Walk: join a Garden Guide for a leisurely afternoon walk round the Garden. Discover stunning seasonal highlights and learn about the history of the Garden and its plants. For ages 14+. 2pm, John Hope Gateway Reception, [Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh](#), Inverleith Row. £5 per person: no advance booking necessary. Also at same time on Sunday 25th January 2015.

Traditional Scottish Music at Morningside Library: following a successful performance last year, Derek, John and Lindsay return for a morning of traditional Scottish music. 11.30am-12.30pm, [Morningside Library](#), 184 Morningside Road. No need to book – just turn up.

Scottish Society of Architect Artists: Art4X. An exhibition and sale of art works organised jointly by the **SSAA** and **the University of Edinburgh**, in support of the University's **Patrick Wild Centre**. The Centre's mission is to understand the neuronal basis of, and test new therapies for, **autism, fragile**

X syndrome and intellectual disabilities by fostering collaborations between world class basic science and clinical research at the University of Edinburgh. A selection of guest artists and **Ligne et Couleur** (Ligne et Couleur is the name of the SSAA's counterpoint associations in other European countries) colleagues from France, Germany, Italy and Poland who have exhibited with SSAA over the last three decades have been invited to contribute works for the exhibition and auction as part of Art4X. 10am-12 noon, Sculpture Hall, [Edinburgh College of Art](#), Lauriston Place.

Israel-Palestine Prayer Vigil: Polwarth will hold this month's prayer vigil for peace between Israel and Palestine. Vigils have been held all over the country since troubles flared in Gaza last summer; they are organised jointly by the Church of Scotland's World Mission Council, Christian Aid and other supporting agencies. The morning will include an overview of **Church of Scotland's** and **Christian Aid's** work in the area and a talk about the work of the **YWCA Women and the Wall**. 10am-12 noon, [Polwarth Parish Church](#), Polwarth Terrace. All welcome.



Hibernian Supporters Limited: Delight At Fan Response



Hibernian supporters are demonstrating their willingness to back the vehicle set up to help buy shares in the Club – just days after it launched.

Hibernian Supporters Limited (HSL) was announced a week ago,

and already around 700 fans have noted interest on the website – www.hiberniansupporters.co.uk

The response has delighted the Board of HSL – Chairman Kenny MacAskill MSP, and directors Charlie Reid, Jackie McNamara, James Adie, Gordon Smith, Stephen Dunn and Leeann Dempster.

The Board of Hibernian announced on 29 December 2014, that it intended to widen the ownership of the Club by issuing new shares that would enable the Holding Company's shareholding in Hibernian to be diluted below 50% – with all money raised from supporters through this process going direct to Hibernian to help the Club get back to where all Hibernian supporters would like to see it – at the top end of Scottish football. The money will not be used to buy shares from existing shareholders.

Kenny said: "HSL was only launched a matter of days ago, and we have done no promotion beyond that. In addition, the shares are not going to be available until after the AGM, from February 2nd. Yet despite all of that, we've already seen almost 700 people take the time to note interest on our website – and that is a clear demonstration that Hibernian supporters are willing and eager to back the opportunity that is being presented to them."

HSL is a company limited by guarantee, established with the sole purpose and primary objectives of acquiring shares in Hibernian Football Club Ltd and to hold those shares for the benefit of the supporters of the Club through a binding legal agreement between HSL and Hibernian Football Club that guarantees the transfer of shares on receipt of funds.

In addition, the agreement is explicit that those funds will only be used to help the Club get back to the forefront of Scottish football, and not directed to current shareholders. Supporters contributing to HSL know their money will be used to acquire shares in Hibernian.

Supporters who make contributions will not own shares directly but will own Hibernian Supporters Limited, which in turn will own the shares in the Club. Contributions can be made via a lump sum or on a monthly basis, and an anticipated contribution of £225 – or £18.75 per month – is being sought, although HSL is keen that all supporters get the chance to take part and so those who can afford smaller monthly contributions will also be accommodated.

Supporters can become members of the company once they have contributed and applied to be a member and never lose that status or the rights that go with it. All members will receive a Membership Certificate which is the equivalent of a Share Certificate in a company limited by shares.

Kenny added: “This is designed to be a simple alternative to buying and holding shares directly for supporters who may find it too difficult or arduous to acquire shares directly, as this requires individuals to comply with Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 regulations.

“Supporters are being offered the opportunity to take a controlling interest in their Club, and HSL is one vehicle for achieving this – along with fans who do want to buy shares directly. The more fans who do take part, the greater the voice we will have and indeed if we can achieve a 20% stake we are able to nominate a Club Director.

“We believe it is time for everyone with the best interests of the Club at heart to come together to take this forward to deliver a better future for Hibernian – on and off the pitch – and we would encourage Hibernian fans to continue to show their support.”

Hibs repond to statements from David Low and Mike Riley



Hibernian Football Club today responded to statements issued by David Low and by Mike Riley.

A statement on the club website reads:

In summary, Hibernian Football Club:

- believes in paying what it owes;
- had its property assets valued by international property valuers seven months ago;
- notes that Mr Low believes the Club is worthless – which confirms his position of summer 2014, when he proposed that shareholders give Hibernian to him for nothing ;
- believes Mr Low is entitled to his opinions and that Hibernian supporters who care about the Club are also entitled to theirs.

Mr Low is an experienced financier and Mr Riley is Chairman of the Supporters Association. Mr Low is not a shareholder of this club. The Information Memorandum was issued to shareholders solely for their use. The Club has answered the four questions raised by Mr Low despite the fact that he has declared that he has no further interest in Hibernian or its share issue.

Mr Low is not acting as an adviser and has given his personal views. He has stated that any supporter considering investing in shares should seek the advice of a financial advisor authorised by the FCA, and on that we agree.

Constructive analysis is always welcomed. Mr Riley has gone further and advised fans “not to put money in” clarifying that these are his “personal views as chairman” of the Supporters

Association. He has not counselled supporters to seek out any other professional advice.

Both Mr Low and Mr Riley request details of the mortgage which the Club has arranged from the holding company. The arrangement – an interest free mortgage of £5 million repayable over ten years – has been announced now that the detailed terms have been approved by the Board.

Mr Riley has questioned why the Club should pay back the cash advanced to it by the holding company. The statement by Club Chief Executive Leeann Dempster issued on the day prior to Mr Riley's statement made it plain that Hibernian is a club that meets its obligations.

Mr Low says that the Club's assets are "overvalued at pre-recession and banking crisis levels". The heritable property was valued by international property consultants Jones Lang LaSalle seven months ago on a depreciated replacement cost basis. The Club's audited net assets at 31 July 2014 were £15 million.

In Mr Low's opinion, shares in Hibernian Football Club "continue to have a negligible economic value". Last summer Mr Low offered to acquire the entire issued share capital of the Club for a nil consideration. In other words, he required all 1,700 existing shareholders, including the holding company, to give up their shares to him for nothing.

Mr Low's current valuation of the Club's shares is consistent with his approach seven months ago.

Helpfully, Mr Low has clarified that will not be making a new offer and that he will not be subscribing for new shares in the Club.

The share issue seeks to raise £2.5m from supporters. Their money will go directly into the Club. If fully subscribed, supporters will own 50% of the Club (to add to the 1% already in the hands of supporters) which in turn has the cash they

subscribe as well as owning Easter Road Stadium and the Hibernian Training Centre.

Mr Low has raised four issues, each of which is addressed in turn below

The contents of the Information Memorandum comply with the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. It is not the practice of the Club to issue interim financial figures. In making arrangements for the share issue, the directors are confident that the Club's operations for Season 2014-15 are fully funded. New shareholders will have an opportunity to contribute to the sporting ambition of the Club, as explained by the Chief Executive in her statement. Supporters will also have a voice at the boardroom table with two fans representatives elected through a democratic process.

The Club shop was re-branded as a Nike outlet as part of the Nike kit sponsorship deal in 2013. That means the day to day operations of the shop are managed on behalf of the Club's kit supplier which has bigger buying power than the Club on its own. The advantage for the Club is that it does not have to buy and hold stock for the shop so that the working capital requirements are reduced. The arrangement provides lower operational risk to the Club, guaranteed returns with an upside possibility and is more profitable

Details of the new mortgage arrangements have been published. The £5m mortgage is interest free and repayable over ten years. Mr Low's funding proposals last summer included loans from shareholders which would have attracted interest at a rate of 5% per annum.

The arrangements for the transfer of shares in the articles have been in place for many years. However, as the share ownership in the Club widens, it is a matter which will be considered by the Board, including the new fans representatives, at an appropriate time in the coming months.

The Club reiterates that shareholders and supporters considering the share issue should take independent financial advice and only participate if they are able to and to the extent that reflects their own personal circumstances.

The Club has embraced radical change in a short space of time. The share issue gives supporters the opportunity to acquire a controlling interest in the Club. There are no barriers to that. The proposals will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting on 28 January 2015. Thereafter, it will be open to shareholders and supporters to submit applications from 2 February 2015. The take up of shares and the renewal of season tickets in March will add to the resources available to the Club to help achieve its sporting ambitions.

Ten year old boy robbed in Bathgate



Police are appealing for witnesses after a ten year old boy was assaulted and robbed of his bike by two teenagers in Sibbalds Brae Bathgate around 12.30pm on Monday

The victim was cycling when the two suspects approached him, demanded his bike, before punching and pushing him which caused him to fall to the ground before stealing his bike.

They were last seen cycling off in the direction of Bathgate town centre.

The suspects are described as white boys in their early teens, roughly 13-14 years old, 5ft tall, with a slim build. The first one was wearing a blue tracksuit.

The second was wearing black tracksuit bottoms, white from the knee up, shiny red Ferrari shoes and riding a mountain bike.

The stolen bike is described a satin blue GT Fly BMX, with a blue front wheel and black rear wheel.

Detective Constable Stephen McCormick said: "This was an unprovoked attack on a young boy, which has left him badly shaken. He is also distressed from the loss of his bike."

"We are now appealing for witnesses who may have seen the suspects, or who recognise the description of them or the stolen bike, to come forward."

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

Two men due in court after police recover four cars



Police in Midlothian have recovered four vehicles that were stolen from outside their owner's address on Monday.

The cars were taken from various addresses in in Newtongrange, North Middleton, Roswell and Bonnyrigg.

The total value of the property recovered is in excess of

£50,000.

Two men, aged 19 and 26, have been arrested in connection with the thefts and will appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court on Monday, January 26.

Three of the four cars were taken when their owners left them unattended while defrosting in cold weather.

Chief Inspector Kenny Simpson, Local Area Commander for Midlothian, said: "These arrests were a particular priority for Police Scotland, as officers believed these cars were being used to commit other offences.

"These men took advantage of the cold weather to deprive people of their cars and the owners are delighted to have their vehicles returned to them. I would like to thank the public for their help and support in this investigation and would again urge motorists to be vigilant and ensure they do not leave their vehicles insecure and unattended during this cold snap"

"Anyone with information regarding these incidents should contact Police Scotland immediately on 101 or through the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

‘Boozy’ joins Canning at ‘Accies’



Former Hibs' midfielder Guillame Beuzelin has stepped down from his role as assistant manager of Dumbarton to join ex team-mate Martin Canning's new look management team at New

Douglas Park

The 35-year old Frenchman formerly coached the Hibs' youths before becoming assistant to Ian Murray at Dumbarton in the summer of 2014.

He holds an UEFA B licence and is working towards his A licence, and is also qualified at SFA Youth level 5.

'Boozy' helped Hibs win the CIS Cup in 2007 and was a regular co-commentator for Hibs TV where he could not disguise his love for the club.

He also played for Coventry, made seven appearances for Hamilton in 2009

Dumbarton manager Ian Murray told the club website: "I'd like to thank Guillame for all the hard work he put in and for the assistance he has given me this season.

"He goes with the best wishes and thanks of both me and everyone else at the Rock."

Chief Executive Gilbert Lawrie added: "Boozy did well in his short-time at the club and we all appreciate his contribution.

"I'm sure he'll do well at Hamilton and he goes with our best wishes."

Hibs confirm details of the capitalisation of debt



Following its scheduled Board Meeting yesterday, Hibernian

Football Club today confirmed details of the capitalisation of debt owed to the Club's parent company and the new mortgage being provided by it.

At the board meeting the directors gave their final approval to the detailed terms for the mortgage being provided by the holding company. This new mortgage enables the Club to complete the refinancing which was announced on 29 December 2014.

Highlights of the new arrangement are:

- The mortgage is interest free
- The repayments are fixed at £500,000 per year for ten years. Payments to the Bank over the past three years average out at £584,000 and ranged from £494,000 to £755,000
- There is a repayment holiday – the first payment does not fall due until August 2015
- By being bank debt free, repayments of £1.6 million in 2018 and £2.5 million in July 2020 have been addressed

Club Chief Executive Leeann Dempster said: "The terms of the new mortgage provided by the holding company are much more favourable to the Club than the terms of the previous bank mortgages.

"The Club is pleased to have had the support from the holding company to reach a settlement with the Bank and to refinance the balance of the holding company lending through a simple mortgage."

"In doing so, we have also tackled the issue of the future bullet repayments of £1.6m and £2.5m early, and created a smooth level of affordable repayments for the next ten years which should see the Club debt free by the time of its 150th anniversary."

Hibs' youngsters Scott Martin and Callum Crane agree contract extensions



Hibs' Development squad players Scott Martin and Callum Crane have both agreed contract extensions until the summer of 2018.

Scotland under-19 internationalist Martin, 17, made his first team debut at Falkirk in December and has been associated with the club's Academy since he was 10.

The Glasgow born youngster told Hibs TV: "My aim at the start of the season was to make my first team debut and to extend my contract, so I'm delighted that's happened.

"I'm very excited about the future – I want to kick on now and make an impression. I want to show the manager and the supporters what I can do and challenge for a place in the first team."

Left-back Crane, 18, said: "I'm delighted to have signed the extension – I didn't expect to be told the news so early into the New Year.

"My objective is to now continue developing and break into the first team."

Development Coach Joe McBride said: "I'm really pleased with the news – both Scott and Callum have worked extremely hard and they've deserved it.

“This is the next step on a long journey for both of them and I look forward to seeing them continue their development at Hibernian.”

Head Coach Alan Stubbs said: “This is great news – we think very highly of them both and this will be the next step in their development.

There is a clear pathway through from the Academy to the first team squad and the incentives are there for players to seize their opportunities.

“As a club, it is important that we develop young players, who then commit for the long term benefit and future of Hibernian.”

Peter Ranscombe's new book is based on an old story



Peter Ranscombe is a freelance journalist and author living in Musselburgh. He previously worked for The Scotsman and Scottish Field but now his debut novel, an historical thriller called “Hare” has been published in hardback and ebook by Knox Robinson Publishing.

When William Burke was hanged in Edinburgh for mass murder in 1829, his accomplice, William Hare, was set free after turning King's evidence against his partner-in-crime. Fleeing from a potential lynching in the Scottish capital, Hare headed for London, where rumours spread of his death in a lime pit at the hands of an angry mob.

Thirty-four years later, a series of murders in Boston terrifies the public and thrusts the city's police force into a desperate search for the killer. When Hare is found working as a labourer on Boston's latest canal-building project, Captain Alexander Gillespie believes he has his man, the same murderer he chased through the streets of Edinburgh during his first year with the police.

But as the slayings continue, Gillespie must turn Hare loose and use the mind of one killer to catch another. From the oak-panelled studies of Massachusetts's universities to the grimy underworld of the city's docks, Gillespie and Hare must pursue a shadowy villain before he strikes again. Against the backdrop of the American Civil War, their search leads them closer to the killer and into the heart of a desperate plot that could threaten the very future of the United States itself.

The Edinburgh Reporter met with the author in the West Port where the story starts:

[The Edinburgh Reporter meets Peter Ranscombe](#) from [Phyllis Stephen](#) on [Vimeo](#).

[Click here](#) to have a look and buy the book.



Photo of Peter by Alex Hewitt/WriterPictures.

Letter from Scotland



Re-wilding
Scotland
with the
lynx

Should the large wild cat, the lynx, be re-introduced in Scotland ? It's not an issue that is likely to feature in any of the election manifestos in the spring but this week I heard the chief executive of the Scottish Wildlife Trust Jonny Hughes put it in his manifesto. In a radio interview he admitted re-introducing the lynx might face a few "challenges" ...such as: Where exactly ? How exactly would they re-balance nature ? Would they attract tourists, or eat them ?

The Scottish Wildlife Trust has already re-introduced the beaver in a licensed experiment in Argyll, and it says the results there are promising enough for us to think about the next species, the lynx – a cat one step up from the wild cat (of which there are only 400 left in Scotland). A fully grown Eurasian lynx is about the size of an Alsatian dog. It is extremely secretive and solitary, prowling about forests at night ambushing the odd deer, fox, rabbit or any sheep foolish enough to be out at night near woodland.

The SWT's campaign is all part of a growing movement for the "re-wilding" of Scotland, allowing our forests, grouse moors and up-land farms to return to nature and re-introducing the species we have hunted to extinction, like the beaver, the lynx, the wolf, the brown bear. It would be "re-wilding" ourselves, simply knowing that a true wilderness exists, with all its beauty, excitements and dangers. One wag texted-in to the radio programme I was listening to suggesting that the SWT should start by reintroducing the lynx not to the countryside but to the cities to see how folks there took to

the idea of re-wilding !

The Prime Minister did a little bit of his own re-wilding when he came north on Thursday to unfold his legislative plan to give Scotland more devolution, as promised in the famous “vow” during the referendum campaign. But he set the wolves howling on the SNP back benches, complaining that the Scottish Parliament was still being short-changed. Nicola Sturgeon damned the plans with faint praise – “good as far as they go.”

Mr Cameron said Scotland was being offered “one of the most powerful devolved parliaments in the world.” It was being given powers to raise up to 60 per cent of its own spending – the power to set the rate and thresholds of income tax, half of all VAT revenues and all of air passenger duty, plus parts of the welfare budget- not, however, pensions or the new universal benefits. But the SNP say the powers will actually raise less than 40 per cent of Scottish public spending and UK ministers are being given a veto over any welfare changes.

Earlier in the week, the Chancellor George Osborne added to the pre-election flames by suggesting that further devolution to Scotland made it even more “ unfair” for the SNP to talk of holding the balance of power at Westminster after May 7th. That was promptly taken as an invitation to do just that by Ms Sturgeon. She went out of her way to say the SNP would never enter a coalition with the Conservatives and furthermore, the party’s MPs would no longer abstain in voting on English matters when it comes to defending the NHS from privatisation.

The Chancellor, though, had the quiet satisfaction of watching John Swinney, the Scottish finance minister, follow his lead in cutting stamp duty on house purchases to 5 per cent for properties valued between £250,000 and £325,000.

Clearly there is a lot of positioning going on for the election campaign. For the record, the latest opinion poll, Ipsos Mori for STV News, puts SNP support at 52 per cent,

Labour at 24 per cent, Conservatives at 12 per cent and the Liberal Democrats and Greens both down to 4 per cent.

Unemployment has taken a turn for the worse, a further 7,000 people are out of work in Scotland, taking the unemployment rate up to 5.7 per cent. In Peterhead, 300 workers at a fish processing factory have been laid off after the building burnt down last weekend. The flames could be seen by fire fighters as they raced there from Aberdeen 30 miles away.

The cold weather has continued this week, with temperatures going down to minus 12 C in parts of the Highlands. In Glasgow, a young teacher was killed in a sledging accident in Kelvingrove Park. Maryam Najafian was described as “a shining light” by the head teacher at her primary school in Lanark.

Re-wilding is not the only new word I learned this week. There’s “re-manufacturing”, which apparently means refurbishing old machinery and selling it on, with guarantees. The industry is said to be worth £2.4bn to the British economy and now there’s an institute for it at Glasgow University.

I wonder if the latest portrait of Robert Burns by students at Clyde College would count as re-manufacturing. It’s made out of old Irn-Bru bottle caps and Tunnock’s tea cake wrappers. I guess there will be much re-manufacturing of the bard this weekend at many a Burns Supper. I think he would have been in favour of re-wilding Scotland. His address to the “wee sleekit, cowrin’, tim’rous beastie” could, perhaps, be stretched to include any re-introduced lynx.

“I’m truly sorry man’s dominion

Has broken nature’s social union

An’ justifies that ill opinion

Which makes thee startle

At me, thy poor, earth-born companion,

An' fellow mortal. "

No new injuries for Stubbs ahead of QotS game



Hibs' Head Coach Alan Stubbs is likely to go with the same starting XI who beat Cowdenbeath last Saturday in tomorrow's game against Queen of the South in Dumfries.

A win would move Hibs six points clear of QotS in third place and would go a long way to ensuring a play off place at the end of the season, particularly with fifth placed Falkirk away at Tynecastle.

Stubbs also gave an update on the injury list at Easter Road including Franck dja Djedje, Farid el Alagui, David Gray and Jordon Forster (pictured)

Speaking to Hibs TV, Stubbs said: "It's not much different from last week. Dje Dje won't be available but we have no new injuries to report.

"David (Gray) is doing really well in his rehab so he is making really good progress.

"Farid (El Alagui) is the same. He's just had a steroid injection into his ankle to free up a little bit of pain that he was getting with it which is nothing untoward. He has progressed really well, better than we expected to be honest.

“We are delighted with his progress. He is still ahead of schedule. Last week he was a little bit down but it was just a matter of having a chat with him just to reinforce where he is. the specialists are really happy.

“I think Jordon (Forster) still needs ore fitness in him. He had 10-15 minutes at the weekend and 45 minutes on Tuesday and i still think he needs another 120 minutes before we even consider him for the first team. He has been out quite a while and he hasn’t been able to gain real match shaprpness and he is still a little bit short of that.”

Photo by John Preece

Edinburgh Leisure in deal with Edinburgh Rugby



A deal has been struck between Edinburgh Leisure the council-owned company that runs the city’s gyms and swimming pools and Edinburgh Rugby who need to keep their players in peak fitness. Now the rugby aces will be able to use the facilities at Edinburgh Indoor Climbing Arena (EICA) and the fitness team there.

As an Official Fitness Partner of Edinburgh Rugby, the team will benefit from use of Edinburgh Leisure’s gyms and swimming pools, as well as fitness instruction.

The gym at the Edinburgh Indoor Climbing Arena (EICA): Ratho will serve as a key off-site base for the players for strength

and conditioning and recovery exercise.

In addition, the partnership will enable both organisations to benefit from joint social media promotions and publicity, raising their profiles with the wide shared audiences of Edinburgh Leisure customers and Edinburgh Rugby's fan base.

Edinburgh Leisure, which manages 30 venues on behalf of City of Edinburgh Council, has expanded its corporate partnerships significantly in the past year, having teamed up with Speedo, Black and Lizars, ESPC and Volvo.

The not-for-profit organisation, which also delivers a number of award winning health intervention programmes, has invested in greatly improving its gym facilities in recent years. Now boasting some of the most state-of-the-art equipment in the capital on top of professional support, Edinburgh Leisure offers ideal facilities for the training of premier rugby players.

Graeme Gardner, Director of Operations at Edinburgh Leisure said: "Edinburgh Leisure is proud to be providing the city's top rugby team with the great facilities and professional expertise to keep them at the top of their game. We hope it will inspire rugby fans across Edinburgh to get healthy and active this New Year."

Edinburgh Rugby said: "We're delighted to partner with Edinburgh Leisure this season, whose venues are well known and well used by many of our supporters and welcomed by our club, who will make good use of the cutting-edge facilities on offer."



Photo shows Edinburgh Rugby players Cornell du Preez and Alan Dell training at Edinburgh Leisure venue EICA:Ratho

Five things you need to know today



Young photographer shows off Edinburgh at its best

Airport set for expansion

Adult Education Programme

Volunteers required for helpline

Garden Kitchen open for business

[Post](#) by [Greig Howitt Photography](#).



Edinburgh Airport has announced more plans for expansion. The airport is in a special position as it does not require to ask for planning permission on the land it owns, but the plans are for a new airside development which will renovate the immigration and baggage reclaim facility meaning that the airport can accommodate bigger long-haul aircraft.

[Read more here.](#)

A five week holiday language course is one of the highlights of the new Adult Education Programme launched by the City of Edinburgh Council. It's the perfect way to learn some local phrases before jetting off for your summer break. With more than 400 new day, evening and weekend courses available, the Council's Adult Education Programme has something for everyone.

Most classes resume at the end of January with some beginning in February, and weekend classes in March. The holiday language course starts in April.

But if learning a new language isn't for you, then how about a cooking class? There are courses in Italian, Indian and Spanish cuisine and many more. Or what about trying digital photography, creative writing, guitar, fitness classes or one of the many other subjects on offer?

For a full list of Adult Education Programme classes click [here](#) or phone 0131 556 7978 to get a brochure or pick one up from your local library, community centre or GP surgery. Classes can still be booked by post, phone or in person as well as online.

Councillor Cathy Fullerton, Vice-Convener for Education, Children and Families, said: "Every year, thousands of people of all ages and in all areas of the city take part in our adult education classes. Learning should always be enjoyable, and we hope the wide range of courses will inspire people to learn something new or in more depth.

"Taking up a class can help people develop confidence and keep mentally and physically active as well as acquiring new skills. Research shows that people who are in lifelong learning are more likely to be employed, to remain in work and to be involved in their communities. It truly is about learning for life and it's never too late to start.

"I would advise anyone who has some time to spare over the coming weeks to look into what's on offer and to book a place sooner rather than later.

"After listening to customer feedback we rolled out online booking last year and we've had a huge response with more than 15,000 places booked since September.

For a full list of Adult Education Programme classes click

[here](#) or phone 0131 556 7978 to get a brochure or pick one up from your local library, community centre or GP surgery. Classes can still be booked by post, phone or in person as well as online [here](#).

Many other classes are held all over Edinburgh in schools and community centres. You can find full details [here](#).

An Edinburgh based helpline for stressed parents and carers is looking for volunteer call takers.

ParentLine Scotland took more than 4000 calls from anxious mums, dads and carers from across the country last year.

The charity offers a helpline, email and web-chat service, for anyone caring for or concerned about a child. It is run by CHILDREN 1ST which works to ensure every child and young person in Scotland has a happy, healthy, safe and secure childhood.

Helpline Manager Jill Cook said: "Our volunteers make an enormous difference to the lives of mums, dads, carers, and professionals just by being there to listen and reassure. It's a vital service and we ensure they're ready for the role with 40 hours of high quality training. They also have back-up from a supervisor."

Volunteers at ParentLine Scotland give a minimum commitment to a year after training. The charity says it's looking for caring, non-judgemental people who are interested in the wellbeing of children and young people. Calls can be about all sorts of issues from bullying to separating families, teenage behaviour and toddlers tantrums.

Volunteer Janin Pohl (40) said: "Whatever people call with we take it seriously, it's not trivial. In that time they are valued. You don't often find out how things go but at the time you have that sense that there is now a bit of light at the end of the tunnel."

The next volunteer training course starts on 31 January. To find out more contact parentlinescotland@children1st.org.uk

ParentLine Scotland is open 365 days a year on 08000 28 22 33.

You can also get in touch by web-chat at www.children1st.org.uk/parentline or by email parentlinescotland@children1st.org.uk



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.

Friday in Edinburgh – What's On Today



Freeze Frame Film Club: an informal evening of flickering images drawn from classic old favourites. This week: ***Back to the Future* (PG)**. Go early and have a 3 course movie-themed meal at the Drill Hall Arts Cafe before the show, or just go along for the film itself – free popcorn provided! 'An evening of nostalgic drama, laughter and tears'. 6.30pm (film 8pm), [Out of the Blue Drill Hall](#), 36 Dalmeny Street. Meals cost £15 and must be booked in advance – call the cafe on 0131 555 7100. Film costs £2.50 (children £2), which can be paid on the door (subject to availability), or in advance by calling 0131 555 7100 or emailing stephanie.haigh@outoftheblue.org.uk, or asking at the cafe. For more information see the [club's](#)

[Facebook page](#).



Fort Community Centre Bake Sale! Kids from some of the Centre's clubs are holding a bake sale today – so come along, bring your money, and eat cake! 1pm, [Fort Community Centre](#), 25 North Fort Street.

Bookbug: rhymes and songs for young children and their parents/carers. 10.30-11am, [Oxgangs Library](#), Oxgangs Road North.

Storytime: find out where the magic story rug will take you this week! 10.30am today and every Friday, [Piershill Library](#), 30 Piersfield Terrace.



Rally and Broad: The Apology Shop. A tongue-in-cheek celebration of the apology in its many varieties: come hear the confessional, the reverential, the spittingly caustic and the wittily marvellous, featuring **Francesca Beard, Bizerk, Emily Dodd, Chris Willats**, and UK University Slam Champ **Jess Smith**. 7-10pm, [The Bongo Club](#), 66 Cowgate. £5 on the door. The Bongo Club is owned by local arts charity Out of the Blue. 'Putting the sounds of the underground and imaginative aspirations before the mighty dollar'.

Works On Paper 2015: a selection of prints, drawings and watercolours from the storerooms of **The Fine Art Society** Edinburgh and London. Artists include **Gerald Brockhurst, Sir David Wilkie, Robert Austin, Walter Geikie, James McBey, Mabel Royds** and **Charles Tunnicliffe**. 10am-7pm today, 11am-4pm Saturday, [Dundas Street Gallery](#), 6a Dundas Street.



Eco Kidz: if you love creating and would like to learn some

new skills too, try Eco Kidz. The group uses recycled materials to design and create new products before selling them at markets around Edinburgh: the Christmas pop-up stalls almost sold out! All profits go back into the project. For ages 8-12. 1.45-3.15pm today and every Friday, [North Edinburgh Arts](#), 15a Pennywell Court. Free.

Scottish Society of Architect Artists: Art4X. An exhibition and sale of art works organised jointly by the **SSAA** and **the University of Edinburgh**, in support of the University's **Patrick Wild Centre**. The Centre's mission is to understand the neuronal basis of, and test new therapies for, **autism, fragile X syndrome** and **intellectual disabilities** by fostering collaborations between world class basic science and clinical research at the University of Edinburgh. A selection of guest artists and **Ligne et Couleur** (Ligne et Couleur is the name of the SSAA's counterpoint associations in other European countries) colleagues from France, Germany, Italy and Poland who have exhibited with SSAA over the last three decades have been invited to contribute works for the exhibition and auction as part of Art4X. 10am-4pm today, 10am-12 noon tomorrow (Saturday 24th January), Sculpture Hall, [Edinburgh College of Art](#), Lauriston Place.

St Bride's Toddlers Group: a relaxed and friendly atmosphere for parents/carers and their children to get together, play and chat. Led by Solma Rahman. 9.30-11.30am today and every Friday until 20th March, St Bride's Cafe, [St Bride's Centre](#), Orwell Terrace.

St Bride's Children's Club: have lots of fun and make new friends while playing games, learning arts and crafts and going on trips. For ages 5-9. Today and every Thursday until 26th March (no club 19th February) 4-5.30pm, [St Bride's Centre](#), Orwell Terrace. 50p per session.



Lunchtime Concert: de la guitarra. Gordon Ferries and Stephen Morrison specialise in 19th century guitar music on original instruments. Today they will perform works by Beethoven, Mozart, Carulli and Sor. 1.10pm, [Reid Concert Hall](#), University of Edinburgh, Bristo Square. Free.


Malawi Coffee Morning: with Fairtrade tea and coffee and Fairtrade goods for sale. Profits go to the church's Malawi project. All very welcome! 10.30am-12 noon today and every Friday, [Stockbridge Parish Church](#), Saxe Coburg Street.

Girl Fridays: a club for girls in P7 to S4. 3-4.30pm, [Pilmeny Youth Centre](#), 44 Buchanan Street. For more information contact Mo Airnes on 0131 553 2559 or email moairnes@btconnect.com.



Edinburgh College of Art Friday Lecture Series: Mika Hannula. Based at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, Mika is the former Director of the Academy of Fine Arts in Helsinki, and Chair of KUNO, the Nordic network of art academies. 11.30am, [Edinburgh College of Art](#), Lauriston Place. Free and open to all.

Heriot Watt University: Lunchtime Music Hour. This week: **The Rotary Club Young Musician Competition.** 12.30-1.30pm, Zero Degrees, Students Union, [Heriot Watt University Edinburgh Campus](#), EH14 4AS.

Human Blues: Anna Glantz and Tam Hare. An exhibition exploring the connections between the self, collective identity and modern culture, and the 'weird, and not so wonderful' feelings that arise when these disconnect. Anna is a Swedish-born painter and printmaker, Tom is a visual artist and writer whose work is principally photographic and camera-centric. Open preview tonight 6-9pm, then 10am-6pm Monday to Friday, 11am-5pm Saturdays and Sundays, until 3rd February 2015, Gallery 2, [St Margaret's House](#), 151 London Road. 

LGBT Women's Wellbeing Group: *Colour My Life*. An inclusive group offering a chance to meet other LGBT women in a relaxed environment. Chat, information and activities promoting health and wellbeing. The group is open to all LGBT women, and welcomes transgender people who primarily identify as women. This month banish the winter blues by contributing to a women's wellbeing creative space, where women can come together to share music, get in touch with their artistic side and have the opportunity to contribute words of solidarity to **Amnesty International's Write for Rights** letter writing campaign. 2-4.30pm, [LGBT Health & Wellbeing](#), 9 Howe Street. To stay up to date with the group contact alison@lgbthealth.org.uk to be added to the email reminder list.



Gallery Social – Beauty By Design: Fashioning the Renaissance. 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 Portrait Gallery](#), 1 Queen Street. Free: to book a place please call 0131 624 6560.

LGBT Film Nights: see LGBT themed and mainstream films in a friendly, sociable setting. Vote by email, and at the events, for film choices each month. You are welcome just to turn up on the night, but please be aware that the film will already have been chosen. 6.30-9.30pm, [LGBT Health & Wellbeing](#), 9 Howe Street. For more information, contact the centre on 0131 523 1100 or email admin@lgbthealth.org.uk.

Son et Lumiere: two hours of sound and silence, of light and darkness. Space and time to sit, to think, to wander, to be. 6-8pm, [St Giles Cathedral](#), High Street. Tickets £3 at the door.



Blackwell's Edinburgh Presents Stuart MacBride *The Missing and The Dead*: Acting Detective Inspector **Logan McRae** returns in this new novel by the bestselling crime writer. 'One mistake can cost you everything. When you catch a twisted killer there should be a reward, right?' What McRae gets is a 'development opportunity' in the depths of rural Aberdeenshire...then a little girl's body washes up outside the sleepy town of Banff, kicking off a massive manhunt...there are dangerous predators lurking in the wilds of Aberdeenshire, and not everyone's going to get out of this alive. 6.30-8pm, [Blackwell's](#), South Bridge. This event is ticketed, but tickets are free and can be collected from [Blackwell's](#) front desk or reserved by calling 0131 622 8218 or emailing events.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk. Read The Edinburgh Reporter's article about Stuart MacBride's 2014 Edinburgh Book Festival appearance [here](#).

An Evening with Burns and Gow: Robert Burns and Niel Gow are responsible for some of the greatest words and music that Scotland has ever produced. This performance sees **Euan Drysdale** (vocals/guitar/piano) and **Alistair Savage** (fiddle) celebrate the works of Burns and Gow in a joyous evening of traditional fiddle music, alongside some new folk/blues interpretations of Burns' poetry in song. 7.30-9.30pm, Netherbow Theatre, [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#), 43-45 High Street. Tickets cost £10/£8 and can be purchased online [here](#) or by calling 0131 556 9579.



Edinburgh Airport rolls out the red carpet for the Prime Minister



Edinburgh Airport today welcomed the Prime Minister and also issued a cautious welcome to the plans in the draft legislation following the Smith Commission report to devolve Air Passenger Duty to the Scottish Government. The Edinburgh Reporter spoke to Gordon Dewar Chief Executive of Edinburgh Airport about what it means for Scottish airports.

[listen to 'The Edinburgh Reporter NEWS' on audioBoom](#)

The Prime Minister visited Edinburgh today to meet with the First Minister at Holyrood for discussions on the Smith Commission legislation as the airport announced a new £50m airside investment programme.

Work begins this week on an extensive redevelopment of the airport's immigration and baggage reclaim facilities, a move that will triple capacity for bigger long-haul aircraft.

The Prime Minister was met by Chairman, Sir John Elvidge, and CEO Gordon Dewar, who took him on a tour of the airport's new airside construction site which will be phased over the next four years.

With long-haul traffic up almost 90% in 2014, thanks to new routes with Qatar Airways, United Airlines and US Airways, and increased services from Turkish Airlines, Edinburgh Airport is embarking on this ambitious development plan which will see a second immigration hall and baggage reclaim area created and extensive construction of new aircraft stands and air bridges.

In 2013, the Board of Edinburgh Airport committed to investing £150m in Scotland's busiest airport over five years to allow it to compete more energetically on the international stage

and to ensure that its facilities reflected the predicted growth in passenger numbers. This new £50m airside expansion is the second major project in an ambitious plan and follows the completion of the terminal extension late last year.

The first phase of the airside programme is due for delivery this summer, ahead of the arrival of Etihad Airways on 8 June when it launches the first link between Scotland and Abu Dhabi.

The first stage of the development will see the creation of a 2000m² rapid-build structure to house a new state-of-the-art immigration hall, around which a bigger structure will be built over the next five years.

Over 50 jobs will be created and preparation work is already underway on the site.



Gordon Dewar said: “As we announce the next part of our five-year investment programme, it was a pleasure to welcome the Prime Minister to Edinburgh Airport today so he can see the extensive changes we’ve already made and those we are about to start.

“We’re committed to providing our passengers with choice and giving them the best experience. The work we’ll be carrying out over the next four years will transform our airside facilities, tripling our capacity to handle bigger aircraft and paving the way for the next 10 years of increased international connectivity.

“We’ll effectively be creating a new international facility for our airlines, and underpinning our future aspirations to increase passenger numbers and enhance their experience and be one of the leading European airports for our size.

“We’ve grown significantly over the last several years and

have worked hard to redefine our airport strategy with the passenger at the core of everything we do. It's wonderful that we can showcase the ongoing investment in Edinburgh Airport and our plans for continued growth to the Prime Minister and to the millions of passengers which travel through here each year."

Prime Minister David Cameron said: "Having first class infrastructure is a crucial part of our long term economic plan to support business, create jobs and secure a brighter future for hardworking families across the country.

"The expansion of Edinburgh Airport is great news for Scotland and for the whole of the UK. It will open the door to more long-haul flights and new routes, meaning more tourism, more trade and more jobs for people here in Edinburgh and beyond.

"It will also help Scotland to compete on an international scale and of course the UK's large network of embassies across the globe will continue to keep banging the drum for Scotland and help maximise any opportunities, whether it is bringing in overseas investment or supporting businesses in Scotland to export worldwide".

Not everyone was quite as welcoming of the new UK government proposals.

SNP MSP Colin Keir whose Edinburgh Western constituency includes Edinburgh Airport has hit out at the Prime Minister and his UK government coalition lack of action on aviation issues.

Mr Keir said: "Every long haul passenger arriving at Edinburgh Airport will appreciate this investment. I do find however the Prime Ministers audacity in welcoming investment into an industry which has been improving despite mismanagement from Westminster.

"The London Treasury has been fleecing travellers who fly

through Scottish airports for years to the tune of millions of pounds thanks to Air Passenger Duty (APD). His government because of electoral reasons hasn't made a decision regarding which airport in London will be upgraded to act as a modern UK hub.


"The effect of this is that when there is poor weather or emergencies its Scottish flights that are cancelled first because of space issues at Heathrow and Gatwick".

"Travellers to and from Scotland deserve a better deal that's why I commend the management at Edinburgh Airport in bringing more direct flights to the city. It is obvious the UK have done very little to improve the plight of those who have to use London such as local business people. Mr Cameron's government cannot keep treating Scottish passengers with the contempt they have shown over the past years".

Review – The Potting Shed



The name for The Potting Shed is very apt and the decor even more so, but the food is the real jewel in the crown.

 The restaurant is owned by the Minto family who know a thing or two about exquisite food. They own at least five, possibly six, eateries across the UK and Spain, including The Sun Inn in Dalkeith.

Their love of food has led them to the decidedly student-oriented part of town, but the offering here may be just a bit above your baked beans on toast!

The menu is a tapas offering of various small dishes from the

sea, the land and what is known as 'ground provisions' or veg to you and me.

All dishes are the same size and we ordered six between two of us which turned out to be more than ample. Our only regret is that we still don't know what the starter which is simply entitled Toast and ham butter actually is since we forgot to order it! (Maybe you can tell us when you get along there!)





The first starter of squash and onion fritters which we chose from the Nibbles part of the menu was served beautifully hot and fresh. This was a pakora without too much of an Indian slant, served with tzatziki. It was a great start to what turned out to be a great meal. It is true to say that this was the opening night with a hand-picked audience all testing out the menu, but we enjoyed the attentive service and the delicious food which seemed to be the norm rather than forced for opening night.

Our only gripe, which we fed back to the management who were listening intently, was that the food was served just a little bit too quickly to savour and enjoy at perfect temperature, which they accepted and will reflect in the way the kitchen deals with each food order in future.

The restaurant has been through a number of identities, but The Potting Shed stood out for them among all the ideas the family considered. Ian Minto has been in the catering trade since he was 40. He said that his friends got fed up with him speaking about food. He is a self-taught chef but admits that it is a young man's trade.

The team of two chefs one of whom trained at the Three Chimneys are passionate about food, which Ian Minto believes is crucial to the success of the restaurant. He has experience in this as the owner of the Sun Inn in Dalkeith which won a Gastropub of the year award in 2011 and offers a carvery style [Sunday lunch](#) for £15 a head which is highly prized among those in the know.

There are lovely touches in the way this restaurant has been

decorated, with stripped tables, watering cans galore and garden tools on the walls. You really could be in the shed (but with far better fare than a packed lunch!) Unusual and quirky presentation including tin dishes your granny used to have only added to our enjoyment of the meal.

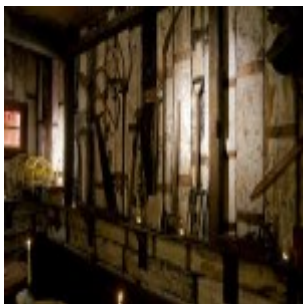




We enjoyed scallops, squid (much bigger than you would ever have imagined), featherblade with shallot and herb relish and the marvellously melt in the mouth short rib and carrot. The shallots were served on a bed of completely and utterly smoother than smooth celeriac which has confounded us. How do they do that? The ribs were served on a bed of smoothened carrots accompanied by the roasted version for variety and interest.

Cabbage bacon and pine nuts may not exactly sound inspirational but the teeny little whole cabbages were served piping hot and were mouthwateringly delish.





Just room to share a Tonka bean creme brulee with cardamom and

a couple of crafted coffees.

Then we had to guess how much you would have paid... that was the hard part!

But our waiter guided us by explaining that none of their dishes are priced at above £10... So although we can't tell you how much the whole meal might have cost we can tell you that it was beautifully tasty and very well presented, and probably worth what you will pay for it.

As long as you have well-mannered friends then to share a number of these dishes would be a very good night out and we are certain you will have to book when word gets around.

Although we did not sample them they also serve craft beers so if you try them out then please tell us about them!

The Potting Shed 32-34 Potterrow Edinburgh EH8 9BT opens to the public tomorrow 23 January 2015

See their website [here](#) but be aware that the menu tonight was very different from how it looks online!



Former Hibs' Chairman Douglas Cromb dies aged 84.



Former Hibs' Chairman Douglas Cromb has died aged 84.

The lifelong supporter of the club, spent six years as Chairman and served on the board for nine-and-a-half years.

He also served on the Scottish FA Council, was Chairman when Hibs won the Skol Cup in 1991 before stepping down from the role in May 1997.

Chairman Rod Petrie paid tribute to the contribution made by Douglas Cromb: "On behalf of everybody at Hibernian, we're very sorry to hear the sad news of Douglas' passing. He served the club for many years and will be fondly remembered.

"Douglas was a passionate supporter of the club and he was instrumental in the formation of Club '86' which supported youth development.

"He formed a strong bond with manager Alex Miller and he enjoyed success at Hibernian with the famous Skol Cup win in 1991.

"Everybody associated with the club would like to pass on sincere condolences to his friends and family during this difficult time."

Other tributes were made on social media including twitter, Hibs.net and Hibeas Bounce forums.

Houston House incorporates modern with the 16th century



Macdonald Houston House Hotel is a very old building with

parts which date from the 16th century. There is a suggestion that Mary Queen of Scots actually spent some time resting here at one point, and certainly it looks the part!

Now it has been renovated to bring it up to the exacting standard required by today's hotel guests. Seven restyled bedrooms within the imposing original tower have been transformed with 4-poster beds, powerful showers and in-room Nespresso machines.

This is all part of a £330,000 refurbishment programme of 23 bedrooms in the West Lothian hotel that is a key conference and wedding venue in the area.

Herve Bernier, general manager of Macdonald Houstoun House, commented: "I am very pleased that we can now offer guests the opportunity to experience the style and comfort of our newly refurbished tower bedrooms. We are also on schedule to complete the refurbishment of an additional 17 bedrooms by early February.

"This significant investment underlines our commitment to ensure Macdonald Houstoun House operates as a leading business and leisure destinations in the west of Edinburgh."

The 73-bedroom hotel is just 10 minutes' drive from Edinburgh Airport and easily accessed off the Edinburgh-Glasgow M8 motorway.

www.MacdonaldHotels.co.uk/Houstoun

Jim Murphy welcomes delivery

of 'The Vow'



Scottish Labour leader, Jim Murphy, marked the publication at Westminster of the draft clauses to deliver the Smith Commission findings by visiting an Edinburgh work fare project.

Mr Murphy met staff and volunteers at FareShare Central & South East Scotland in Leith to look at how the work fare programme operates in practice.

FareShare is run by the [Cyrenians](#) Good Food programme, a social enterprise that provides food donated by major supermarkets which is delivered to organisations looking after people experiencing disadvantage, poverty or homelessness.

Commenting on publication of the Smith Commission Bill Mr Murphy said:

“This is the Vow delivered, a modern version of Home Rule. Labour and the other parties promised to deliver a Bill by Burns night and we’ve done that three days early.

“There are those who don’t believe the Tories will deliver on their promise. I can reassure them that Labour will, and the best way to bring more powers to the Scottish Parliament is to vote Labour at the General Election.

“The SNP are never satisfied but they cannot form a Government at UK level. They can shout at the Tories but only Labour can get rid of the Tories.

“I want to go further than Smith. I want to see the powers devolved to Edinburgh then devolved further to our cities and towns so they can develop local programmes to meet local needs.

“The current levels of youth unemployment are a scandal. Every day out of work for a young person is a day wasted and we’re anxious to get them into work programmes and on to full time employment. Only by voting Labour can the people of Scotland see that happen.”

You can read the whole content of the draft legislation [here](#).

Photo courtesy of Garreth Lodge.

Hibs’ fans chair opposes new share deal



A Hibs’ fans boss came out today against the club’s new share-buying scheme after two Hibs supporters groups had already rejected the proposals earlier this week.

Mike Riley, chair of the Hibs Supporters Association, the official body of the supporters clubs which represents over 18 branches, criticised Sir Tom Farmer and Rod Petrie’s plan to raise up to £2.5m from the fans to buy a 51 per shareholding and the lack of transparency over details of the debt owed to the majority shareholder, reportedly £5m, and how it would be paid back.

Riley said: “This is not community ownership. The proposals are basically calling on fans to make a donation to the multi-millionaire club owner.

“Despite plans for a new company Hibernian Supporters Limited, the fans will still not own the club or be running it. Overall control will remain with the majority shareholder and the current board.

“So far I’ve only heard from branches who are against it, but there may be others who might not agree. Therefore we will be calling a meeting for all branches of the Hibs Supporters Association to discuss it after the club’s AGM next week.

"I, myself, would advise fans not to put money in but I have made it clear these are my personal views as chairman. We are studying the club accounts and would like more information on the majority shareholder's debt or loan and how and why he wants a reported figure of £5m paid back."

On January 20th two separate fans groups, Hands on Hibs and BuyHibs, both urged fans to opt out and criticised the club's lack of transparency over the debt issue.

David Cameron meets the First Minister in Edinburgh



The first photos have been released of the Prime Minister's visit to Holyrood on the day that the draft legislation for increased devolution to Scotland is published.



Photos courtesy of The Scottish Government's Flickr channel.

Electoral Reform Society calls for UK-wide Constitutional Convention

✖ Today's [publication of draft legislation](#) to devolve powers to Scotland makes the case for a UK-wide, citizen-led Constitutional Convention ever more pressing, according to the

Electoral Reform Society.

The Edinburgh Reporter spoke with Will Brett who is Head of Campaigns at The Electoral Reform Society, a body which tries to encourage citizen involvement in matters relating to devolution across the country and not just in Scotland.

✖ He said: "As wider questions around the UK on where power lies are raised we want to ensure that citizens are in the driving seat. The Smith Commission was a pretty closed affair so it is pleasing to see that the government is starting to see how much energy there is in Scotland and recognise that there is potential for people to be involved at all stages of the process.

"One of the big implications of what is going on with Scottish Devolution is that it raises all these questions about what is going on in the rest of the UK. IN Wales they have their own process going on. All of these things are thrown up in the air by the fallout from the Scottish independence referendum.

"Our big ask is that the way all these pieces are put back together is done in a way which gives people the power and we really need a constitutional convention which is a mechanism for bringing ordinary people into the process of making decisions."

We spoke to Mr Brett over Skype just a short time after the draft legislation had been published today.

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

Commenting on today's announcement, **Darren Hughes, Deputy Chief Executive of the Electoral Reform Society**, said:

"All the parties vowed to devolve more powers to Scotland, and no one is suggesting this should be delayed. But ultimately, today's announcement raises more questions than it answers. These new powers will have huge implications for the rest of

the UK, so this is only going to be the start of the debate about where power should lie.

“It is vital that this debate is not dominated by politicians striking up deals behind closed doors. We won’t get a settlement between the nations that commands legitimacy and respect unless it is reached with citizens in the driving seat. That’s why we need a UK-wide, citizen-led Constitutional Convention to give ordinary people the power to decide our country’s future.

“We saw in the Scottish independence referendum that when you give people a real say in where power should lie, they will turn out in droves. Let’s bring that energy to the rest of the UK and open up this important debate so citizens can have their say. It’s time for a Convention, and all the parties should commit to one.”

The Open Eye Gallery: three new exhibitions



Lunchtime on the
balcony (1951)
Alberto Morrocco

A woman lies face down on a balcony, her slipper cast aside. Next to her, a man reads. This could be anywhere, but the artist’s use of shade and light in this beautiful ink and wash painting lets us feel the heat of the Mediterranean afternoon, just as the casual position of the figures conveys their languid, sleepy, postprandial mood. ***Lunchtime on the Balcony***

(1951) is just one of the outstanding collection of pieces in **Alberto Morrocco: Works on Paper** now on at The Open Eye Gallery.

Alberto Morrocco was born in Aberdeen to Italian parents, entering Gray's School of Art at the age of only 14. There he came under the influence of **James Cowie** and **Robert Sivell**, both of whom placed emphasis on drawing.

Although Morrocco's style developed throughout his long career, quality of line and meticulous draughtmanship remained fundamental to his practice: *Works on Paper* is a testament not only to these skills, but also to his artistic genius, especially as a portrait painter. After graduating Morrocco spent much time in Europe, eventually returning to Scotland to become Head of Painting at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art in Dundee, a position he held for thirty two years.

He has been credited with laying the foundations for the high reputation that the college (now part of Dundee University) has today. He drew and painted what he saw around him; many of the pictures in this exhibition are of his wife **Vera Mercer** (also an artist), their children and the Aberdeenshire countryside of his youth.

In ***Vera, Sleeping*** Vera lies on her back on a bed before an open window. Beside her is an open book; she has fallen asleep in the heat of the afternoon. Morrocco excels at drawing the curves of bodies, and here light from the window illuminates those curves; Vera's arms are folded across her breast in a scene that exudes calm and quietness. Another study with the same title shows Vera on a couch, this time in darkness, whilst in a third she leans back in a chair, awake now but still utterly relaxed.



Bedtime Cuddle.
Alberto Morrocco c

1946

Morrocco's paintings of babies are particularly charming: ***Bath Time*** shows us a gorgeously plump little person sitting in the tub, whilst ***Bedtime Cuddle (1946)*** is possibly the same infant, this time sitting on Vera's lap. Now the baby seems older, his legs dangle down almost to the floor – but the closeness of mother and child is palpable. Vera's expression is serene, even Madonna-like, as she spends this precious time with her baby.



Aberdeenshire Farmhouse (1948)
Alberto Morrocco

Aberdeenshire Farmhouse (1948) has a different mood; the house is seen through finely drawn trees, bare of their leaves. It is one of those moments of stillness that can even now be experienced in the rural north. ***Through The Trees*** is perhaps another study of the same house, but here there are leaves on the branches; spring has come. ***Tenements*** – one of my favourite pieces – is an ink and wash painting of a back yard in the city. Washing hangs from a line strung from a window, two small children play; . although there are no other figures to be seen, you know that urban life is going on all around them.

Morrocco did not always stick to black and white; as travel became easier in the 1950s he started to paint colourful scenes of beaches and boats, together with vibrant still lifes. ***A Kitchen In Paris*** has an impressionistic style; a small boy sits at a table eating bread, whilst behind him we see a Belfast sink and a line of bottles in soft, mottled colours. It is a scene that is quintessentially French. Although he never really learned Italian, Morrocco visited the country several times; a large painting ***Zattere al Ponte Lunigo, Venice***, has for me echoes of the style of James McBey. In these paintings as in his earlier works, Morrocco shows a wonderful understanding of the human body; in ***Sunbathers (c***

1970s) a woman stands beside another, who is seated – and beside her we see the sticking-out feet of a third, prone figure. All have good solid bodies; they are real – and the feet add an extra, witty comment. The charcoal drawings also impress; the simple lines of ***The Water Pump*** depict a woman sitting on a wall waiting for her pitcher to fill; ***The Bench*** (a drawing in conte) is a study of three old men, the outlines of their hats making them instantly recognisable; in the foreground a woman pushes a carriage pram.



Self portrait in the kitchen c
1960s, Alberto Morrocco

Morrocco painted a huge number of portraits in his lifetime, his subjects including all the principals of the University of Dundee and even the Queen Mother as its chancellor. Although these more formal works are not shown here, two self-portraits amply demonstrate his skill. In ***Self Portrait in the Kitchen***, he faces us, whilst behind him a mirror reflects infinite images of the scene.

Alberto Morrocco died in 1988; writing his obituary in *The Independent*, **Duncan MacMillan** spoke of his combining ‘the best of Scottish directness with Italian warmth, courtesy and generosity of spirit. Throughout his long career as a painter, these qualities were reflected in his art.’ A fitting epitaph to a wonderful artist.

All three of Alberto and Vera’s children work in the arts; the Gallery is showing two of his son Leon’s own works – in ***Gardens*** a figure complete with flat cap is outlined in the background of a flower-filled plot, the tops of the high stalks protected with little pots behind a fence. It is a charmingly realistic scene, and one still to be seen on many allotments.



Ruth Brownlee: Westerly Gales, West
Yell

The Open Eye Gallery is also hosting two other new exhibitions. In ***Coastline*** a number of artists contribute their interpretations of the varied and spectacular UK shorelines. **Sarah Carrington's *Rocks and Shallows, Melmore*** and ***Rocks at Low Tide, Iona***, are particularly impressive, as is **Catherine Davidson's *The Night Before***. **Richard Demarco's** smaller studies ***Millport Harbour*** and ***Arran Mountains from Millport*** are full of colour – pinks, greens and purples conveying the glowing glory of the west coast scenery, whilst their use in ***Blue Fishing Boat at Rothesay Harbour*** brings a feeling of evening, of the day closing.

Meanwhile **Ruth Brownlee's** first solo exhibition ***Shetland*** includes some spectacular paintings exploring the islands that have been Ruth's home since 1998; there is a strong sense of the power of the elements in this far flung part of the country. A final mention must be given to the woodblock pictures by **Mabel Alington Royds**. Royds travelled widely with her artist husband Ernest Lumsden, and her travels are reflected in exotic Indian scenes such as ***Lammas Harvest***, in which musicians play drums and a horn as the workers toil, and ***The Shrine***. The simple colours – blue skies, brown robes, pink saris – in these pictures are both effective and appealing.

Works on Paper, Coastline and *Shetland* are all on now at The Open Eye Gallery, Abercromby Place. The gallery is open 10am-6pm Monday to Friday, 10am-4pm Saturdays. *Shetland* closes on 9th February 2015 and *Works on Paper* and *Coastline* continue until 11th February 2015.

Hibernian Supporters Limited respond to Hands On Hibs and BuyHibs concerns



Hibernian Supporters Limited (HSL), the group established to allow Hibs' fans to own 51% of the club via a share issue has expressed it's disappointment at criticism from other fans' groups 'Hands on Hibs' and 'BuyHibs' which has been reported on social media and in the mainstream media.

In response HSL issued the following statement on their website:

"Hibernian Supporters Limited (HSL is aware of statements made by Hands on Hibs via social media and in the Scotsman newspaper. It is also aware of statements made by BuyHibs in the Scotsman and on Radio Forth. HSL is disappointed that both Hands On Hibs and BuyHibs felt unable to support the new plans for Club ownership and by the way discussions have been portrayed in the media.

"HSL has only one purpose and that is to raise funds to purchase shares in Hibernian Football Club to hold for the benefit of all Hibernian supporters. Hibernian Football Club has entered into a legally binding agreement with HSL where monies raised are used to help support and fund football. In other words, all of the new money generated by the sale of shares will directly benefit the Club in which they are seeking a controlling interest, rather than being paid to any existing shareholders as in almost every other football club share offer.

"HSL take the view, a view shared by BuyHibs, and one we believe most Hibernian supporters will share, that it is right

and proper that the Club should meet its obligations - including repayment of its significantly reduced debt.”

Virgin Money to continue sponsorship of Edinburgh's fireworks

✖ In an announcement this morning Virgin Money has confirmed that it will pay for the fireworks concert to close the Edinburgh International Festival for a further three years.

The Edinburgh International Festival, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Virgin Money have announced that the Virgin Money Fireworks Concert will bring Edinburgh's summer festival season to a spectacular close on Monday 31 August 2015.

One of the largest fireworks events of its kind in the world, the Virgin Money Fireworks Concert will start at 9.30pm on Monday 31 August 2015. The three partners, Edinburgh International Festival, Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Virgin Money, say they are delighted to offer a celebration in which the whole city and its residents can share and which gives everyone more to enjoy on the final day of the summer festivals.

Virgin Money has confirmed its support for a further three years, until 2017, and will continue to work with the International Festival and Scottish Chamber Orchestra to develop the event for the city and its citizens.

Conductor Garry Walker has been confirmed for this year's concert, tickets for which will go on sale with the 2015

Edinburgh International Festival programme on 28 March.

✘ **Fergus Linehan, Director of the International Festival** **said:** 'It's great that the International Festival can present an event on the scale of the Virgin Money Fireworks Concert to bring all our summer festivals to a big finale and offer everyone in the city a spectacular night out.

'I'd like to thank Virgin Money for committing the support for a further three years of fireworks concerts and look forward to developing the event with them and our event partners the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

'I'd also like to thank all the people we've consulted with over the last few months, particularly the City of Edinburgh Council whose support in transforming the city centre is so crucial, for working through the details with us and I'm really looking forward to a fantastic Festival finale in 2015.'

Roy McEwan, Chief Executive of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra **said:** 'I am very proud that the Scottish Chamber Orchestra has produced this excellent event for over 30 years, bringing classical music to many people across Edinburgh and beyond, through our broadcast partner Forth One.

'Fireworks artists Pyrovision will once again create the awe-inspiring fireworks. Their display gets more impressive year on year, and we are eager to see what breath-taking delights they come up with this year.

'I am delighted that Virgin Money will continue to support this event for a further three years'.

Andrew Nicholson, Head of Sponsorship marketing for Virgin Money **said:** 'Virgin Money is extremely proud to continue as headline sponsors of the Edinburgh Fireworks Concert and reaffirm our commitment to the city and people of Edinburgh. The Fireworks continue to wow audiences and leave a lasting

impact upon those who witness the annual pyrotechnic extravaganza and the wonderful performances from the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. The Fireworks Concert is an established and fitting conclusion to the Edinburgh Festival.'

Councillor Steve Cardownie, Festivals and Events Champion for the City of Edinburgh Council, said: 'Every year the August festivals in Edinburgh go out with a bang with a fantastic display of fireworks and superb music. Support and funding of the festivals from the private sector is hugely welcomed, and this secured sponsorship for the next three years is good news for the Edinburgh International Festival and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. The concert always draws huge crowds, with residents who don't secure a ticket still enjoying great views from key vantage points across Edinburgh.'

Smith Commission allows Westminster to retain veto

✖ The Scottish Government has had sight of the draft legislation to enact the Smith Commission recommendations ahead of the rest of us. That is only to be expected. Having digested the nine chapter faster than we have been able to do in the last hour it appears to them that certain key areas are still to be subject to a 'No' from Westminster. For example 'Bedroom tax' abolition could only be done with consent of UK Government.

You can if you wish read the whole 9 chapters [here](#) online.

The First Minister said an urgent rethink was required across

several of the legislative clauses outlined by the Prime Minister if the new legislation is to deliver on both the letter and the spirit of the Smith Commission proposals.

Ms Sturgeon said aspects of the legislation represented progress but proposals in areas such as welfare, employment support and capital borrowing appeared to be a “significant watering down” of what was promised by the Smith Commission.

The First Minister highlighted three key areas that must be addressed immediately by the UK Government if the legislation is to meet the spirit and the content of the agreement set out by Lord Smith:

The welfare provisions do not enable the Scottish Parliament to create new benefit entitlements across devolved areas and require the approval of UK ministers for any changes to Universal Credit – including the action needed to end the bedroom tax.

Proposals for the full devolution of unemployment support fall well short of what was promised, hampering efforts to address joblessness by devolving only a section of the current support network and leaving important levers in the hands of UK ministers.

Scotland would be tied to the UK’s current austerity fiscal framework, and under the plans set out could see capital borrowing powers replace – and not augment – the existing capital grant.

The First Minister said:

“Throughout this process, I have been clear that, despite it falling short of the real home rule powers we need to create jobs and tackle inequality, the Scottish Government would be a constructive participant, working with the UK Government to bring forward what Lord Smith recommended.

“The legislation published today does not represent the views of the Scottish Government, but it does represent some progress. However, too much of what the Prime Minister has set out imposes restrictions on the recommended devolved powers and would hand a veto to UK ministers in key areas.

“For example, the proposals on welfare do not allow us to vary Universal Credit without the permission of the UK Government. That means – under the current proposals – we will not have the independence to take action to abolish the bedroom tax.

“At the same time, the power argued for by stakeholders to create new benefit entitlements in any devolved area has simply not been delivered, while the command paper makes clear that, pending devolution of disability support, the roll-out of personal independence payments and the cut to spending on disability benefits will continue.

“This cannot, under any interpretation, represent the meaningful progress on the devolution of the powers we need to design a social security system that meets Scotland’s needs.

“The support for unemployed people also falls short of what Lord Smith recommended, with the provisions set out today narrowly focused on existing schemes.

“And the paper confirms that the Scottish Government will still have to work within the framework of austerity being imposed by the UK Government. It also suggests that Scotland’s capital grant could be replaced by borrowing powers and not augmented by them as was clearly the intention of the Smith proposals.

“In these crucial areas the clauses set out today appear to be a significant watering down of what was promised by the Smith Commission and need an urgent rethink by the UK Government.”

The First Minister continued:

“We remain committed to this process, despite the difficulties we have experienced in getting information in a timely fashion and we will continue to work with the UK Government and other stakeholders to ensure that the changes are made ahead of the Bill being taken through Westminster.

“Ultimately, however, the decision on whether the Smith proposals go far enough in delivering the powers we need to create prosperity, tackle inequality and protect our public services will be for the people of Scotland to take.”

In the foreword to the draft legislation the Prime Minister reminds readers that over 2 million people voted to stay in the family of nations last autumn ‘strengthened by the security that comes from our larger United Kingdom’. He also explains that the Smith Commission tries to reflect the view that the Scottish people did not vote for the status quo, and that these powers will allow more decisions to be made in Scotland by Scottish politicians. Much is made of the fact that the draft legislation is published three days ahead of schedule, but other commentators have said that this bill will not be on the statute books till after the General Election in May 2015.