

# Sunday in Edinburgh – What's On Today



**Sing Out! featuring Brightons Praise Group.** Come and sing out for homeless people! Organist: **Robin Gardiner**. Refreshments will be served in the Undercroft Cafe following the Sing Out! 7pm, [St Andrew's and St George's West Church](#), George Street. Retiring collection for **Scottish Churches Housing Action**.

**Roddy Simpson: Victorian Scottish Photography.** Roddy Simpson, photographer, photohistorian, author, Open Studies tutor at Edinburgh University and Honorary Research Fellow at Glasgow University, will talk about the photography of Victorian Scotland – its processes, personalities and popularity. 4-5pm, [The Saltire Society](#), 9 Fountain Close, 22 High Street. Free tickets can be booked via [eventbrite](#). Part of Previously....Scotland's History Festival.



**Hidden Haiti: Fourth World Art.** Discover more about how Haitian artists recycle materials by turning them into beautiful artwork and homeware at this launch exhibition, and learn how Fourth World Art is supporting artisans to rebuild after the crippling 2010 earthquake. 1am-5pm, The Old Lab, [Summerhall](#), 1 Summerhall. Free.



**Bags of Art:** cool and creative fun for ages 4-12 with artists **Tessa Asquith-Lamb** and **Louise Fraser**. 2-4pm, [Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art ONE](#), Belford Road. Free and unticketed. Supported by the Friends of the National Galleries of Scotland.

**Hearing Impaired Tours: Remembering the Great War.** A free tour with portable loops for the hearing impaired led by artist Tessa Asquith-Lamb. 11am-12 noon, [Scottish National Portrait Gallery](#), 1 Queen Street. To book your free place contact the Information Desk on 0131 624 6560.

**St Giles' At Six: Sang Scule. A Garden in the North: *Warrior Kings and Holy Men*.** Choral music for Robert The Bruce by **Ben Parry**, and for James IV by **Sheena Phillips**, with plainsong for St Columba, St Ninian and St Kentigern and Scottish Renaissance motets by **Peebles, Douglas** and Anon. 6pm, [St Giles' Cathedral](#), High Street. Free: retiring collection.



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## Falkirk 1 Heart of Midlothian 2

**SPFL Championship, Saturday 15 November 2014 – The Falkirk Stadium**

After last week's struggle to overcome Raith Rovers by a single goal at Tynecastle, I looked at this weekend's fixtures and felt there was the distinct possibility of Hearts lead at the top of the SPFL Championship being reduced. Robbie Neilson's men faced a tricky visit to Falkirk and the Maroon's record at the Falkirk Stadium has hardly been impressive of late. With Rangers playing Alloa Athletic at Ibrox, I suspect I wasn't alone in thinking Hearts lead at the top of the table might be reduced to two or even a solitary point. At the end of Saturday evening, I needn't have worried. Not only did Hearts record another victory to extend their unbeaten run to a highly impressive 13 games, thanks to Rangers only mustering

a draw against the Wasps, the table-toppers actually increased their lead to six points. And with fellow promotion contenders Hibernian also dropping points, it was a good afternoon for Robbie Neilson's side.

Neilson had spoken during the week about not rushing injured stars Danny Wilson and Osman Sow back too early and about utilising the squad. Thus, the skipper and the striker remained on the sidelines while Miguel Pallardo replaced Sam Nicholson and Kevin McHattie came in for the injured Adam Eckersley.

As has been the case so often this season, Hearts began the game on the offensive. El Hassnaoui brought out a fine save from former Jambo keeper MacDonald in the opening minutes before Prince Buaben fired an effort into the side net. Falkirk were defending resolutely but the breakthrough for Hearts came in the 27<sup>th</sup> minute. The ever-dangerous Billy King set off on a mazy run before passing to Kevin McHattie. The young full back showed the composure of a seasoned striker as he turned inside the penalty box before firing the ball high into the net past a startled MacDonald to give the visitors a deserved lead.

Ten minutes later, Hearts doubled their lead. Jamie Walker sped down the left wing and sent over a dangerous cross into the Falkirk penalty box where El Hassnaoui got to the ball first to poke it home. Half-time arrived with Hearts fully deserving of their 2-0 lead. **Half-time Falkirk 0 Hearts 2**

Hearts fans know full well, however, that their team seldom do anything the easy way (apart from Scottish Cup finals against their city rivals) If the first 45 minutes belonged to the visitors, the second period was, in the main, dominated by the home side whose half-time substitution which brought about the arrival of Cooper brought an immediate change. He forced a fine save from Neil Alexander and the Hearts defence were struggling to keep Cooper at bay. That said, Jamie Walker

should have secured victory for Hearts with just over 20 minutes left when he intercepted a poor pass back from Biabi but found his effort on goal well saved by MacDonald.

The Bairns gave themselves a lifeline when Vaulks was allowed to run through the Hearts defence before passing to Biabi who was given too much time to turn the fire the ball past Alexander. From looking comfortable, Hearts were now having to defend although substitute James Keatings had a great chance to finish the game near the end when he latched on to Walker's cross only to fire his effort wide of the post.

The game did finish moments later and Hearts had clinched an impressive three points at a venue where they have often struggled. With Rangers unexpectedly dropping two points at home, Hearts lead at the top of the league is now six points and with Rangers visiting Tynecastle next Saturday for an eagerly-anticipated clash, another home victory – and Hearts have won every home game so far this season – would extend that lead to nine. Hearts other main contenders for promotion – Hibernian – are now 16 points behind.

'We shall not be moved' bellowed the Maroon Army who made up about half of the 7,000 crowd on Saturday. Another three points next Saturday and they may be proved correct...

**Falkirk:** MacDonald, Shaughnessy, McCracken, Vaulks, Taiwo, Alston, Smith, Sibbald, Grant, Leahy, Loy.

**Hearts:** Alexander, McHattie, Ozturk, Gomis, Walker, El Hassnaoui, King, Pallardo, Buaben , McKay, McGhee.

**Referee:** Calum Murray

**Att:** 7,003

**Top Man:** Morgaro Gomis – yet again, the wee man was everywhere.

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# Funding for youth theatre in Scotland

The First Minister Alex Salmond has given a parting gift to secure the future of Scotland's national youth theatre. He announced a £1 million package of public and private funding to engage more young people in culture and the arts.

The three-year investment will support Scottish Youth Theatre, the [National Youth Choir of Scotland](#), National Youth Orchestra of Scotland and YDance to deepen youth arts participation in the run up to Scotland's Year of Young People in 2018.

The funding will strengthen and support the national youth arts companies' work to deliver the ambitions set out in Scotland's first ever youth arts strategy, 'Time to Shine'.

The First Minister said:

"The Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games and the accompanying cultural programme was an incredible showcase for our country, and in our glittering Games the Scottish Youth Theatre were one of the true stars of the show.

"I am delighted to announce that with generous private sector support from Clyde Blowers, the Scottish Government will provide £1 million over the next three years to secure the future of the Scottish Youth Theatre and to support our other talented national youth companies as we count down to the 2018 year of Young People.

"Our national youth performing arts companies deliver incredibly important work and have helped to identify and nurture some of Scotland's greatest cultural talent. This

funding will ensure we continue to deepen our young people's engagement with culture and the arts, providing a pathway to professional arts careers – with all the benefits that such participation can bring in terms of education, confidence and self-esteem.

“It will enable our national youth arts performing companies to play an even greater part in the implementation of Scotland's first ten-year youth arts strategy, which will establish Scotland as an international leader in children and young people's art by 2023.

“Our ambition is for Scotland to be the best place in the world to grow up. One of the ways we can achieve this is by creating the conditions in which all our children and young people have the opportunity to access and engage in culture and the arts.”

Today's funding will support Scotland's four national youth performing arts companies – Scottish Youth Theatre, the National Youth Choir of Scotland, National Youth Orchestra of Scotland and YDance – to sustain and extend the breadth and depth of their engagement across Scotland and internationally. It will support each company to build on the legacy of the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games, engage with the Scottish First World War centenary commemorations programme, and work more collaboratively with the rest of the sector and each other.

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# Robbery near the cycle path

☒ Last night (Friday 14 November 2014) at around 11pm three men aged 16,18 and 22 were walking down North Fort Street towards the cycle path when they were approached and threatened by three men, one of whom produced a knife.

The suspects then made off with the males' personal belongings.

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

The first suspect is described as white, 5ft 8ins tall with a slim build and wearing a black scarf over his nose and mouth and a dark hooded top with the hood up.

The second suspect is described as white, 6ft tall, late teens to early twenties with a slim build, short dark hair with a gaunt appearance and lines around his mouth. He was wearing dark jogging bottoms and a grey hooded top.

The third suspect is described as white 5ft 8ins tall with a clean shaven face and wearing dark jogging bottoms and a grey hooded top.

Detective Constable Mark Seymour said: "Fortunately, none of the victims were injured during this robbery but were understandably upset at the theft of their belongings.

"We are now keen to hear from anyone who was in or around North Fort Street on Friday evening and remembers seeing anything suspicious.

"Anyone who recognises the description of the suspects or who has any other information relevant to this investigation is also asked to contact police immediately.

"Officers are currently pursuing a number of lines of enquiry

to trace the stolen goods. A number of phone apps and property marking kits are available to the public and we would advise people to utilise these where possible to aid in the recovery of any stolen items.”

Those with information can contact Police Scotland on 101 or alternatively the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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## Man injured in nightclub attack

✖ In the early hours of this morning (Saturday 15 November 2014) a man was seriously assaulted while in a nightclub in Frederick Street.

Police in Edinburgh are appealing for witnesses following this incident at the SUVA venue.

A 28-year-old man was standing at the side of the dance floor when a male struck him to the face with an unknown object.

As a result, the victim was taken to hospital but was later released.

The suspect, who is described only as being white, in his twenties and wearing dark clothing, then ran from the club and was lost to sight.

Anyone who can assist officers with their ongoing enquiry is now asked to come forward.

Detective Constable Douglas Mogg said: “The victim suffered a painful injury to his face and we are pursuing a number of lines of enquiry to trace the male responsible.



“Anyone who was in the club and witnessed the attack or who has information that can help us trace the suspect is urged to contact police immediately.”

Those with information can contact Police Scotland on 101 or alternatively, the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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## Sexual assault in Meadows




Edinburgh Police have put out an appeal for any witnesses to an incident which took place in The Meadows on Saturday morning between 6.50 and 7.10am.

This was the time that a young woman was subjected to a serious sexual assault on Middle Meadow Walk.

A 19-year-old woman had been out with friends in the Cowgate and Niddry Street area and was returning home when she made her way through the Meadows.

As she reached Jawbone Walk, a male approached the victim from behind and knocked her to the ground before attacking her.

The male then made off from the area before a member of the public came to the woman's aid.

 Officers are now conducting various local enquiries to trace the suspect and anyone who can assist in identifying him is asked to come forward.

He is described only as being white and wearing dark clothing and a dark coloured hat.

Detective Chief Inspector Alwyn Bell said: “This has been a

horrific attack on a young woman and she is understandably extremely distressed at this time.

“Specially trained officers are currently working alongside our relevant partner agencies to offer the victim all the necessary support and assistance she requires.

“This incident took place in an area that is often busy with joggers, dog walkers and other members of the public, regardless of the time of night and I would urge anyone who was in the Meadows on Saturday morning and remembers seeing anything suspicious to contact police immediately.

“We will have high-visibility police patrols deployed within the Meadows for the time being to offer reassurance to the public and to engage with anyone who may have information relevant to this enquiry.

“If you believe you can be of assistance to our investigation please approach one of these officers or call us on 101. Alternatively, you can make an anonymous report via the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. “

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## Hibernian 0-0 Queen of the South



A two goal win against Queen of the South would have seen Hibs leapfrog the Doonhamers into third place in the Championship this afternoon, but despite dominating throughout they were unable to breach the visitors defence and the hard fought encounter ended all square.

Head Coach Alan Stubbs was forced into making a number of changes with Mark Oxley, Dylan McGeough and Scott Robertson all missing through injury and Dominique Malonga away on international duty.

Matt Kennedy, watched by Everton manager Roberto Martinez and Alex Harris both started with Jake Sinclair returning to the bench.

Hibs started brightly and Matthew Kennedy's cross picked found Jason Cummings but his header went over the bar.

Cummings then produced a fierce drive from 30 yards which Queen of the South goalkeeper Zander Clark managed to parry away.

Whilst Hibs dominated possession, Queen of the South had the chance to score against the run of play when Kevin Holt set up Derek Lyle who fired wide of the post.

Clark then did well to save a powerful strike from Cummings at the near post before spilling a shot from Scott Allan which was cleared before Cummings could pounce.

Shortly after the restart Cummings had the chance to open the scoring but hammered the ball high and wide from the edge of the box.

Hibs continued to dominate but Stubbs' side was unable to penetrate the Queens' defence.

With time running out, David Gray did well to find substitute Paul Heffernan in the box, but the normally reliable striker blazed his shot over the bar and Queen of the South held on to secure a share of the points.

Hibs: Perntreou, Gray, Hanlon, Fontaine, Harris (Sinclair 60'), Craig, Stevenson, Handling (Heffernan 60'), S. Allan, Kennedy, Cummings (Stanton 69'). Substitutes not used: Combe, Booth, L. Allan, Crane.

Queen of the South: Clark, Dowie, Duman, Higgins, Holt, McShane, Kerr, Carmichael, Russell (Kidd 75'), Lyle (Reilly 60'), Baird (Dzierzawski 84'). Substitutes not used: Atkinson, Dzierzawski, Fowler, D. Smith, A. Smith.

Referee: George Salmond.

Attendance: 10,069

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## Edinburgh art gallery showing art good enough for a pope?

Edinburgh art gallery showing art good enough for a pope?

Urbane Art Gallery on Edinburgh's Jeffrey Street is exhibiting work by international artist Marta Czok, who was once commissioned to paint a triptych for Pope John Paul II. Her paintings are part of the gallery's winter exhibition called XmArt which starts on November 22nd.

Alongside Marta's work will be Edinburgh artist Paul Charlton, who has regularly exhibited at the RSA, and new work from gallery regulars Rosie Playfair, Louise Giblin, Niki Hare, Corinna Wagner and Colin Brown will also be part of the exhibition.

Urbane Art Gallery Director Tracey Robertson said:

"We are really excited about this, our first winter exhibition, and we have some cracking art to show. Marta's work is full of symbolism and wry humour and is utterly charming, Paul's pieces are emotive and full of impact, and our other artists never fail to delight, having been selling well over the summer. We are hoping that the public will enjoy

our diverse and eclectic mix of art. There are some amazing Christmas presents to be had..."

The winter show runs from 23rd November to 31st December with a private view on the evening of 21st November. Anyone who would like an invitation to the private view can contact the gallery on [info@urbaneart.co.uk](mailto:info@urbaneart.co.uk)

Pics are: 'A walk in the snow' by Rosie Playfair and 'Future mothers-in-law' by Marta Czok

Further information: Tracey Robertson, Urbane Art Gallery, 0131 556 8379

Submitted by [Rosemary Walker](#)



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## Biagi's Barcelona Blog



*by Marco Biagi MSP for Edinburgh City Centre*

I called him 'Shadowfax'. With Barcelona's 'Bicing' on-street municipal hire scheme closed to me as a non-local, he was the bike I hired from the extremely friendly [Green Bikes](#) in Plaça de George Orwell.

Amidst enjoying the culture, architecture and febrile political atmosphere of a recess break I had decided to put to the test what I've said – that if the city I was in had a network of off-road cycle paths I would be happy to get off my two feet and onto two wheels. But I also wanted a practical

lesson in street design to take back to Edinburgh, and to experience the challenges faced by so many of the people who write to me, in a place whose infrastructure may (or may not) have been developed enough to cushion my unfamiliarity with the mode of transport.

My first leg was an 8km cycle northward from the city's centre to a park in the lower part of the hills that surround Barcelona. Well, it should have been an 8km cycle. The moment the segregated path along the great boulevard of Ave Meridiana ended I was lost, and cycled in so many circles through a residential area I felt like I was on a fairground roundabout. After rejoining a main thoroughfare at the eyebrow-raisingly named Plaça de Karl Marx, a concrete homage to visions of automobile futures past, I reached my destination.

On the next leg I tried to do completely the opposite of what I'd done the last time but still managed to get lost at the same point, just in a different way. Shrugging, I followed the example of Newton's apple and let gravity guide me downwards until reaching the waterfront. After a break for feeding and watering I was one of many taking the long, leisurely cycle along the series of artificial beaches that had been built for the 1992 Olympics and have now become an enduring part of the city's seascape.

My final leg was successfully racing the hire shop's opening hours back to where I'd started, with one accidental if scenic detour through the cruise ship-laden harbour. There was only one Euro in it if I returned Shadowfax the next day, but hey, I'm Scottish. I also needed the satisfaction of getting back on time, and by then frankly I definitely also needed a shower.

As someone who is fairly fit but hadn't been on a bike in

eight years, the segregated cycle lanes along Barcelona's great boulevards suited me perfectly. The least substantial of barriers between myself and the rather energetic local drivers was a set of oversized cats eyes. I would rather have dismounted and walked than share a space with a ton of metal moving at forty miles per hour without some form of barrier between us – and a line of paint or different-coloured road surface never counts.

Could Edinburgh do this? While we're noted more for narrow streets than great boulevards, there are many large main roads that feed into the city centre like tributaries into the Amazon. And our narrow streets are nowhere near as narrow as the ten-foot wide passages in the Ciutat Vella. I see no obstacle of *engineering* that would prevent Edinburgh doing likewise. Crucial for me though too as a nervous newbie were the junctions, where cyclists moved with the pedestrians rather than the motorists and remained off-road at all times.

One stark difference was that in Barcelona when the cycle paths were absent bikes were expected to cohabit on the pavements rather than the roads. Pedestrians did not seem fazed by cyclists on pavements, though this cyclist was often fazed by pedestrians, especially the thirty-strong pack of roller-bladers who came at me like TIE fighters in Luke's final run on the Death Star. Cycle paths are built with money and concrete – this sort of relationship is only built with time and respect.

So, if Edinburgh somehow copied Barcelona's infrastructure and on-street 'Bicing' hire scheme, would I start travelling by bike? In absence of also copying Barcelona's also more extensive public transport network, possibly. The city's warm weather may help its café culture, but for me would hinder a personal cycling culture. On those five uphill miles that broke me in (and almost broke me full stop) I was longing for

a bit of Edinburgh haar and smirr. And that was in October. Topographically, cycling in Edinburgh and Barcelona at that point also seemed more similar than I had ever imagined. But the appeal for me of Barcelona's network is not just its greater comprehensiveness in providing routes from where I would be to where I would want to be to but also what feels like a greater emphasis on wholesale separation from motor traffic than Edinburgh has put in place so far.



Marco's inexact map

I left thinking that while the Netherlands and Denmark may the elder statesmen of cycling investment, under the Mediterranean sun Barcelona's growing reputation is well-deserved. The [Copenhagenize](#) table regularly lists the Catalan capital as one of the new emerging cycling cities in Europe. But Barcelona's network has come about because of determined action over less than decade by the city's leaders – 'Bicing' only started in 2007. If Edinburgh wishes to follow there are lessons to learn. Just one thing though – a few more signposts, please.

*For more information (and more photos than I had the foresight to take), see this [excellent article from earlier this year by Robin Lovelace on the CTC blog](#).*

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## Letter from Scotland





If a peaceful transition of power from one leader to another is the sign of a mature democracy, then Scotland has grown up. This weekend the grand master Alex Salmond hands over to his able assistant Nicola Sturgeon. She's been his understudy for the last seven years as the SNP has come to dominate Scottish politics. But what is Nicola Sturgeon like ? And will she take the SNP and Scotland in a different direction ?

The cartoonists have given us a picture of Alex Salmond as a large and cuddly panda, usually getting the better of his opponents. Nicola Sturgeon they've portrayed as a "nippy sweetie", one of those clever wee women from Glasgow with an annoyingly lot to say. She is indeed from the West, from Ayrshire, and she is undoubtedly clever. But what she has to say is delivered cheerfully, with precision and force but often with an ironic chuckle at the foolishness of the opposition.



Folk south of the border must see her as a Boadicea or Joan of Arc, determined to fight any foe and lead her people to freedom, if not next year, then in five or ten years time. She has refused to rule out another referendum on independence...when the time is right. Scots are more inclined to see her as "a lass o' pairts" – self-made, from a humble background, lawyer and political activist from the start. She joined the SNP when she was 16 and after several tries, was eventually elected as an MSP for Glasgow Region and then Glasgow Govan.

Her sheer ability and application saw her rise quickly inside the party. She even put her name forward for the leadership before teaming up with Alex Salmond for his "second coming." She is married to the party's general secretary, Peter Murrell, a modest behind-the-scenes man who is strong on organisation and strategy.



A young-looking 44, Nicola Sturgeon allows the SNP to renew its image for the next generation. She successfully appealed to women and the young during the referendum campaign – bringing enough of them on board to come within touching distance of independence. Her own political philosophy was formed by opposition to Mrs Thatcher and it's clear that greater "social justice" or equality will be a major part of her agenda.

Alex Salmond, at his final outing at first minister's question time on Thursday, was asked what he thought were his greatest achievements in government. His choice was interesting – "free education" by which he meant no student fees, and free school meals for children in the first three years of primary school. I thought he might have mentioned standing up to the UK government's austerity measures or the move towards renewable energy or creating more apprenticeships, or the lowest crime figures for 40 years. But no, he chose "social justice" measurers.

It will be interesting to see if the SNP can hold on to this traditionally Labour agenda as the Labour Party tries to rebuild itself in Scotland under its soon-to-be-elected new leader.

It will be interesting to see, too, if the SNP can stay as united under Nicola Sturgeon as it did under Alex Salmond. Will she be able to find new talent and bring them into her team ? And will she connect with ordinary people, as Alex Salmond was able to do with his folksy, Burns-quoting style.

Nicola Sturgeon will be beatified this weekend at the SNP conference in Perth. She will be elected first minister at Holyrood on Tuesday, thanks to the SNP's overall majority.

She takes the helm when the tide is running in the SNP's favour. It's riding high in the polls, party membership is at

record levels (84,000, dwarfing every other party in Scotland). The economy is showing signs of recovery at last – figures out this week show unemployment down to 5.9 per cent and real wages increasing for the first time since the great crash.

But there are still more “austerity” cuts to come. Will Nicola Sturgeon be able to blame Westminster in the same way as Alex Salmond was able to do ? And will the home-rule negotiations over the winter produce a settlement which benefits the SNP or will it take the wind out of its sails ?

Just as Joan of Arc famously prayed for wind to take the French fleet down river to face the English invaders at Orleans, the newly sainted Nicola will be praying for a fair wind as the SNP sets out on its new journey.



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## The Tamdhu Tash Off Party

The Tamdhu Tash Off Party will be held at Ruffians in Edinburgh. Victorian barbers will be offering clean shaves and a glass of Tamdhu to customers in exchange for a donation of £10 towards the Movember cause.

This event is for people aged 18+. If under 18s want to come along, they can however they can only take part in the clean shave and no discount will be given.

Date: 30th November

Time: 12pm-4pm

Location: Ruffians, 23 Queensferry Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4QS

Submitted by [Emma Craig](#)

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# The Edinburgh Gin Club – Gin & Cheese Pairing

Our Edinburgh Gin Club returns on 23rd November with a Gin and Cheese Pairing featuring the finest fromage from Edinburgh's iconic cheesemonger, IJ. Mellis.

Each cheese will be married to a specially created gin tippie, ensuring gastronomic bliss for the entire congregation!

Perfect for inspiring festive digestifs and after-dinner nibbles, the afternoon of Edinburgh Gin and IJ. Mellis artisan cheeses will include:

- Four distinctive cheeses (including a Stilton and goat's cheese) paired with four Edinburgh Gin libations
- The opportunity to try our festive new Christmas Edinburgh Gin with frankincense and myrrh botanicals
- A tour of the Edinburgh Gin Distillery
- Insights into the history and botanicals of Edinburgh Gin
- The opportunity to meet our Edinburgh Gin distillers

Date: Sunday 23rd November

Time: 13:30-15:30

Tickets: £25.00 plus £2.15 booking fee

Box

Office:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-edinburgh-gin-club-gin-cheese-pairing-tickets-14217580165>

Location: Edinburgh Gin Distillery, 1A Rutland Place, Edinburgh, EH1 2AD

Contact: [info@edinburghindistillery.com](mailto:info@edinburghindistillery.com) or 0131-656-2810

Notes: This event is for people aged 18+ only.

Submitted by [Rebecca Harvey](#)



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## Events at Rosslyn Chapel for Scotland's History Festival

Medieval music and historic tales are all on offer at Rosslyn Chapel this month, as part of the Chapel's contribution to Scotland's History Festival.

Today, during opening times, visitors can meet a medieval musician from Sir William St Clair's court; Jim Tribble, our musician will be on site throughout the day to answer your questions and give you information about his medieval instruments. He will be playing the instruments at 11.20am, 1pm, 2.20pm and 3.20pm included within admission price for visiting Rosslyn Chapel.

On Tuesday 18 November, 7pm, To watch the bow dance... will be a memorable concert featuring a single violin, dancing as it is played in the hands of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra assistant leader Tamas Fejes in an intense and emotive solo performance.

On Friday 28 November, 7pm, delve into some of the tales of the Chapel by the candle's light. Further detail and prices are available at <http://www.rosslynchapel.com> or by calling 0131 440 2159.

All events at Rosslyn Chapel, Roslin, Midlothian

<http://www.rosslynchapel.com>

Submitted by [Ian Gardner](#)

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# Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



**Lord Provost's message to the Scottish Rugby team**

**SNP to oppose UK plans on fracking**

**Crockart takes part in Parliament Week**

**Council pledges**

**New shop at Edinburgh Airport**

Edinburgh's Lord Provost, the Rt Hon Donald Wilson, is supporting the Scottish Rugby Team for their match against New Zealand on Saturday. The Lord Provost will be attending the event in his role as Lord Lieutenant – the Queen's representative in Edinburgh – with members of the Royal family.

The Lord Provost, RT Hon Donald Wilson, said: "As the competition continues, I wish Team Scotland the best of luck for Saturday's rugby playoff on behalf of everyone in Edinburgh. Following a fantastic performance against Argentina last weekend, I have high hopes for our national team as they play on Capital soil.

"Over 100 years ago, Murrayfield was home to the first ever

rugby match between the All Blacks and Scotland in 1905. Saturday's match will be the 30<sup>th</sup> competition between the teams, and this year also marks 40 years since Edinburgh became twinned with the beautiful city of Dunedin.

"Edinburgh has long held ties with New Zealand and it is great to have the All Blacks in the city where the competition between the teams all began."

Rugby fans heading to watch Scotland in the viagogo Autumn Tests 2014 this weekend are being advised to take note of traffic and travel information. [Temporary road closures](#) and [parking restrictions](#) will be in place in the Haymarket area for a number of hours on Saturday afternoon and evening.

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Welcoming SNP plans to oppose UK plans to make fracking easier, Dr Richard Dixon, Director of Friends of the Earth Scotland, said:

"The UK Government has ignored over 99% of responses to its consultation, and the objection of the Scottish Government, that the removal of people's rights to object to fracking underneath their homes is simply unacceptable.

"We welcome the SNP's plans to oppose sections of the UK Infrastructure Bill which would give the fracking industry carte blanche to drill wherever they like, and to leave toxic drilling and fracking chemicals behind. It will be very interesting to see how Labour and LibDem MPs vote on these issues.

"Cameron and Osborne's blinkered dash for gas risks putting the UK on course for climate catastrophe and endangers the health and wellbeing of communities across central and southern Scotland. We urge the Scottish Government to go further and use their existing powers to ban all forms of

unconventional fossil fuel extraction in Scotland.”

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As part of Parliament Week 2014, Edinburgh’s Liberal Democrat MP, Mike Crockart has visited Craigmount High School.

Mike ran a session with third year Modern Studies pupils at Craigmount High School where they discussed the role of an MP and what it is actually like to work in Parliament.

Parliament Week is a programme of events and activities that connects people with Parliament and democracy. Thousands of people from across the United Kingdom are taking part in a variety of activities including; historical walks, art exhibitions, online debates, panel discussions and Q&A’s.

The theme this year is ‘Do Democracy’ where young people are being encouraged to tweet, Facebook or Instagram the things that matter most to them.

**Commenting, Mr Crockart said:**

“It is really encouraging to see pupils at Craigmount High School getting involved in politics. The pupils had a lot to say about the issues which matter most to them and it was great to hear them debating so passionately.

“For too long there has been a myth that young people are apathetic and don’t care about politics, however this myth was proved wrong when close to 100% of those under 18 who were eligible, registered to vote in the Scottish independence referendum.

“The pupils I met today asked some extremely thought provoking questions and the discussion was lively. It was great to be able to explain how varied and interesting my job can be, as this is something which is not often shown in the media.

“Parliament Week is an excellent initiative and I would urge



all schools in my constituency to get involved and encourage their pupils to take part in #DoDemocracy.”

**Christina Gordon S3 added:**

“It was a good and valuable experience and made me more likely to engage in the parliament as sometimes it can feel a bit distant for people our age.”

**Hamish Hartley S3 also added:**

“It was a great insight into the life and workings of the parliament.”

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When the Labour Group came to power with the SNP group in 2012, they were able to put into place their manifesto pledges. Now two and a half years into their five year term they are updating their progress with the 53 pledges. In his Leader’s Report Councillor Andrew Burns said:

<p>It’s fair to say that politicians often make ambitious promises when canvassing for votes but how often do they voluntarily put their commitments up for public examination? On taking office in May 2012, we set out 53 specific <a href="#">pledges</a> that we aimed to deliver by 2017. These are based on a number of high level commitments, which include reducing poverty, inequality and deprivation, and maintaining and improving the quality of life in Edinburgh. I am pleased to report that, thanks to recent developments such as the passing of a Private Bill allowing the new Portobello High School to be built on Portobello Park, we have now met 12 of the pledges with all but one of the remainder on track to be completed within our five year term.</p>	
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A brand new store at Edinburgh Airport looks set to offer passengers an answer to all their luggage needs.

Luggage-Point, a retail and service arm of Weigh-ahead, is now open in the airport's new terminal extension, offering passengers everything they would need to make their journey go as smoothly as possible.

Stocking luxury brands like Samsonite, Kipling, Trunki and Fiorelli, the new store offers customers a dry-cleaning drop-off and collection service, as well as lost property, storage and bag wrap facilities – the first time Edinburgh Airport has had a one-stop-shop like this.

The Edinburgh store is also the first retailer in the world to stock exclusive merchandise from Rise Gear – previously featured on the Canadian Dragons Den, these fantastic luggage products can roll packing and storage all into one.

Open from 4:00am-10pm, passengers can take full advantage of

the storage and shipping facilities all in one convenient location. The airport's Shop and Collect service will also be based at Luggage- Point.

In another world-first, Edinburgh Airport is to install the very latest design of the patented Best- weigh pre-check-in weighing units. Passengers are able to check the weight of their luggage against the permitted allowance no matter which airline they're flying with or destination.

In a matter of seconds users are advised if their luggage is under or over their allowance. If too heavy, the system automatically calculates and advises of any potential charges. Machines are fitted with card payment facilities and are located in the main check-in hall. A free re-weigh service is also available to passengers wishing to re-pack their bag for that extra piece of mind.

Richard Townsend, Head of Retail and Property at Edinburgh Airport, said: "We're passionate about giving our passengers the very best choice and experience and our retail development programme has focused on this.

"Having the new Luggage-Point store in our new terminal means that customers can have the choice of fantastic products and services in the one place.

"We want to make the passenger journey as easy and stress-free as possible so the fact we can now offer services like bag wrapping and dry-cleaning will be a real benefit to our customers."

Co-founded in 2012 by Carole and Gerard Stewart, Luggage-Point is a real family affair with the couple's sons, Marc and Graeme also on board as Director and UK Manager for the company.

Global domination is also underway with Weigh-ahead operational in 11 UK airports, recent installations in Nigeria

and discussions with airports in Australia and New Zealand.

Marc said: “We’re extremely proud and excited not only as a company but as a family to be opening our new travel retail and passenger services store at Edinburgh Airport.

“Passengers and staff alike can take advantage of the wide range of services available under one roof whilst browsing travel goods from a host of established and innovative brands.

“Edinburgh Airport is growing whilst committed to enhancing and improving the passenger experience. Luggage-Point shares the same philosophy and look forward to working with Edinburgh Airport to achieve these goals.”

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## Saturday in Edinburgh – What’s On Today



**Hidden Haiti: Fourth World Art.** Discover more about how Haitian artists recycle materials by turning them into beautiful artwork and homeware at this launch exhibition, and learn how Fourth World Art is supporting artisans to rebuild after the crippling 2010 earthquake. 1am-5pm, The Old Lab, [Summerhall](#), 1 Summerhall. Free. Also open at same times on Sunday 16th November.

**Amnesty International and Relief Theatre Present *Even If We Lose Our Lives***, exploring the difficulties faced by women in modern **Afghanistan** through the stories and words of **Parween**, founder of the only girls’ school in Laghman

province, **Manizha**, the American-raised organiser of a women's shelter, and **Dr D**, an anonymous gynaecologist operating in an unnamed province. Interviews were conducted by actor and human rights activist **Christine Bacon**. Each performance will be followed by a short talk and Q & A session led by Amnesty activists and other guest speakers. All proceeds will go to Amnesty International. Please note: this play includes references to violence and domestic and sexual abuse. 8-9.15pm, Cairns Lecture Theatre, [Summerhall](#), 1 Summerhall. Tickets £6/£5: book via Summerhall's [website](#) or at the box office (0131 560 1581).

**History Research: Understanding Language and Handwriting.** In family history research you may come across challenging handwriting, Latin, Scots or antiquated English, as well as some unfamiliar terminology. **Dr Bruce Durie**, author of *Scottish Genealogy* and *Documents for Genealogy and Local History*, shows how to understand such documents. 11am-12 noon, [Central Library](#), George IV Bridge. Free tickets can be booked via [eventbrite](#) or by calling 0131 242 8100. Part of Previously...Scotland's History Festival.

**Putting the leaves on the branches: Enriching your family tree.** Join **Dr Bruce Durie**, author of *Scottish Genealogy* and star of BBC's *Digging Up Your Roots*, to discover how to take your research further and enrich your family tree with more than just names, dates and places. 2-3pm, [Central Library](#), George IV Bridge. Free tickets can be booked via [eventbrite](#) or by calling 0131 242 8100. Part of Previously...Scotland's History Festival.

**Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors: Pop-Up Family History Surgery.** Scotland has the best-maintained records and facilities of any country in the world for undertaking family research. Visit the family history surgery and chat with the experts from Scotland's largest family history centre, Scotland's People. 10am-4pm, [Central Library](#), George IV Bridge. Free and unticketed. Part of Previously...Scotland's

History Festival.



**Be part of the History of the Grassmarket:** local artist **Chris Rutterford** will be incorporating faces of visitors and locals into a 64' long outdoor mural depicting historic scenes from the area, including the hanging of **Maggie Dickson** in the 18th century. Have your photo taken by the artist to be included in the scene, watch him paint, and learn about the history of the area through his characterful storytelling. If you have a story to tell relating to the Grassmarket, come to the **gazebo**, where stories will be collected to use for future history events and guides. 11am-4pm today and 16th, 22nd, 23rd, 29th and 30th November 2014, in [Grassmarket's historic central square](#). Free, no booking required. Part of Previously...Scotland's History Festival.



**David Purdie: Sir Walter Scott's *Heart of Midlothian*.** Opening with the start of the **Porteous Riots** in 1736, *The Heart of Midlothian* is one of Scott's most famous historical novels, featuring murder, madness and seduction. A new edition of the book has been expertly reworked for modern audiences by David Purdie. 3-4pm, [The Saltire Society](#), 9 Fountain Close, 22 High Street. Tickets cost £5/£2.50 and can be booked via [eventbrite](#). Part of Previously...Scotland's History Festival.

**Getting Started with Family History Research:** Ken Nisbet of the **Scottish Genealogy Society** offers pointers for those beginning their family history research. Find out about the extraordinary resources held in the Society's family history centre, with the opportunity to explore before and after the talk. 1-2pm or 3-4pm, [Scottish Genealogy Society](#), 15 Victoria Terrace. Free but places are limited; book via [eventbrite](#). Part of Previously...Scotland's History Festival.

Festival.

**SCRAN: Explore your heritage online.** Find out how photographs, news stories, letters, maps, artefacts and oral histories can bring your heritage to life. Explore the places that your ancestors may have lived and worked. This presentation will offer a tour through SCRAN's digital collections to sample some of the material on offer for family historians. 11.30am-12.30pm, [Central Library](#), George IV Bridge. Free tickets can be booked via [eventbrite](#). Part of Previously...Scotland's History Festival.

**Rei Nakamura:** piano, electronics and video. A programme of new works by **Raquel Garcia Tomaz, Alberto Bernal** and **Christian Winther Christensen** using electronics, movement and video to create an entirely new type of performance, both visually and aurally examining the interrelation of movement and sound, which are independent, but mutually supportive. 8pm, [Reid Concert Hall](#), University of Edinburgh, Bristo Square. Free and unticketed.

**LGBT: Trans Remembrance Gathering.** Annual memorial event in honour of all those killed through transphobic hatred and prejudice in the last year. Take part in reading names, contribute to some arts and crafts, or join in quietly in the space. 2-3.30pm, [LGBT Health & Wellbeing](#), 9 Howe Street. For more information contact Jules Stapleton Barnes at [jules@lgbthealth.org.uk](mailto:jules@lgbthealth.org.uk) or on 0131 523 1104.

**Crime Prevention Initiative:** police officers will answer your questions relating to crime prevention and distribute helpful leaflets. South Edinburgh Crime Prevention Partnership will be offering shed alarms and bike locks for sale. 2-4pm, [Morningside Library](#), 184 Morningside Road.

**Adult Learners' Voice: Have Your Say.** Hear about Adult Learning in Edinburgh and have your say in shaping the future. 10am-12 noon, Riddle's Court, 322 Lawnmarket. Refreshments

served from 9.45am. To book your free place contact vicky.petrie@ea.edin.sch.uk or call 0131 558 8222. All learners welcome!



**Morningside Farmers' Market:** fresh, local, seasonal goods direct from the producers. Meats, fish, vegetables, fruit, cheeses, baking, breads, preserves, jams, chutneys, confectionery, Continental treats, vegetarian foods, kitchen condiments, crafts and more. Hot refreshments available in the market or from [The Merlin Pub and Kitchen](#) next door. 9.30am-3.30pm, Merlin Pub & Kitchen car park (rear of Merlin), Morningside Road.

**GENERATION Tours at Modern One:** informal, 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 and unticketed.

**Portrait Gallery Architecture Tour:** monthly architecture tour of the magnificent Arts & Crafts building, designed by Sir Robert Rowand Anderson. 2-2.45pm, [Scottish National Portrait Gallery](#), 1 Queen Street. Free, but places are limited and must be booked by calling 0131 624 6560.



**Scottish Parliament Guided Tour:** a great opportunity to enjoy a guided walking tour of the Scottish Parliament building and to find out more about how the Parliament works. 1.45-3pm, [Scottish Parliament](#), Canongate. Free but **places are strictly limited and must be booked in advance:** contact Anne or Christine on 0131 458 5959 or email [anne.livesey@ea.edin.sch.uk](mailto:anne.livesey@ea.edin.sch.uk). Organised by South West Community Learning and Development Team, City of Edinburgh Council.





**Bohemia Art, Craft and Vintage Christmas Fair:** 'bespoke Christmas shopping event' – over 35 stalls, winter warmer cafe. 11am-4pm, [Greyfriars Kirk](#), Greyfriars Place. Free entry.

**Grow Your Own Garden Workshops.** A course of six-structured 'grow your own' workshops for beginners. **Workshop 2: Getting Growing** – sowing seeds and creating new plants from cuttings, bulbs and other plant parts. For ages 16+. 10am-12 noon (session is a repeat of the one held on Wednesday 12th November, so you should attend one or the other), [North Edinburgh Arts](#), 15a Pennywell Road. Free, no booking required, but you are requested to stay for the whole two hour session, as the workshops are structured. Call 0131 315 2151 for more information.

**St Cuthbert's Christmas Fair:** tombola, hampers, baking, preserves, cards, decorations, craft, bric a brac, Jack-and-Jill stall, guess the weight of the cake – come along, find some bargains for Christmas, and maybe win a prize! 10am-2pm, [St Cuthbert's Parish Church](#), Lothian Road. £1 per person. Donations for stalls welcome between 9am and 4pm on Friday 14th November.



**Rosy Blue Blues Band:** one of Scotland's most exciting blues bands – early blues through to rock, soul, modern classics and their own compositions. 9pm, [Old Chain Pier](#), 32 Trinity Crescent.



**Christopher Orr: The Beguiled Eye.** Christopher Orr's first solo show in Scotland, bringing together new and recent paintings, and featuring for the first time the artist's remarkable sketchbooks. Orr's oil paintings and watercolours offer enigmatic glimpses into other worlds where modern characters appear within expansive environments, laden with

drama. The intriguing scenes derive from an appropriation of a vast range of visual materials, including *National Geographic* magazines, scientific manuals, 1950s snaps, art historical images and Super 8 films. Opening 12.30pm today, [Talbot Rice Gallery](#), University of Edinburgh, Old College, South Bridge. Closes 14th February 2015. Free.

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## Angus Sinclair guilty of 'World's End' murders



A man responsible for the brutal rape and murder of two young women from Edinburgh almost 40 years ago has been convicted in Scotland's first double jeopardy trial.

Angus Sinclair was found guilty of raping and then killing Helen Scott and Christine Eadie, after the Crown presented conclusive forensic evidence carefully preserved since 1977.

Over the course of the five-week trial at the High Court in Livingston, the jury heard how Sinclair and his brother-in-law Gordon Hamilton (now deceased) met the 17-year-olds at the World's End Pub on Edinburgh's Royal Mile on 15th October 1977 before leaving the bar with the pair.

The following day, the teenagers' bodies were found in separate locations within East Lothian; both had been bound, beaten, raped and strangled. One of the largest investigations in the history of policing in Scotland began to find the killers.

In 1977 the police had no access to the forensic techniques,

which exist today and nor could they could have known that years later DNA would be discovered, never the less detectives and scientist meticulously set about recovering and preserving clothing and samples from the scenes.

Instead, they relied upon a sketch of the males last seen with Helen and Christine.

Detectives took statements from hundreds of members of the public. At the time there was no evidence to link any individual to the murders, however, officers took unprecedented steps to store DNA samples for future analysis.

In the late 1980s advances in DNA technology began to develop and the investigation was continually reassessed, leading to a full review in 1996. By 1997 detectives were able to confirm that DNA found on Helen Scott's coat belonged to two different males. However, no match was found at the time and the case remained unsolved at the start of the 21st century.

A further sample taken from the same coat in April 2004 provided a positive match to Angus Sinclair who was at the time serving a life sentence for a range of sexual assaults that took place in Glasgow.

Sinclair was subsequently charged in connection with both murders and the trial began on 27th August 2007. However, by September the case had been abandoned after Judge Lord Clarke ruled there was insufficient evidence to proceed.

Once again all of the evidential samples and data were appropriately stored so that detectives could continue with their efforts to find justice for Helen and Christine.

Legislative change to the Double Jeopardy Law in November 2011 allowed police to once again present evidence to the Crown Office in relation to the World's End murders and pursue Sinclair for prosecution.

Further scientific advances meant that forensically only four people could be linked to the crime scene – Sinclair, Hamilton and the two teenagers.

Police Scotland has welcomed the conviction following almost four decades of investigation.

Detective Chief Superintendent Gary Flannigan from Police Scotland's Major Investigation Team said: "Today's verdict is the culmination of 37-years of dedicated police work and continued partnership working alongside the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.

"The World's End murders investigation is a remarkable enquiry. Not only because it is the first where a conviction has been secured following the Double Jeopardy legislation, but also because of the exemplary level of foresight demonstrated by police and forensic scientists during the initial stages of the investigation.

"Over the years we have become accustomed to reviewing historic enquiries from this period and have realistic expectations around the likelihood that we'd be actually able to find the recovered clothing never mind have any hope that it would have been stored and retained in the amazing condition that everything in this case has been.

"Those officers and scientists from 1977 and continuing through the generations are true heroes, for without their care and attention, without their absolute determination to preserve the clothing and samples for some development they could not have dreamt off, then this historic moment could not have happened.

"The actions and the determination of everyone over the years to fight for justice for Helen's and Christine's families is ultimately what has led to this moment.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who

has been involved with World's End investigation during its 37-year duration.

"My thoughts are with both victims' families at this time. They have all shown such great dignity and strength during what has been the most horrendous periods of times. I thank them for their continued support of our endeavours to bring Helen and Christine's killers to justice.

"Nothing can ever bring either of the girls back, but it is my sincere hope that today's verdict will finally deliver the closure that both families have been craving for the past four decades."

Former Detective Superintendent Allan Jones said: "It brings a great level of satisfaction to see this verdict rendered. The families of Christine Eadie and Helen Scott have waited 37 years to see justice, and today that has finally been delivered and I hope this will bring them a degree of closure and solace.

"I worked on this case, at varying levels, for 35 years. It was a case that got under the skin of everyone who worked on the enquiry, and indeed, everyone who worked within the former Lothian and Borders Police force.

"After the disappointment of 2007, it brings a degree of personal and professional satisfaction to see a positive result.

"Angus Sinclair is a dangerous man who has several convictions for murder and sexual assault. He should never again be at liberty."

Speaking following the sentencing of Angus Sinclair at the High Court in Livingston for the murder of two teenagers in 1977, Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill said:

"This case came to court after the Scottish Government brought

forward the Double Jeopardy (Scotland) Act, which was unanimously passed by Parliament. Double jeopardy is a centuries old principle of Scots law which prevents a person being tried twice for the same offence, but in this day and age, there should be no escape from justice.

“We modernised the law, with safeguards, to make it fit for the 21st century. If new evidence emerges which shows the original ruling was fundamentally flawed, it should be possible to have a second trial. And trials which are tainted by threats or corruption should also be re-run.

“We have acted in the interests of Scottish justice, victims and their families and we hope this news brings some comfort to the families of the victims of these terrible crimes.”

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## The Children's Giving Tree at Blackwell's



If your home is like mine, with every shelf sagging under the weight of reading matter, you may find it hard to imagine that some children have no books at all. These children aren't in far off Third World countries; they live in Edinburgh just like us, but they have probably never been to a library, much less a bookshop.

Many of us find huge comfort in reading when the world gets too much; for these children, the desperate circumstances of their lives can be too much every single day, but they have no escape, no other places to turn to. **The Blackwell's Giving Tree** is a way in which you can reach out to these young

people, and offer them not only the magic of a book, but a book they have asked for themselves, be it a by specific author, on a particular subject, or just 'A book that I can take with me on an adventure.' (This is the wording of one of this year's tags).

Blackwell's began this project seven years ago – sales manager **James Anderson** remembers a tiny tree in a flowerpot with a few tags attached. The response was enormous, the tags were gone in just a few days – and since then the tree, and the project, have grown and grown; 'it felt' says James, (with seasonally-appropriate imagery) 'like an experiment that just snowballed.'

Yesterday, Edinburgh author **Nicola Morgan** launched the 2014 appeal; there are over 300 tags this year, each of them asking for a special book for a special child. As Nicola says, 'These children may not receive anything else this Christmas. How can you say no?'



The idea is simple; you read the tags, choose one (or lots!), find the books that the tags request and buy them. Blackwell's keeps them and kindly gift wraps them for you, before passing them on to the relevant charities – this year these include **Edinburgh Women's Aid, CHAS, Citadel Youth Centre, Edinburgh Young Carers Project** and **Action for Children**. If a child or young person has asked for a type of book rather than a named title, Blackwell's staff are there to help you find something they know will fit the bill. If you can't get into the store, you can phone or email the children's department, and once the other Blackwell's stores are ready (Edinburgh is of course ahead of the game...) you should also be able to make your donation online via the website.



We all know about running, yoga and herbal tea, but ‘one of the best ways to relieve stress’ says Nicola ‘is to give’ , and she should know, she’s written a book about it (*The Teenage Guide to Stress*, 2014) – isn’t that great? No more dragging yourself to the gym or pretending you’d rather have some camomile concoction than a strong shot of caffeine and a cake – all you have to do is while away a nostalgic hour in Blackwell’s, hand over your credit card, and come away feeling like serenity itself. Just do it quickly, before all the tags are gone and you end up having to endure something much more painful.

The Giving Tree is in Blackwell’s now; if you can’t find it, you’re not in the Children’s Department – ask at the desk. If you would like to participate but can’t call in, email [kirsty.smith@blackwell.co.uk](mailto:kirsty.smith@blackwell.co.uk) or call her on 0131 622 8225.

You can also follow the appeal on Twitter [@GivingTreeEdin](#) and on [Facebook](#).

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## Sick Kids fundraiser Tom is on a charity countdown



The Sick Kids Friends Foundation (SKFF) are calling on big-hearted Scots to help their oldest and most esteemed volunteer reach another fundraising milestone by the end of this year.

94-year-old Tom Gilzean collects for the children’s charity and a number of other worthy causes round-the-clock on the Royal Mile. He has to date raised more than £100,000 for the charity.



This year the war veteran has continued his mammoth efforts, collecting £45,000 for a number of charities close to his heart, however the kind-hearted fundraiser is determined to hit the £50,000 mark by the end of the year.

Tom said: "I'm out collecting in all weathers, which can very cold and rainy but I love it. I'm delighted that this is the most I've ever collected in one year and I would like to donate £25,000 to the Sick Kids if I reach the £50,000 mark.

"Nothing will stop me from fundraising and I've already signed up to be a volunteer next year. This gives me something to look forward to as I approach 95 years old. It's so important to me that I keep raising money. I've been fundraising for 80 years now and I'm determined to keep going until I'm 100. I want to say thank you to everyone who gives so generously – I couldn't do it without you."

The money raised by Tom is used to provide world-class equipment such as mini image intensifier scanning equipment worth £53,000 and extra family-friendly services including art therapy and parent accommodation at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children (RHSC) in Edinburgh. Tom also supports several causes to help injured soldiers, pensioners and disabled children.

The SKFF are asking others to step-up and help Tom raise the final £5,000 required to cross his fundraising finish line by 31st December. Sick Kids supporters can back Tom by donating via his first ever online fundraising page.

Maureen Harrison, chief executive of the Sick Kids Friends Foundation, said: "Tom has been one of our greatest supporters for many years and we're overwhelmed that come rain, shine and even illness Tom continues to work so hard to raise funds for a number of great causes including the Foundation.

"We think Tom deserves to take a break from his tireless campaigning and would love to see as many as people as

possible make an online donation to help this legendary volunteer reach yet another ambitious milestone.”

To help Tom raise £50,000 by 31 December 2014 visit <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/TomGilzean>.

Submitted by [Corrie Campbell](#)



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## Penicuik deaths – no suspicious circumstances



Police in Midlothian have carried out a post-mortem examination on two elderly people, whose bodies were found within a property in Royal Court, Penicuik on Monday, November 10.

There does not appear to be any suspicious circumstances surrounding either individual's death, however further forensic inquiries are still to be carried out.

In line with routine practice a report has been forwarded to the Procurator Fiscal.

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# Witness appeal following robberies in Breadalbane Street



Police are appealing for witnesses after two men were assaulted and robbed in the Capital.

The incident happened around 9.40pm yesterday in Breadalbane Street.

A 21-year-old and 19-old were sitting within a car awaiting a friend when three men approached the vehicle.

Two of the suspects produced knives and threatened the pair, while the third suspect, who was in possession of a metal pole searched the car for valuables.

Both victims were struck to the head with the pole during the robbery before the men responsible made off from the scene with a number of their personal belongings. However, neither required medical attention.

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

The suspects are all described as being white, 25-30-years-old, between 5ft 8ins and 5ft 9ins tall with slim builds and wearing dark hooded tops and dark trousers.

Detective Constable Graham McIlwraith said: "The victims were taken by surprise when the suspects approached their car and produced weapons before robbing them of their personal possessions.

"Thankfully, though, neither of them were injured and we are

now conducting local enquiries to trace the men responsible.

“Anyone who was in or around Breadalbane Street on Thursday evening and remembers seeing anything suspicious is asked to contact police immediately.

“We would also request that anyone who recognises the description of the suspects, or who has any further information relevant to this investigation, gets in touch as soon as possible.”

Those with information can contact Police Scotland on 101 or alternatively, the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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## **Man charged with serious assault at Northview Court**



A 33 year old man has been arrested and charged with assault to severe injury after a 28 year old man was found seriously assaulted at Northview Court on Saturday.

He has also been charged with a separate and unconnected serious assault that took place on Elm Row on 28<sup>th</sup> October.

The man is due to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court today.

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# 24-year-old man charged following Leith Links attack

Police have charged a 24-year-old man following a serious sexual assault on a 28 year old woman on a path near Links Place in the early hours of Thursday morning.

The area was cordoned off most of yesterday as forensic officers looked for clues.

Detectives also appealed for witnesses to the attack.

A Police Scotland spokesman said the man scheduled to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court on Monday.

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# Edinburgh taxi fares set to rise next year



It is a well-known fact that taxi fares here in the capital are higher than in the west of Scotland, and it looks likely that they are to rise further if the council adopts its officers' recommendations next week. But the fare structure is to be simplified particularly over the Christmas period.

General fares are set to rise in line with inflation by 2.1%.

It used to be the case that there was a rise at the end of December, but the advisers to Edinburgh Council, the firm Halcrow felt this was too complicated and have proposed a new simpler system to come into effect next year.

The survey into the taxi fare system cost the council £17,000 which included a survey of 500 residents, two meetings with the taxi trade, and consultation with Police Scotland, council officers and other groups. This is not an additional cost, but contained within the sum already set aside for it.

The proposal is that between 24 – 27 December and 31 December to 2 January fares will increase with a starting fare of £3.60 which is £1.50 higher than the normal daytime fare at other times of the year.

The proposed new fare table is reproduced for you below. If agreed this will come into effect in January 2015. Until then the existing fare table continues to apply with a starting fare of £2.10 under the lowest tariff which rises by 25p after each additional 188metres travelled or 40 seconds of waiting time.

The council last looked at fares in the summer of 2013, and must examine them again now as it has a duty to review fares every 18 months. If any taxi driver is disgruntled about the proposed rise they have a right of appeal against the decision by raising the matter with the Scottish Traffic Commissioner.

In addition to the fare increases proposed for next year the council are also likely to approve the installation of cameras in taxis which it is thought will protect passengers and drivers, although the original demand came from taxi drivers.

It will be for the taxi drivers to deal with data protection issues, and the plan is for cameras to record only what happens inside the taxi and not to record anything in the

streets outside. It is specifically provided within the proposals that any images must not be used on social media outlets.

Research showed that 62.2% of the public are happy with daytime fares, although not just as many are content with the night time fares. What do you think? Are taxi fares here in the capital too high?

<http://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/New-taxi-fares-Dec-2014.pdf>

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## New art exhibition at the palace from today



A new exhibition begins today at Holyrood Palace. This exhibition of Italian art will be shown in the Queen's Gallery and tickets are from £6.50.

A good thing about going to the Palace of Holyroodhouse is that if you get your ticket converted into a [1-year pass](#) you can use it repeatedly without further charge for a whole year. This is true for all properties in the Royal Collection which includes Britannia here in Edinburgh.

The Royal Collection describe the artist on their website:

*"He was one of the most innovative artists of the Italian Baroque. Yet Giovanni Benedetto Castiglione (1609–1664) was also a violent and impetuous man, who was repeatedly in court for assault, allegedly attempted to throw his sister off a roof, destroyed his own work in front of powerful patrons,*

*and was forced to flee Rome in mysterious circumstances. The turbulence that characterised his life overshadowed his artistic brilliance, and Castiglione struggled to achieve the recognition that he deserved. This first exhibition in Scotland dedicated to Castiglione brings together around 100 drawings and prints, and aims to position the artist in his rightful place as one of the greatest creative figures of the Baroque.”*

Tickets and visitor information: [www.royalcollection.org.uk](http://www.royalcollection.org.uk) or +44 (0)131 556 5100.

***Castiglione: Lost Genius***

The Queen’s Gallery, Palace of Holyroodhouse  
14 November 2014 – 8 February 2015

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## Friday in Edinburgh – What’s On Today



**Spanish Fine Foods and Gifts Open Day:** join [El Olivo](http://ElOlivo) olive oil company for a glass of wine, and taste the oils and other Spanish delicacies. Gifts, oils, chorizos, tapenades spices, antipasti, rice, vinegars and much more! Plus Spanish wines from **Caldiero Importers**, jewellery, baskets, cashmere ponchos and nutritional advice. 11am -9pm (drop in), 1 Dalrymple Crescent. 10% of takings will be donated to local cancer charity **itsgood2give**. For more information call El Olivo on 0131 668 4751 or email [info@elolivo-olive-oil.com](mailto:info@elolivo-olive-oil.com) Hasta luego!





**Caesura #27: Goodnight Press.** One of a series of events exploring experimental writing and performance through stripped-back, often anarchic, performances. This month's event features Belfast-born writer and critic **Maria Fusco**, London-based experimental poet **Jennifer Cooke**, sound poet and Dada scholar **David Hopkins** and found poetry duo **Ed Smith** and **Thomas MacColl**. For ages 12+. 8-10pm (doors open 7.30), Demonstration Room, [Summerhall](#), 1 Summerhall. Tickets £5: book via Summerhall's [website](#) or at the box office (0131 560 1581).

**Jenni Calder and Sir Walter Scott's *Waverley*:** a new edition celebrating the 200th anniversary of what is widely regarded as the first historical novel in the western tradition. Come along to hear Jenni Calder discuss the themes of *Waverley* and her reworking of the text for modern readers. 3-4pm, [Scotland's People Centre](#), New Register House, 3 West Register Street. Free tickets should be booked via [eventbrite](#). Part of Previously...Scotland's History Festival.

**Amnesty International and Relief Theatre Present *Even If We Lose Our Lives*,** exploring the difficulties faced by women in modern **Afghanistan** through the stories and words of **Parween**, founder of the only girls' school in Laghman province, **Manizha**, the American-raised organiser of a women's shelter, and **Dr D**, an anonymous gynaecologist operating in an unnamed province. Interviews were conducted by actor and human rights activist **Christine Bacon**. Each performance will be followed by a short talk and Q & A session led by Amnesty activists and other guest speakers. All proceeds will go to Amnesty International. Please note: this play includes references to violence and domestic and sexual abuse. 8-9.15pm tonight and 15th November, Cairns Lecture Theatre, [Summerhall](#), 1 Summerhall. Tickets £6/£5: book via Summerhall's [website](#) or at the box office (0131 560 1581).

**Storytime:** 10.30am today and every Friday, [Piershill Library](#), 30 Piersfield Terrace.



**Edinburgh University Singers:** Parry *Blest Pair of Sirens*, Parry *I was glad*, Stanford *Magnificat Op.164*, Finzi *Part Songs*. Conductor and organist: **John Kitchen**. 1.10pm, [McEwan Hall](#), Teviot Place. Free and unticketed.

**LGBT Women's Wellbeing Group: Feeling Good.** An opportunity to learn about – and try out – relaxation techniques and adrenalin boosters that can make us feel good about ourselves. 2-4.30pm, [LGBT Health & Wellbeing](#), 9 Howe Street. Contact [alison@lgbthealth.org.uk](mailto:alison@lgbthealth.org.uk) or call 0131 652 3283 for more information or to be added to the group's email list.

**Edinburgh College of Art Friday Lecture Series: Michelle Sank.** Sank is a photographer whose work reflects a preoccupation with the human condition, encompassing issues around social and cultural diversity. Free and open to all: for details of time and location contact [ECA](#).

**Bookbug:** 30 minutes of rhymes and songs for very young children. 2.30pm, [Corstorphine Library](#), 12 Kirk Loan.

**[Macular Society](#): Macular Degeneration** (loss of central vision). If you have MD or know someone who does, drop in for an informal chat and coffee with others who have the same condition and learn more – don't worry on your own, join the group for friendly support, information and help. 10.30am-12 noon today and on the second Friday of each month, Falcon House, 91 Morningside Road, EH10 4AY.



**The Hare and the Tortoise: Recitals for Wrigglers.** A concert for babies and toddlers. 10.30am, Charles Smith Room, [Morningside Library](#), 184 Morningside Road. Tickets £5

for one adult and one child, £2.50 for each additional child.



**Scottish Fair Trade Forum Fair Trade Awards Ceremony and Exhibition Launch:** an evening of awards and culture. Browse the stalls, taste **Equal Exchange's** new hot chocolate, be the first to hear who this year's award winners are (awards presented at 6.30pm), and view the Fairtrade Foundation's photography exhibition ***Fairtrade at 20: The Power of You***. The exhibition will then run in the Chaplaincy Centre until 21st November. 6-8pm, [Chaplaincy Centre](#), University of Edinburgh, 1 Bristo Square.

**The Transfer of Science and Philosophy Across Religious Boundaries in the Middle Ages: Professor Charles Burnett** of the **Warburg Institute**, London, one of the world's leading scholars working on the history of science in the Islamic World, will deliver this special lecture exploring what happens when a scientific or philosophical work is translated from one religious culture to another, specifically from pagan Greece to Islamic Arabic and from Islamic Arabic to Christian Latin culture. 6-8pm, King Khalid Building, [Royal College of Surgeons](#), Hill Square. Free tickets should be booked via [eventbrite](#). For more information contact [rosie.mellor@ed.ac.uk](mailto:rosie.mellor@ed.ac.uk).



**Quiz Aid!** come and have fun and test your knowledge at this **Christian Aid** fundraiser, and help people in the world's poorest communities work their way out of poverty. Come with a ready-made team of 4-6 people, or come on your own and join a team on the night. Enjoy a glass of Fair Trade wine or juice. Donations for bottle stall much appreciated. 7.30pm, The Walpole Hall, [St Mary's Cathedral](#), Palmerston Place. £5 per person, no charge for children.



Image by John McKenzie for  
L & T

**Indian Encounters:** a new exhibition exploring the changing relationships between Great Britain and India during the 18th and 19th centuries through the lives of two men with very different experiences of British Imperial rule, **Captain Archibald Swinton** and **Maharaja Duleep Singh**. Duleep Singh became **the first resident Sikh in Britain** after he, at the age of 10, had to surrender the Sikh Punjab and all his treasures to the **East India Company**. Archibald Swinton served in the East India Company's army at the beginning of its military expansion into India. 18th century miniature paintings and 19th century jewellery, plus ***Casualty of War***, a contemporary work completed in the miniaturist tradition by artists **The Singh Twins**, reflecting on their personal view of Duleep Singh's life and their own Sikh heritage in Britain today. 10am-5pm from today, Exhibition Gallery 2, Level 3, [National Museum of Scotland](#), Chambers Street. Free. Closes 1st March 2015.



**The Travelling Gallery: GENERATION TG** – a group exhibition including five artists working in a range of media, focusing on what it is like to be a contemporary visual artist in Scotland and including a film of artists talking about their work to pupils from Edinburgh schools. 1.30-4pm, [Craigmillar Community Arts](#), 58 Newcraighall Road.

**The Fine Art Society of Edinburgh: Derek Clarke MBE RSA 1912-2014: Portraits of Rocks – Eighty Years of Landscape Painting.** The first major exhibition of landscape paintings by the late Derek Clarke to be shown since the artist's death in February at the age of 101. Inspired by Scottish and Irish landscapes and painted over a period of 80 years, the 25 paintings in this exhibition had, until recently, sat

undisturbed in the artist's Stockbridge studio. Clarke studied at the **Slade School of Art** (1931-35) and taught at **Edinburgh College of Art** for 30 years, retiring in 1978. His pupils there included Elizabeth Blackadder, Barbara Rae, John Bellany and George Donald. 10am-6pm Monday to Friday, 11am-2pm Saturday, [Bourne Fine Art](#), 6 Dundas Street,

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# Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



**Cooperative Capital**

**National Trust for Scotland's pop-up shop**

**Learning to grown your own organic food**

**Crime prevention afternoon at Morningside Library**

**Sale at the Fruitmarket Gallery**

You may already know that the administration at Edinburgh Council is run by a coalition of Labour and SNP councillors. Although it would be true to say that it is the Labour group who subscribe most vocally to the notion of a cooperative way of working, the whole council has agreed to run a Cooperative Capital to some degree or other during the last two and a half years.

A small department of council officers is charged with the responsibility of working across the whole council to find ways of introducing cooperatives in some form wherever possible. Although Harlaw Hydro is a cooperative project which

was started by a local community in Balerno, the council gave it support in kind by offering services of council officers in advisory positions. [Harlaw Hydro](#) is now fully subscribed and building has begun on the hydro scheme which will produce electricity and invest surplus funds back into community projects. This is quite rightly held up time and again as an example of what can be achieved.

Most recently the council leader, Andrew Burns was appointed the Chair of the Cooperative Capital Innovation Network which is a UK-wide body, of which The City of Edinburgh Council was the first Scottish member.

There are several areas in which the council pledged to develop cooperative initiatives all under the ethos of 'doing things with people rather than to people', namely energy, housing, childcare and social care. Now the council will agree next week on a way of evaluating all of these. This is in response to a demand by the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee who want to ensure that the benefits of any cooperative schemes are measured in some way. The evaluation tools will then be put in place with data from the first two years which will provide a baseline.

Examples of cooperatives in Edinburgh include the Edinburgh University Student Housing Cooperative, Energy for Edinburgh (ESCo) which will run a range of energy-related projects, the Edinburgh Community Solar Cooperative which will install solar panels on council-owned buildings and collaboration on the Craigmillar Eco Housing Cooperative which will provide affordable homes in Greendykes.

All of this and more will be discussed at the full council meeting next Thursday. Council papers will be published on the [council website](#) later this morning.

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This festive season give the gift of 'Glad'. Support the National Trust for Scotland and buy some gorgeous goodies, a gift membership or just make a Christmas wish come true at Gladstone's Land where there is a pop-up shop and Christmas wishing tree.

Visit the winter wonderland to find unique gifts, perfect stocking fillers, decadent decorations, sensational Christmas cards and stunning Scottish products. More details [here](#).

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 PC Dickson from St Leonard's Police Station, Edinburgh will be at Morningside Library, tomorrow afternoon between 2pm – 4pm.

He will be available to advise the community on ways to protect their property and help the police. He will have available crime prevention advice and provide how members of the public can report suspicious activity and/or persons in their area.

PC Dickson will also have available the items below from the South Edinburgh Crime Prevention Panel:

Bike "D" locks – £12.50

Shed alarms – £10

Personal alarms – £5


Hi- Viz rucksack covers – £5

[Post](#) by [Morningside Library](#).

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The Fruitmarket Gallery is counting down the days until Light Night with a sale. Get money off some of the lovely items in their shop from now till 23 November 2014.

 Today it appears that this book by Richard Murphy is discounted by 20%.

“This brilliant Artist Books department includes many locally, self-published or hand made artist books that deserve your attention. The Fruitmarket Gallery is proud to support local artists, so please come in and browse our great selection.”

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## JCDecaux sign advertising contract with Edinburgh council



The council has now signed a deal with JCDecaux the outdoor advertising company to put up adverts on bus shelters for the next 10 years. This is the same company which provides the Dublin Bikes in association with Coca Cola and Dublin City Council, so is it time for Burns Bikes to be rolled down The Mound? It appears so.....read on....



The contract covers the design, installation and maintenance of 436 advertising bus shelters and management of all non-advertising bus shelters in the city. This will include the first network of digital screens in the city centre. JCDecaux will also provide interactive “LiveTouch” screens in the main hub of Princes Street providing tourist, local and council information.

JCDecaux will also provide 60 large-format billboards including the first large-format digital screen and consult with the city for the provision of wayfinding signage and a city-wide bicycle-hire scheme.

Working with the City of Edinburgh, JCDecaux will market sponsorship and experiential advertising for key city events including the Edinburgh Festival and Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Edinburgh will draw upon JCDecaux’s design experience to deliver street furniture products that will enhance the cityscape. The City of Edinburgh has selected bus shelters from JCDecaux’s Foster range, designed by Foster.

Councillor Alasdair Rankin, Finance and Resources Convener for the City of Edinburgh Council, said: “We’re very pleased to be working in partnership with JCDecaux to revitalise public advertising and street furniture across the city. Through this joint venture, we will truly be putting Edinburgh on the map as a forward-thinking, creative Capital city.”

Jean-François Decaux, Co-CEO of JCDecaux said, “JCDecaux is delighted to have been awarded this exclusive contract to be the media partner for the city of Edinburgh, Scotland’s capital city and a major financial, cultural and tourist hub. We look forward to working in partnership with Edinburgh to install well-designed and maintained street furniture and billboards, including the first digital screens in the city centre, benefiting residents, visitors and local businesses.

JCDecaux works with cities across the world to create advertising-funded services that answer civic needs and enable brands to meet their communication goals.”

The company won the bid after a competitive tendering process.



courtesy of Dublin City Council

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## Councillor hits back at MP's allegations



***NOW UPDATED TO INCLUDE Ms Gilmore's reply***

Following our [Five things you need to know today article](#) published this morning, (where we mentioned the local MP Sheila Gilmore's allegations that an Edinburgh councillor had not properly consulted with community groups to get their views) The Edinburgh Reporter has now had a meeting with Councillor Gavin Barrie, against whom the claims were made.

Ms Gilmore alleged that Councillor Barrie, the council's Regulatory Convener, had not consulted community groups about changes needed to the licensing scheme by which houses rented to several people who are not members of one family (for example student) are designated as Houses in Multiple Occupation. These houses are then subject to stringent safety standards, such as the fitting of smoke alarms.

 Councillor Barrie, SNP representative for Inverleith Ward, explained to us why it was not only unnecessary but also inappropriate for him to consult on the terms of the report

being presented to the [Regulatory Committee](#) meeting on Monday 17 November: "The reason why we appear not to have consulted any groups is simple. This is a factual report about the legal ability of the council to have an 'overprovision' policy or not. The way the legislation is set out means that there is 'overprovision' and 'overcrowding' which are two different things.

"The regulatory committee meets on Monday to discuss only the technicalities of what the council can or cannot do within the legal framework. Overprovision would be determined by circumstances where there were HMO properties on the market which landlords could not fill. That would suggest there is overprovision. We would then consider that the market is saturated and we would stop granting HMO licences if there were empty houses in a certain area."

Councillor Barrie also explained to us that if there are several HMO properties in a street or a stair that is not necessarily 'overprovision'. The regulations and the law by which the council's decisions are made does not allow them to take that into account.

Barrie continued: "On Friday of this week there will be objections to some HMO applications on the basis that there are several HMOs already granted for a specific stair, but this is not a valid ground of objection."

The councillor explained that in his role as Regulatory Convener he had already discussed with his Vice-convenor, the Labour councillor Angela Blacklock, the wording of a motion calling for a further report looking at the social impact of HMOs and what current legislation might allow us to do in future. This is an addition to the recommendations made in the report (which we reproduce below).

Councillor Barrie asserted that this was done yesterday before the MP made her claims about him: "So Ms Gilmore completely

pre-empted our actions on this, which were in the process of discussion by email between myself and my Vice-convener.

“The motion is not yet in the public domain, but the Capital Coalition motion was agreed yesterday and it will be presented to the Regulatory Committee meeting on Monday. It will call for the recommendations in the current report to be agreed, but will also call for a further report in three months time on which consultation will be necessary.

“In addition it is untrue to say that I have not ever spoken to Southside residents about this report. I attended a Living Southside meeting in September when I mentioned what would be happening in November. I explained that within this paper the social demographic of people living in HMO properties is changing and that it is no longer only students who live there. This is brought about as a result of social welfare changes. People on welfare benefits are now only able to live in an HMO property whereas previously they would have got their own flats.

“When I sat down after addressing the meeting, the lady next to me commented that this will ‘not happen in Marchmont or in the Southside yet as the rents are still too high here for people on benefits’.

“I completely refute the allegation made against me by Sheila Gilmore.

“There is no need to consult on a factual report. The fact is that I was invited to the Living Southside meeting and talked about the report that would be discussed at this month’s meeting. If people read the report they will understand that there is nothing to consult on. This is a factual paper and we will consult when we examine the social impact – which we have already decided to do.

“Lastly I have been made aware of an email which Ms Gilmore sent to three Labour members of the committee, asking them to

take a course of action within the committee. The Regulatory Committee is a quasi-judicial committee and there have never been, nor ever will be party lines adopted in this committee. For someone in politics to try and interfere with the workings of a quasi-judicial committee is completely wrong, and this matter may be raised with The Standards Commission.

The Edinburgh Reporter asked Ms Gilmore for her comments which she emailed to us as follows:

*Sorry for not getting back to you sooner. I have been out most of the day doing constituency visits.*

*I am delighted to hear that the Council will be consulting with community councils and other community organisations like the Southside Association and Living Southside on issues around HMOs. I know that people are very keen to see a broad review of the way in which a number of policies impact upon the aim of retaining balanced residential communities in our city. They are very anxious to ensure that there is real 'joined up' thinking and working across various parts of the council .*

*Although Councillor Barrie states that the Report coming to the regulatory committee on Monday 17th is purely a statement of the factual position, it does in fact contain a recommendation that the City of Edinburgh Council should NOT adopt an over provision policy. This is a new power which was made available to councils in 2011 amendments to the Housing ( Scotland ) 2006. The suggestion is that this would remain the position for a year at least. The precise wording of the recommendation the Committee is invited to consider is: 'Agrees that an overprovision policy is not justifiable at this time, but that it will be reviewed on an annual basis and reported to committee.'*

*The committee was being invited therefore to make a decision rather than simply note a factual report. In the light of the various meetings and debates which have been taking place in various parts of my constituency, and especially in the Southside I was concerned at such a decision being made in*

isolation from other relevant policies.

The recommendation proceeds on an interpretation of the 'overprovision' powers which I think is a very narrow one looking at levels of demand and the state of the market .

Interestingly other councils have interpreted the meaning of 'overprovision' somewhat differently. For example Dundee City Council has adopted a policy on overprovision as follows:

'With a view to preventing excessive concentrations of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in any area of the city, the Council have adopted a policy on the overprovision of HMOs.

This policy is to the effect that if there is a concentration of HMOs in any one particular Census Output Area (COA) in excess of 12.5% of qualifying residential properties in that COA, then the Licensing Committee will consider this to amount to overprovision of HMOs in that COA and may refuse a licence. '

Aberdeen Council in consulting on whether to implement an overprovision policy stated that:

'Applications could be considered as overprovision where the proportion of HMOS within the COA already exceeds, or would exceed, a fixed percentage of the total number of dwellings in that COA. '

The 2011 Act states that :

'In considering whether there is or would be overprovision for the purposes of subsection (1) in any locality, the local authority must have regard to—

a) the number and capacity of licensed HMOs in the locality,  
b) the need for housing accommodation in the locality and the extent to which HMO

accommodation is required to meet that need,

c) such other matters as the Scottish Ministers may by order specify.

*Obviously it is up to every Council to reach its own view on whether an overprovision policy should be adopted, either for their whole area, or for small parts of it. This it seems to me is a policy decision which should be widely consulted upon, and where there are a number of arguments which may be made about how to balance 'need' and 'numbers'. Part of this debate would be whether a particular area may benefit from the application of an over provision policy, even if demand remained high elsewhere in the city. My call was simply for that debate to be had with the widest possible consultation.*

*I understand that Councillor Barrie has suggested that this is a quasi judicial decision. When the Regulatory Committee is making a decision on individual applications then it is indeed operating in a quasi judicial capacity. However decisions on policies to be applied are not quasi judicial in nature . Similar situations arise in relation to the distinction between planning policies and planning decisions on specific applications.*

*I know that residents will be looking forward to taking part in consultation and debate with the Council.*

*Best wishes*

*Sheila Gilmore*

[http://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/item\\_6.2\\_\\_\\_Review\\_of\\_HMO\\_market\\_17\\_11\\_14\\_FINALv3\\_1.pdf](http://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/item_6.2___Review_of_HMO_market_17_11_14_FINALv3_1.pdf)

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**Police**

**investigate**

# 'horrendous' sexual assault in Leith Links area



Police in Edinburgh are appealing for witnesses following a serious sexual assault in North of the city.

The incident happened around 1am today in the Leith Links area.

A 28-year-old woman was approached by a man who produced a knife before subjecting her to the attack.

The man then made off and the victim contacted police. Officers are now carrying out a thorough investigation of the scene.

Anyone who can assist with this ongoing enquiry is asked to come forward.

The suspect is described as being of Pakistani/South Asian appearance and wearing a grey hooded top and black tracksuit bottoms.

Detective Inspector Keith Fairbairn said: "This was a horrendous attack, which left the victim deeply distressed and she is now being supported by Police Scotland and other relevant partner agencies.

"The incident was carried out in a public area and we are keen to hear from anyone who was in or around Leith Links in the early hours of Thursday morning and saw anything suspicious.

"Similarly, anyone who recognises the description of the suspect, or who has any further information that can help us trace the man responsible is also asked to contact police immediately."



Chief Inspector Sara Buchanan said: “We understand that this incident may have an impact on the local community and so high-visibility patrols are currently being deployed within the Leith Links to engage with members of the public and offer reassurance.

“In addition officers will be liaising with relevant partner agencies to assist anyone affected by this attack.

“I would urge anyone who wishes to speak with an officer in relation to this incident to approach one of the officers at the scene, contact 101 or make an anonymous report via the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.”

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## The Hibernian Tunnel aims to inspire players



The eagerly awaited unveiling of the first phase of the new Hibernian Tunnel has now been installed, ready to make its home debut against Queen of the South on Saturday 15 November, kick off 3pm.

The new-look Hibernian Tunnel will dramatically transform the look and feel of the area occupied by the players just before they step onto Easter Road’s turf.

Special messages chosen by supporters will adorn the walls of the tunnel – firing up the Hibs’ players minutes before kick-off to remind everybody about the privilege and responsibility associated with wearing a green shirt.

The club apologised to fans on their website for the delay and

thank everybody who purchased a tunnel plaque for their phenomenal support and patience while the project was finalised

Meanwhile striker Dominique Malonga has flown out to join up with the Congo national squad for the African Cup of Nations qualifiers against Nigeria and Sudan and will therefore be unavailable for the visit of Queen of the South on Saturday.

Paris-born Malonga, who qualifies to represent Congo through his parents, was previously capped at under-19 level by France.

After scoring six goals in 10 appearances for Hibernian, Malonga was named in Congo's 26-man squad for the monumental clash against Nigeria in Group A.

In other news, Irish teenager Cody Mulhall returned to action for the Under 20s and scored a memorable late equaliser as Hibs recorded a creditable 1-1 draw against a strong and experienced Celtic team featuring Scotland striker Leigh Griffiths.

The highly rated youngster has been sidelined following a bad injury last year.