

Museum has new exhibition of amateur films

The hidden history of Scotland's 'other' film industry

Films and videos shot by some of Scotland's pioneering amateur filmmakers will be showcased in a new exhibition opening at the City of Edinburgh Council's Museum of Childhood today.

This new archive has been developed through a four year research project undertaken by experts at the University of Glasgow. They have helped locate over 2,000 home movies, fiction films and sponsored documentaries made in Scotland throughout the twentieth century.

The project, entitled 'Children and Amateur Media in Scotland', charted the changing experiences of childhood. Together the films offer a unique and important insight into Scotland's hidden cultural history.

It shows how children were represented by amateur filmmakers throughout the twentieth century, how they became film-makers themselves, and offers our only visual window into many domestic and community scenes, now lost, but once familiar to many.

Professor Karen Lury, Professor of Film & Television Studies and Principal Investigator of the project said: "What we have discovered is that there is 'another world' of Scottish film – many, many amateur film-makers, community arts workers and school teachers all making films that reveal a lively and imaginative culture that deserves to be celebrated. The industry and creativity of these amateur film-makers – young and old – rivals the professional industry in Scotland in terms of its global reach and historic importance."

"We believe that when brought together, the resources produced

through this project will create a unique and compelling visual document of Scottish popular history and of Scottish childhood that otherwise would have been lost.”

Working in collaboration with the Scottish Screen Archive, researchers have made these films available for study by experts and for public enjoyment via the SSA’s online catalogue.

The archive will allow the children of today to look back in time to see the culture and society that their parents and grandparents experienced as part of their own childhood.



Convener of
Culture and Sport
Richard Lewis

Councillor Richard Lewis, Convener of Culture and Sport at the City of Edinburgh Council, said: “The Museum of Childhood is one of Edinburgh’s most loved museums with an extraordinary collection of toys and games. For over 50 years, the museum has charted the changing environments children have grown up in, and the different ways they have played.

“The films involved give a fascinating glimpse into the past and the exhibition will perfectly complement the existing collections, while offering something completely new for visitors.”

Meet Joan Rowe this week at Linlithgow's own independent bookshop



This evening Edinburgh-based author **Joan Rowe** will be at **Far From The Madding Crowd** bookshop in Linlithgow to talk about her book, *Duty*.



Duty is a work of fiction based on the diary kept by **Albert Anderson**, who enlisted in the Royal Navy in 1912. Although Albert was lost at sea on the eve of his 21st birthday, the diary survived: Joan unearthed it when she was helping to clear out her former husband's aunt's house – for Albert's best friend was Joan's daughter's great uncle, **Alfred Rowe** .

Fascinated, Joan has been researching Albert's life ever since; she wrote *Duty* to tell the story of the 'lost boys' – some of them as young as 14 – who perished in the First World War. In April, Joan talked about the book at Morningside Library; you can read about that afternoon in The Edinburgh Reporter's article [here](#). Now Joan has made new discoveries about Albert and Alfred, and may even have found some of Albert's surviving relatives – so she will have lots to talk about on Friday.

[Far From The Madding Crowd](#) bookshop is at 20 High Street, Linlithgow, opposite Linlithgow railway station and only 15 minutes ride from Edinburgh: support a local author *and* a local bookshop! The event will begin at 6pm: for more information contact the shop on 01506 845509.



Scottish Independence Referendum – Referendum Reservations



Jonathan Hearn is Professor of Political and Historical Sociology at University of Edinburgh

So far I have been relatively quiet about my personal views in regard to the Scottish referendum on independence on 18 September. But some close to me have wished that I would join the conversation. There are two things to say at the outset. First, although I have been resident in Scotland for about sixteen years, I am still only a US citizen, and thus not eligible to vote in this referendum, or any UK election. So what I have to say about how I might vote if I could is, as they say 'academic'. I am not really compelled to make a decision. Second, I have no doubt that Scotland could be viable as a small, independent European country. Scotland's natural and cultural endowments are at least on a par with the rest of Europe, and its people have as much talent and wisdom as any other five million randomly selected Europeans. So it's by no means impossible. I have always liked the idea of Scotland as a culturally vibrant social democracy. Neither do I have any particular attachment to the United Kingdom. It has good points and bad points, but it is not sacrosanct, and in due course all things must pass.

Having said this, I have serious reservations about the present proposals and campaign for independence, and have to say that, as it currently stands, I think I would probably

vote 'no', if I could. My views arise out of an attitude of political realism, a certain phlegmatic patience about politics. They are an assessment of the present situation, not an expression of unwavering underlying principles. I am an egalitarian, a middle-of-the-road social democrat, distressed by the fact that social democracy is no longer in the middle of the road. For me questions about sovereignty, independence, nationalism, are pragmatic, not principled. So let me try to elaborate my reservations under a few headings.

1. Quality of debate. Many months ago I was concerned about the relative absence of public debate on the issue, but that has been corrected. However, the quality of the debate has often (not always) been disappointing. The recent Salmond/Darling debate is a case in point. Some of the questions from the floor were abusive and inappropriate (towards Darling in particular) but also ill-informed. To say to Darling 'If we're better together, why aren't we better together now?', sounds clever, but really isn't. Darling's obvious and honest reply should be 'we are better together, that's why I'm taking this position'. But given the rhetorical situation, it is difficult to say that without sounding as if one is being dismissive, or saying there are no problems with the status quo. The question assumes that things will be better in an independent Scotland, and takes this as proof that an unsatisfactory present is caused by lack of independence. But whether an independent Scotland will be a better place (I admit it is a possibility) can only be confirmed by making it so, and then finding out. Our unhappiness with present circumstances in no way proves things will be better. My point here is simply that stylish rhetoric is not a good substitute for disciplined reason.

This goes to a basic point that needs to be acknowledged. The 'Yes' campaign has a built-in rhetorical advantage, which is not the same as a superior argument. It is always more attractive to offer a hypothetical better future than to offer

a grubby compromise with the present. 'Yes' just sounds better than 'no', in a word, more 'positive'. People need to look beyond the rhetorical structure of the debate to deliberate about the substantive points at issue. Some will find this easier to do than others.

However, problems with the quality of debate go deeper still, because there is a lot of 'talking past one another'. For instance, there is no contradiction between Salmond's assertion that North Sea oil is an asset, and any country would regard it as such (true of course), and Darling's assertion that the oil provides a volatile tax income stream, and will eventually run out (also true). There was no real debate here, partly because the future is imponderable and beyond the ken of either debater, but also because listeners are only being asked which aspect of the situation they want to fix their attention on—the happy one or the worrying one. That is not a debate, at least not one that leads to a deeper understanding of the issues and possibilities.

2. Political culture and social composition. One of the attractive things about Scotland for me has always been its left-leaning political culture. The fact that the post 1970s Conservative Party has been so weak in Scotland, and the post-devolution politics largely a contest between two moderate left-of-centre parties (the SNP and Labour), with other small left parties such as the Greens in the mix, is a good thing in my view. But I think this reflects a distinctive political culture in Scotland, which is not the same thing as the overall composition of Scottish society and its various social and political attitudes. Reliable social attitudes surveys over many years have indicated that while there is slightly stronger support for a more active welfare state in Scotland than in the rest of the UK, that this difference isn't large, and might be reversed if the comparison was with, say, the north of England. These surveys also indicate some conservatism on social attitudes, for instance towards the

acceptance of homosexuality and abortion rights. Anyone who recalls the uproar that happened in Scotland shortly after devolution over the question of repealing 'Section 2A' about teaching that homosexuality can be an acceptable lifestyle, should be a bit wary about assuming the resolutely left nature of Scottish public opinion.

For complex historical reasons, a more social democratic, socially liberal politics has been hegemonic in Scotland's political institutions and other major professional institutions associated with health and education. This is a good thing. But there is a risk of a view from the 'left-liberal bubble' that predominates in the Central Belt and key institutions misreading the wider society. Scotland has bigots and racists and xenophobes just like other parts of the UK. It is normal. They are peculiarly marginalized and silenced in public discourse by the political culture. But people should expect that the political culture will be fundamentally altered by independence, and no longer so constituted in contrast to the rest of the UK and the dominant parties there. This is likely to create the conditions for new political entrepreneurs (in the style of Nigel Farage) to appeal to some of these sentiments more directly. This is not to say that this trend would be unmanageable, or likely to become dominant. It is to say that we should have no illusions about the inherent virtues of the Scottish people, nor should we rest expectations about the political culture in an independent Scotland on such illusions.

Another thing that needs to be stressed here is that the nature of modern democracy tends to teach citizens to view political parties as if they were economic firms offering products. Each party puts forth a policy 'offer', and citizen-shoppers choose the offer they like the most. In routine democratic politics, parties out of power tend to make unrealistic offers, and then trim these back if they gain power. And parties in power gradually lose luster as the

limits of their abilities are revealed, and they tend to counteract this by using what powers they have to reward core voters and keep them faithful. It's all a bit grubby, but this is the way the game is played. If what can really be offered is so prone to abuse in these circumstances, we should expect that offers in regard to highly incalculable future conditions of independence are similarly prone. But more than this, we need to look through the pretense that we are buying our preferred policy options, shopping for the kind of society we would like. What politicians and their parties really offer is a set of political skills and know-how, and a broad reputation for how they will tend to use those, within the limited scope for action that circumstances allow them. An independent Scotland will want able yet tractable leaders, and its citizens will want politicians who reflect their (probably diverse) values. The precise policies on offer, while of course relevant, should be viewed with a certain sceptical, 'wait-and-see' attitude.

I have been as frustrated as many others with the compromises of the left in recent years. I voted for Ralph Nader in the 2000 US presidential election to express my frustration (while knowing the electoral college system in that instance would render my vote inconsequential and merely symbolic, as I was voting in a firmly Democratic state). Much of the support for independence is driven by a similar frustration with the political left and the Labour Party in the UK, with which I deeply sympathise. I have already indicated that I think there is a tendency to over-estimate how far to the left an independent Scotland, as a whole, will be. But apart from this I think we need to appreciate how hemmed in the political left has become. There is no longer a broad base of industrial working class support to mobilise, and all political parties operating in the advanced capitalist economies have to deal with citizenries that want to consume beyond their means, and elites that so thoroughly monopolise the circulation of wealth that their interests must be courted to win elections. To

change this would require profound political and economic restructuring, in a coordinated way across a series of advanced capitalist countries. Rising countries such as China have a material interest in our political stability and penchant for over-consumption, making it even more difficult to change the direction of things. The fact that the model 'Nordic', relatively more egalitarian, social democratic countries have been drifting in the same rightward, 'neoliberal' direction is an indication of the severity of the situation. An independent Scotland would be a small country in the same general situation. It would not be able to adroitly step outside of it. Scotland could lend its weight towards global reforms of capitalism either as an independent country or as a constituent of the UK. This is not an argument against independence. It is a caution against misconstruing the problems the left faces as problems of national political will alone. They are problems brought on by the global maturation of capitalism, and connected concentration of capital in very few hands.

3. Political timing. I think the best conditions for establishing an independent Scotland would be when the world economy is fairly stable, and it is possible either to align Scotland with a reformed Eurozone, or establish a new sovereign currency. That is not the situation we are in. Another catch is, under such conditions, people would probably be less inclined to make a radical move. As it is, Scotland has had this question put before it under less than propitious circumstances. One result has been the decision of the SNP to turn away from the long established proposal to join the Euro, and instead propose sharing the Pound with the rest of the UK. Now I suspect that if it came to independence, despite the unionist parties aligning against this option, it would be accepted as the most feasible alternative. I think it was a political blunder of those parties to suggest they would block it. They should have stuck to the unavoidable facts, that this option would severely curtail Scottish sovereignty, in effect

leaving fiscal policy in the hands of the Bank of England and the UK government. The argument that the problems of the Euro stem from having a shared currency without common fiscal discipline is correct. (In an integrated economy it's perfectly possible and reasonable for richer regions to subsidise poorer regions, that's a separate matter.) The same principle holds for a Pound shared across the rUK and Scotland. Salmond's counter-thrust, that if Scotland is not allowed to keep its share of the assets of the Pound, it can walk away from the debt, isn't tenable. If it did so the new country's fiscal reputation would be dismal. That would not be a good start. The bravest thing would be to say that Scotland would at least begin with a new independent currency, accept its share of the debt, and accept that fiscal austerity might have to be the order of the day for some time to come (and hope some help with the debt would come in the form of long term inflation). But that is a hard sell to people who are looking for a better world.

At the moment it appears that the UK economy, including Scotland, is in recovery, growing again. But this is deceptive. The wider European economy, a crucial context, is still on the ropes. In the UK we are basically seeing a return to the status quo ante, with all its attendant problems. A return to growth in an economy that cannot continue to grow endlessly, with no real solution to the tendencies towards over-consumption, over-concentration of wealth, and over-valuing property (private and commercial) as a way of creating capital value. More boom and bust cycles should be expected in such uneven economies where capital is not circulating widely. An independent Scotland would need to be very disciplined to protect itself from these cycles. That is possible, but very difficult under present circumstances. These difficulties have not been very present in public discussions.

I've already mentioned the North Sea oil question. Following Norway in using income from tax revenues to set up something

like a sovereign wealth fund is all well and good. Would that this had been done a long time ago. How long this source of revenue will last is disputed and hard to guess. But the timing is less than ideal, given that an independent Scotland will need to service its debts, which however the accounting is done, is likely to eat into this fund. More generally, one wishes there was a more realistic and hard-minded debate about the larger issues here. The world is heading into the endgame for fossil fuels, failing to deal with the problem of global warming, slouching towards a nuclear solution, and soon likely to see conflict over precious water resources heat up. This last is an area where Scotland is well endowed, but talking in realist terms about this as a hard geopolitical asset is unattractive. It is easy enough to celebrate Scotland's water resources and renewable energy potential, and these should be put to good use. But ultimately all this needs to be contemplated within the rather darker context of intensifying geopolitical conflicts over resources. Serious Scottish politics will have to take difficult geopolitical positions on these issues. It is very difficult for mainstream politicians to talk about these troubling prospects, but citizens need to be thinking about them nonetheless.

Final Thoughts. Democracy is an uneasy business. When it's in rude health it creates social friction. In my 'homeland', the US, the election of Obama saw a substantial reinvigoration of political engagement, but also a corresponding backlash. As pitiful as it is for the functioning of US politics, the pitched opposition between the Republicans and Democrats, especially at the extremes, is a symptom of democracy at work. Similarly, the strong feelings that have emerged around the Scottish referendum, though at times uncivil and unpleasant, are unfortunately normal for periods when democratic people become engaged but divided over a central issue. And the political antinomy has been exacerbated by the absence of a middle, 'devo-max' option in the referendum, artificially shunting many people toward the extremes. Both sides, and the

many who, even up to the wire, will be uncertain about what is best and make a decision at the margin, will need to move on after the referendum, and allow tempers to cool. Democracy has to operate on a slow boil, turning the fire up and down as needed.

If Scotland were to become independent, I think it would face some difficult times, and many new compromises that had not been anticipated, but I don't think it would be the end of the world. I think necessity would force Scotland to trim its sails. There would be some withdrawal of capital at least for a while, with ensuing unemployment. Professionals in both public and private spheres used to working and circulating in wider UK institutions and job markets will find their horizons of employment and funding, at least for a period, more curtailed. I suspect Scotland would find itself in some sort of Sterling currency union, and that despite noises to the contrary, it would be welcomed into the European Union. I doubt Scotland can continue to charge English and Welsh university students full fees, but will have to treat them on the same terms as other EU students. My argument is not that these challenges cannot be confronted, but that it will be a rougher ride than is often being suggested. To continue the nautical metaphor, becoming independent now would be launching a small craft in particularly rough waters.

This is not a council of despair. I am not saying that Scots cannot become independent and therefore must be politically impotent. I am saying they have choices about how to realise their political powers, and will continue to have choices in the future. As a small independent country there would be choices about how to manage national resources, and how to ally with or oppose other countries, that would not be there otherwise. But as a constituent part of the UK, Scots exercise some power over the composition of Westminster, and over the direction of UK policies, and are able to amplify their political will to a degree in those contexts. People in

Scotland, within the UK, have a kind of national agency, even though the alienation from the rightward political tendencies in the larger state may seem to obscure this. It is not a matter of either regaining self-determination or remaining helpless. In either scenario, Scotland will have limited scope, but nonetheless real scope for action. It is a question of which scope is to be preferred.

Finally, I see no reason to believe that the independence issue can be resolved 'once and for all' in the negative by a single referendum. Energies may be temporarily exhausted, but changing circumstances may bring the issue back on the agenda. Changes in the disposition of the UK in regard to the EU may well 'reheat' the matter. After London, Scotland is the most distinctive and politically integrated component of the UK system, and as long as that's the case, and there is no reason to expect it to change, its aggregate support for or dissent from the larger system, will be a potential point of political tension (as many electoral maps of recent decades have illustrated). That is a fact of life in the UK, not in itself a case either for or against Scottish independence.

Submitted by [Jonathan Hearn](#)

Lawnmarket fraud – CCTV photos issued



Police Scotland officers in Edinburgh are investigating an incident during which a shop in Edinburgh's city centre was

defrauded of a four-figure sum of money.

The incident occurred at a shop at Lawnmarket on Sunday 13th April 2014. The suspect entered the store and chatted with members of staff there before asking them to exchange notes of smaller denomination for notes of a high denomination.

Using distraction and confusion techniques, the suspect then obtained more money from members of staff than he handed over. Officers have now have released a CCTV image of a man who they believe can assist with their enquiries.

He is described as white, between 5ft 7in and 6ft tall, around 30 years of age, of slim build and with black hair. At the time of the incident, he was dressed in a black shirt and grey trousers.

Officers would like to speak to the man pictured in the CCTV image, and anyone who recognises him or may have information about the incident is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101 or, alternatively, phone Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 if you wish to remain anonymous.

Man missing from Trinity



UPDATE – Mr Curran has been found safe and well.

Police in Edinburgh are appealing for information to help trace a man reported missing in the Capital.

John Curran was last seen within his home address in Craighall

Road at around 11pm yesterday evening.

However, police were contacted at around 6.45am this morning when it was discovered that the 74-year-old was no longer within the property.

Local enquiries are now underway to trace John, who lives with dementia, and anyone who can assist officers with their investigation is asked to come forward.

John is described as white, 6ft tall with a heavy build, clean-shaven face and glasses. He is believed to be wearing denim jeans, a checked shirt and black and grey trainers.

Inspector Alan Bowie said: "At this time we do not know how long John has been away from his home and so we are keen to find him as soon as possible.

"Anyone who believes they have seen him since late on Thursday evening or early Friday morning is asked to contact police immediately.

"Similarly, anyone with information as to John's current whereabouts is also asked to get in touch."

Those with information can contact Police Scotland on 101.

Last chance – Sign up today for Pedal for Scotland



People from around Edinburgh are being encouraged to sign up for the freshnlo Pedal for Scotland Challenge ride between

Glasgow to Edinburgh which celebrates its sixteenth year this Sunday. Around 12,000 people from across Scotland make up the 12,000 riders who annually take on Scotland's biggest cycle challenge.

As well as the iconic 47 mile Glasgow to Edinburgh Challenge ride there is a timed 110 mile Sportive for the more experienced rider. Building on the success of the traditional nine mile Edinburgh Family Ride, freshnlo Pedal for Scotland has introduced a new four mile route – The Edinburgh Circular Ride.

Last year over 400 riders from Edinburgh and surrounding areas saddled up and took part in the nine mile family ride which starts at Kirkliston Leisure Centre and finishes at Murrayfield stadium. This route allows riders of all ages and abilities to join in the last nine miles of the main freshnlo Pedal for Scotland 47 mile ride which starts in Glasgow Green, before crossing the finish line together at the iconic Murrayfield stadium.


The new Edinburgh Circular Ride covers a four mile almost completely traffic free loop, starting and finishing at Murrayfield Stadium using cycle paths and quiet residential streets. The circular route has been introduced due to the popularity of the initial Edinburgh Family Ride and to make the event more accessible for first time riders and those with younger children.

Participants can raise money for children and young people in Scotland affected by poverty by supporting the event's official charity partner, the STV Appeal.

Keith Irving, chief executive of Cycling Scotland, said: "This is a huge year for sport and in particular September will be a huge month for cycling. After a summer watching some of the best athletes in the world, freshnlo Pedal for Scotland gives people the opportunity to get on their bikes and take part alongside thousands of others. There are various pre-event transport options and I look forward to welcoming cyclists from all over Scotland on 7 September."

[Register here.](#)

Scottish Independence Referendum – Look to the hills!

 A little bit of California arrived in Caledonia as a giant Yes, similar to the Hollywood Hills sign, was emblazoned on the Pentland Hills.

The sign is 20 metres in height and 65 metres in length and can be seen from Fife. It has been nailed down with more than 300 pegs and it will be visible to planes on approach to and departure from Edinburgh International Airport.

Yes supporter and Business for Scotland member, Peter De Vink is the person responsible for the sign and he hopes it inspires Scots to 'reach for the stars'.

Peter de Vink said: 'A Yes vote is the opportunity of a lifetime. We may not enjoy the weather of Hollywood in

Scotland but the stars are aligning for a more prosperous and fairer Scotland. When I heard the Yes sign on the Pentlands was removed, I decided to put up a much larger one to remind the voters of Scotland what's possible if we are ambitious and reach for the stars.

'I hope those that see the Yes sign from a far and above contemplate what might be possible if decisions about Scotland's future are taken by those who care most about Scotland – the people who live and work here.'


Blair Jenkins said: 'If our supporters are looking for a sign other than the improving polls that we're closing the gap on No, then maybe this one will provide them with added inspiration as they pound the streets with the Yes message.'

Mr De Vink represents Midlothian East Ward of Midlothian Council as an Independent councillor.



Photos Ian Rutherford

Book Festival shortlisted for award

 The ScottishPower Foundation has today announced that The Edinburgh International Book Festival is in the running to win an accolade at the inaugural ScottishPower Foundation Awards.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival has been nominated in both the Community Impact/Engagement and Innovation and School Partnership categories, thanks to their exceptional

work with local people and school pupils.

The Book Festival began in 1983 and is now a key event in the August Festival season, celebrated annually in Scotland's capital city. Throughout its history, the Book Festival has grown rapidly in size and scope to become the largest and most dynamic festival of its kind in the world. In its first year the Book Festival played host to just 30 'Meet the Author' events. Today, the Festival programmes over 700 events, which are enjoyed by people of all ages.



The Awards aim to recognise and celebrate the amazing achievements of the nineteen outstanding charities and non-profit organisations who have received funding from the ScottishPower Foundation over the past year.

Representatives from each project will attend an awards ceremony at the National Museum of Scotland on Wednesday, 10 September 2014, where the winners of each category will be announced. Each winning project will be awarded an extra £7,500 funding to further enhance the hugely valuable services they currently provide.

The ScottishPower Foundation was established in 2013, to support charitable projects and reinforce the energy company's commitment to charitable work throughout Britain. The Foundation provides funds to support charitable initiatives that promote the advancement of education, environmental protection, citizenship and community development, arts,

culture and science, as well as the prevention of poverty or disadvantage. Its aim is to make a significant and lasting contribution to society and enhance the quality of life in local communities.

It is dedicated to supporting the charity sector and strengthening the positive relationship and bridging the gap between business and community.

Ann Loughrey, Trustee and Executive Officer of the ScottishPower Foundation, said: "I'd like to say a huge congratulations to all of our outstanding projects! We work with a diverse range of organisations from all around the UK and their achievements never cease to amaze and inspire me. We are delighted to have been able to play such an important role in this process and I look forward to celebrating their achievements with them on Wednesday."

Sadie McKinlay, Head of Development of the Edinburgh International Book Festival, said: "We are delighted to have been acknowledged for our contribution to Edinburgh. The Book Festival is made possible with the backing of the ScottishPower Foundation and we'd like to thank them for their continued support. The standard of entries for the awards is very high and we feel privileged to be nominated alongside some really inspiring projects. We have our fingers firmly crossed that we'll do well on the day and bring the award and further funding home to Edinburgh."



L-R Jessica Hayward (5) Henry Hayward (8) Author Vivian

UK Parliament bill to exempt some from 'bedroom tax' is welcome says Edinburgh MP

Mark Lazarowicz MP has joined Labour colleagues in giving a partial welcome to a Private Members' Bill being debated today in the UK Parliament designed to exempt some people from the bedroom tax which means that social tenants can see their housing benefit cut severely where they are deemed to be occupying a property larger than they need.

The Bill is being introduced by Andrew George, LibDem MP for St Ives, and although committed to abolition of the bedroom tax the Labour Opposition is aiming to strengthen it as a step towards that.

Mark said: "The Bill is welcome in so far as it goes in seeking to exempt some people hit by the bedroom tax and in encouraging the building of new affordable housing but the real answer is simple: scrap the bedroom tax as Labour is committed to do.

"This unfair and vicious policy has left vulnerable tenants like disabled people and their carers under threat of having to move and the Government has been forced to apply sticking plaster to the wound it has caused by increasing discretionary housing payments in dribs and drabs

"It is all very well for some LibDem MPs to be calling for the bedroom tax to be modified to exempt them a few months before

the UK General Election – if they had opposed it from the start, the government would not have been able to bring it in at all!

“The real answer to the desperate shortage of affordable housing is not to victimise existing social tenants but to tackle it at root, by building more of it.”

After strong pressure from Scottish Labour MPs the UK Government offered to transfer the power to set the cap on the level of Discretionary Housing Payments in Scotland to the Scottish Government so that it could be set at a level that would prevent anyone being forced to move as a result of the bedroom tax.

June's fundraising for Thistle Foundation today



Edinburgh woman is wheely excited about video message from Irish star Daniel O'Donnell in support of her dream wedding day for charity

Die-hard Daniel O'Donnell fan June Reynolds was speechless after receiving a video message from the Irish star in support of her fundraising efforts for a charity that has helped her to live an independent life.

<http://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Daniel-ODonnell.mp4>

The go-getting 60 year old who has cerebal palsy is doing her very own sponsored 'walk' for health and wellbeing charity, the **Thistle Foundation**, today.

The Edinburgh Reporter was there to see her being sent on her way with cheers from Edinburgh's only seaside primary school – Towerbank Primary School – who filed out to watch June leave on her challenging sponsored trip in her wheelchair.

June has been amazed by the support she has received from everyone over the past few months – but it was a video message from Daniel O'Donnell, Irish singer and television presenter, that left her speechless.

June, who was born in Musselburgh, will take on the two mile challenge along with her bridesmaids, who will also be dressed up in their finest, and is looking forward to being waved off by the local pupils.

It will be the first time June has ever worn a wedding dress. Big hearted June decided to make a dream come true and give something back to the Thistle Foundation, the Edinburgh based charity that has helped her for over 16 years.

Thanks to Thistle's support June now lives in her own home within the charity's housing estate in Craigmillar after years of living in supported accommodation.

The bride and her team of three bridesmaids will undertake the two mile challenge from Noble Seaside Centre in Portobello to the Ship inn at Musselburgh.

June, who has been in a wheelchair all her life and is determined to live her life to the full, said: "The sponsored walk is something that I really want to achieve this year. Thistle has been great and there is always someone there to help. They have been with me on my journey and now I can do something for them.

"I've never had the opportunity to wear a wedding dress so I really wanted to put one on. And I thought it would make people laugh!"

The 'wedding party' was made up of June's support workers. June's family and friends have been helping her to adapt the wedding dress so she can wear it.

Kerryn Kirkpatrick, Head of Communications at the Thistle Foundation, said: "We're delighted that June is undertaking this challenge to support Thistle. It will be a great achievement for her and the money raised will help us to continue our vital work in making sure people living with long term conditions receive the support they need.

She added: "Two miles is a big challenge for June as she will have to control her wheelchair for at least an hour which takes a lot of concentration and hard work. We know she can do it and we wish her all the best. We will be there as guests on her big day!"

You can support June's challenge by making a donation via her fundraising page – www.everydayhero.co.uk/event/junesevent

Friday in Edinburgh – what's on today



Duty: local author **Joan Rowe** talks about her book, ' an epic story about love, loyalty and the winds of war.' 6pm, [Far From The Madding Crowd](#) bookshop, 20 High Street, Linlithgow. The Edinburgh Reporter's article about Joan's earlier appearance at Morningside Library can be found [here](#).

Easel Sketching in the Gallery: inspired by the Titian exhibition and working from a costumed figure. 2-4pm, [Scottish National Gallery](#), (Main Floor of the Gallery) The Mound. No booking required.

St Mary's RC Cathedral Bicentenary Lecture: Sir Tom Devine OBE 'Catholics in Scotland: The Silent Revolution 1960-present.' 7.30pm, [St Mary's RC Cathedral](#), York Place. Free, but tickets should be obtained in advance from the Cathedral Office on 0131 556 1798 or by emailing monica.davidson@virginmedia.com

Bring a Bear Bug: special bear-themed bookbug session featuring bear stories, rhymes and movement!

10.30-11.30am, [Muirhouse Library](#), 15 Pennywell Court. Bring your own teddy!

STILL: new works by **Deb Marshall** and **Arran Rahimian**. 11am-5pm from today until 14th September 2014, *closed 8th & 9th September*. [Patriothall Gallery](#), 10 Patriothall, off Hamilton Place, Stockbridge.



Eco-Kidz: turn recycling into crafty, sellable items. Learn a variety of skills in these fun sessions including art, design, craft, marketing and retailing. The group will eventually go on to sell items made in the sessions. 1.45-3.15pm, [North Edinburgh Arts](#), 15a Pennywell Court. Free. More information [here](#).

Napier University Campus Tours: view the facilities and chat with Napier's Student Ambassadors about life at the university. Tours will start simultaneously at 2pm at each of [Napier's](#) three campuses, Craiglockhart, Merchiston and Sighthill. Places must be booked in advance: click [here](#) for booking form.

Feely Friday: explore real and replica objects from the fascinating handling collections of the museum. From Vikings and Victorians to all sorts of animals, mammoths, meteorites and more! What will you get to grips with? 1.30-4.30pm today and every Friday until 19th December 2014, [National Museum of Scotland](#), Chambers Street (check information screens on the day to find the location.) Free drop-in event: *children must be accompanied by an adult*.

Karaoke Club: if you're bored with the TV on a Friday night, why not experience some real live Craigmillar entertainment while boosting your confidence and developing your vocal cords? 7-10pm, [Craigmillar Community Arts](#), 58 Newcraighall Road. £1 per person.

Food Co-Op: buy cheap, quality food from Green City (Scottish Wholefood Collective Warehouse.) 3-6pm, [Forest Cafe](#), Lauriston Place.

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



Opera at Rosslyn Chapel

Clean up on the beach

Ryder Cup

HMS Edinburgh

M & S fundraising

An international operatic singing star is coming home to Midlothian to perform at Rosslyn Chapel for Midfest 2014.

Iain Paton, who is originally from Mayfield, is an internationally acclaimed opera singer who shot to fame replacing Plácido Domingo as tenor soloist in Lloyd Webber's *Requiem* in Australia, New Zealand and Norway.

Some of his other singing career highlights include; TAMINO *Magic Flute* and SHEPHERD *Tristan und Isolde* for Scottish Opera, as well as recording the role of EURIMACHOS in Dallapiccola's *Ulisse* for the BBC Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Sir Andrew Davis.

Now, the singing sensation is to take centre stage in the iconic Chapel, which is part of this year's Midfest – Midlothian's own arts and music festival.

The intimate one-off performance will take place in the candle-lit setting of the chapel where the singer will be joined by The Edinburgh Kevoch Choir.

Ian Gardener, Director of Rosslyn Chapel, said: "It's great to have Rosslyn Chapel included in the Midfest programme for 2014, following the success of last year's event. The acoustics in the Chapel are renowned and this looks set to be an unforgettable evening of music."

The concert will take place on Saturday 13 September at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £20 for adults and £15 for concessions and are available on: www.rosslynchapel.com or in person from the Chapel.

There are more than 60 events going on across Midlothian for Midfest 2014 which runs from Saturday 6 September to Sunday 14 September. Get your tickets here: <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/midfest-6764622193>

The UK's leading marine charity says it hopes people who love the coast around Scotland will take part in a nationwide beach clean event which includes clean-ups all the way down the Scottish east coast but especially Portobello. [Click here](#) to register as a volunteer to help clean up Portobello Beach.

The Marine Conservation Society (MCS) runs regular beach cleans around the UK which this year will culminate in the Great British Beach Clean over the weekend of the **19th-22nd September.**

MCS says it hopes to get a record number of people cleaning beaches around the UK during its Great British Beach Clean

weekend and is looking for volunteers in Scotland.

Tom Bell, MCS Campaigns Manager, says the event hopes to return many of Britain's beaches to their halcyon days of the 50's and 60's, before we became a throw away society resulting in thousands of pieces of litter, including vast amounts of plastic, along every kilometre of the UK's coastline.

"Our domestic habits over the last 50 years or so have resulted in dirty beaches. We throw more stuff away than ever. Plastic in the marine environment may take hundreds of years to break down and it washes up or is blown onto beaches in bits from micro pieces to larger chunks.

We flush stuff down the loo we shouldn't, and that ends up in our water ways and then our beaches. We want to see people turning out to clean up their favourite or local beach during our Great British Beach Clean weekend – please don't turn your back out beaches."

There are beach clean events in Scotland from Aberdeenshire to Angus and Edinburgh to East Lothian. The full list can be found at www.mcsuk.org.

The Ryder Cup was in Edinburgh yesterday. Did you catch a glimpse of it? We have photos and video [here](#).

The Council commissioned PWC to carry out an economic impact study for HMS Edinburgh to be used as a floating museum in Edinburgh. You can read the study below. The council have now decided it is beyond their means.

http://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/06_03_HMS_Edinburgh_Final_Report.pdf

M&S Edinburgh has raised the sum of £5,139.58 for Care and Repair Edinburgh; the store's chosen Charity of the Year.

Over the last year, the store's fundraising efforts have involved employees who took part in a sponsored walk, a bungee jump and a silent auction.

Each year, M&S stores around the country select one charity to support for the full year, hosting fundraising events with customers and employees.

Care and Repair Edinburgh is an independent charity offering advice and assistance to people who are older and/or have disabilities. They provide a range of practical services to help people repair, improve or adapt their homes so that they can live independently in their own homes in comfort for as long as possible.

Jenny McPartlin, M&S Edinburgh Store Manager, said: "Each year we commit to working with a local cause and this year we have been working closely with Care & Repair Edinburgh as it offers a great source of support for people throughout the city.

"We would like to thank all of our customers who have helped support our fundraising efforts over the last year and we hope that the funds raised go some way towards helping the charity continue their great work."

Employees from M&S Edinburgh were also recently invited to the grand opening of Care and Repair's new premises, at Osborne Terrace, Edinburgh. The plaque was unveiled by Alex Neil MSP and was attended by Eddie Thomson and Alison Barbour from the store's Business Involvement Group.

Hotel shortlisted for international design award



One of the Capital's leading hotels has been shortlisted for an international design award following a £4.2m transformation earlier this year.

The DoubleTree by Hilton Edinburgh City Centre – located on Bread Street – has been shortlisted for top honours at the Restaurant and Bar Design Awards.

Following initial judging, the hotel's Bread Street Brasserie and Monboddoo bar have been listed as finalists alongside venues from London, the USA and Australia.





Opened in March 2014, the hotel, bar and restaurant transformation was project managed and is operated by Redefine|BDL Hotels while the interiors were designed and created by Glasgow and London-based ICA.

Ronald Little, general manager at DoubleTree by Hilton Edinburgh City Centre, said: "Since we launched in March this year, our guests and visitors have been extremely complimentary about the quality and unique design of the hotel, Bread Street Brasserie and Monboddo bar.

"To be shortlisted for this fantastic accolade alongside some of the world's top bars and restaurants is a real honour in itself."

Ross Morrow, chief technical officer of Redefine|BDL Hotels, said: "DoubleTree by Hilton Edinburgh City Centre is a truly unique hotel with a wonderful design and vibrant atmosphere. It has set a high standard among other venues in the city and is clearly finished to a world class standard. We look forward to the winners being announced on 25 September."

Ryder Cup in Edinburgh today



Almost a year after it was here with the two Ryder Cup captains on its way to Gleneagles the Ryder Cup is back in town today.

Earlier at the Omni Centre we met up with officials from VisitScotland and the Ryder Cup to find out what it means to Scotland to have the golf tournament here this year.

Meantime get along to the Omni Centre today to take a photo with the cup.

The Ryder Cup Trophy is visiting 'the four corners of Scotland' on an Official Trophy Tour, bringing the iconic trophy to the doorsteps of fans and members of the public across Scotland. The first stop for the world-famous trophy will be Edinburgh's OMNI Centre today.

The launch event at Edinburgh's OMNI Centre will also incorporate the unveiling of a large-scale installation

welcoming The Ryder Cup back to Scotland. The striking image of one of Scotland's 'Big Five' – a Golden Eagle – carrying the iconic Ryder Cup trophy 'back to Scotland', will adorn the exterior of The OMNI Centre in Edinburgh until the end of September.

During the day, there will be an opportunity for the general public to get a picture next to The Ryder Cup Trophy.

The trophy will then, travelling by helicopter on a week-long tour, take in the nation's spectacular scenery at the most Northern, Eastern, Southern and Western courses participating in the ClubGolf programme. The wider legacy of The 2014 Ryder Cup is also important with participating courses also being chosen for their tourism and environmental connections.

VIDEO HERE SOON!

Rape – Man arrested

✖ Police in Edinburgh confirmed this morning that a 21-year-old man was arrested and charged in the city earlier today in connection with a rape which took place in the Swanfield Industrial Estate area of Leith on Saturday morning.

A report is being submitted to the Procurator Fiscal and the man is expected to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court tomorrow (Friday).

Race the Runway – today at Edinburgh Airport



If you are out at Edinburgh Airport you may be forgiven for rubbing your eyes in disbelief. There really will be Mercedes cars racing down the tarmac. But it is all for a good cause.

Aeroplanes are not the only machines taking off at the Edinburgh Airport today as some of the world's fastest cars will be hitting the runway for 'Race the Runway' – a charity drag race raising funds for the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice in Glasgow. The cars were spotted this morning at the Dakota Hotel – perhaps they need to spruce up their parking skills?

The event, which invites members of the public to pay £300 for the opportunity to race their high-performance cars on the 1,800 m auxiliary runway, is staged as a series of heats throughout the day, with the fastest models progressing to each successive round. Last year, the finalists released speeds of up to 180 mph as they competed against the clock.

As the sponsor of this exciting event, Mercedes-Benz will also be heading to Edinburgh with seven of its most powerful AMG models in tow. Among them will be the A 45 AMG, the new 360 hp GLA 45 AMG, the C 63 AMG Black Series, the SL 63 AMG Roadster, the E 63 AMG S Estate and the mighty SLS AMG Black Series.

Also tearing up the tarmac will be the iconic Silver Arrow MERCEDES AMG PETRONAS F1 W03 Formula One car – last raced to victory by Nico Rosberg in the 2012 Chinese Grand Prix. Piloted on the day by Sky Sports Presenter Anthony

Davidson, spectators will witness the full power of the magnificent V8 engine, developing up to 750 hp, as it powers the 600 kg vehicle up the runway.

“We’re delighted to be back at Race the Runway,” said Rob Halloway, Communications and Events Director Mercedes-Benz UK. “It’s great fun and a real privilege to thunder along the tarmac at take-off speeds in a car – and of course it’s all perfectly legal! But best of all this remarkable day raises awareness and funds for a terrific cause.”



Big Issue seller John White dies



Big Issue Seller John White died in the Western General Hospital on Monday following a ‘cancer related illness’, as reported in the [Big Issue](#).

He was a one-off and we met him earlier in the year when filming the Lord Provost who was being shown by the expert how to sell the magazine on the street.

The Lord Provost, RT Hon Donald Wilson, said: “Earlier this year I was a guest Big Issue vendor for a day, and I was fortunate enough to meet with John and speak with him about life selling the magazine. I am very sorry to hear the news of his passing.

“It is clear that John’s spirit boosted Big Issue sales in the Meadows, and through his role he raised countless funds for its charities. His story raises the issue of homelessness in Edinburgh, and it’s important people and organisations do everything they can to raise awareness of homelessness in Scotland and that we work together to make it a thing of the past.”

Thursday in Edinburgh – what’s on today



Magic Carpet Minis: introducing very little ones to the fantastic objects in the museum through 20 minutes of stories, songs and activities. Suitable for very young children (ages 0-2) with their parents or carers. 10.30-10.50am *or* 11.30-11.50am today and every Thursday until 18th December 2014 – meet at the Lighthouse Lens, Grand Gallery, Level One, [National Museum of Scotland](#), Chambers Street. Free – sign up on the day at the Information Desk in the Entrance Hall.



Tom Palmer: ‘Over the Line’ – even in the trenches, football lives on! Tom Palmer discusses his brilliant book about a real footballer’s experience in World War I. Children in **P4 upwards** are especially welcome. 6.30-7.30pm, [Central Children’s Library](#), George IV Bridge.

Teen Scream: magazine making club. If you’re interested in photography, music, art, cinema, comics, books, sport,

computer games, journalism or local news – join the brand new editorial team! For teenagers. 3.30-4.30pm today and every Thursday, [Muirhouse Library](#), 15 Pennywell Court.

Titian Uncovered: Venetian-themed evening exploring Titian, including pop-up talks, painting demonstrations and live music from Stephen Morrison and Gordon Ferries and the Edinburgh University Renaissance Singers. 6-8pm, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound, free.

Aye Eye: a solo exhibition by Skye based artist **James Newton Adams**. 'An impressive and coherent exhibition that will see James' sculptures exhibited alongside his distinctive paintings.' Today until 1st October 2014 (contact gallery for opening times), [Union Gallery](#), Broughton Street.



Peter Burnett: *Scotland or No*. Peter Burnett launches his latest novel, a sequel to *#freetopiary: An Occupy Romance*. '*Scotland or No* sucks its young hero to the depths of the blogosphere, where the lines between the fake and the real have been smashed forever...fake jobs, fake people, fake places...from the gloom of Old Town closes emerges an underworld of smears and lies spread by feral bloggers and persona managers who will stop at nothing to ensure the success of their political cause..this army of fake profiles has more than just friends and likes. These profiles can vote.' 6-8pm [Waterstones, George Street](#). Free tickets available from the shop. Call 0131 225 3436 for more information.

Easel Sketching in the Gallery: inspired by the Titian exhibition and working from a costumed figure. 2-4pm, [Scottish National Gallery](#), (Main Floor of the Gallery) The Mound. No booking required. Also available on Friday 5th September.

Undercurrents: a group exhibition bringing together artists and artworks employing a contemporary approach to the

traditional subject of seascape. Private viewings 6-9pm today and Friday 5th, then normal opening hours until 8th October 2014, [Arusha Gallery](#), 13a Dundas Street.

Fruitmarket Gallery: Descriptive Tour. A tour designed for visually-impaired visitors, including detailed descriptions of **Jim Lambie's** work and practice. 6.30-8pm, [Fruitmarket Gallery](#), 45 Market Street. Free and open to all but places limited to 10.

Gayfield Twilight Talks: Cloth and Memory – placemaking and materials in contemporary exhibitions. **Sarah Saunders**, Head of Learning and Programmes at V & A Dundee, introduces a conversation between leading UK textile creator **Lesley Millar** and independent curator **Amanda Game** on the subject of traditions of cloth-making and textile design in different cultures and how that can connect us to both places and memory in ways which animate our experience of daily life.

The conversation will be accompanied by a special display of printed textiles by **Professor Norma Starzakowna**. 6-8pm, [Lyon & Turnbull](#), 33 Broughton Place. Free tickets can be booked via [eventbrite](#).

✖ **LGBT Health and Wellbeing Learning Disability Project: Visit to Gorgie City Farm.** For LGBT people who also identify as having a learning disability/difficulty. Come and see the animals, look around the farm, then visit the cafe for tea and chat. Meet at [LGBT Health & Wellbeing Centre](#), 9 Howe Street at 2pm or later at Gorgie Farm, 51 Gorgie Road. Visit will end at 4.30pm. **Booking essential by Monday 1st September:** call 0131 523 1100. Please bring a carer or supporter if you need help to take part in the visit.

Independence and the Currency: how can Scotland change the banking and monetary system? Come and explore the questions around this issue in an evening of talks, film and discussion. A simultaneous documentary screening here and at the **CCA in Glasgow** will be preceded by a short talk and followed by a

live video link-up between the two audiences for a Q & A session directed to a panel hosted in the **Positive Money** head office. Suitable for all ages. 7.30-9.30pm, Red Lecture Theatre, [Summerhall](#), 1 Summerhall. Free. [Positive Money](#) is a movement to democratise money and banking.

Painting with Bill: learn to paint with CCA's resident artist **Bill Jessiman**. If you've never tried painting before, here's your chance to give it a try in a relaxed and informal setting. Bill will talk you through the steps to producing an original oil painting. 1.30-4pm, [Craigmillar Community Arts](#), 58 Newcraighall Road.

Create: creative messy play session for 0-5 year olds and their parents or carers. Drop-in sessions demonstrating resourceful and inspiring ways to learn with your child. 10am-12 noon, [North Edinburgh Arts](#), 15a Pennywell Court. 50p per child per session. More information [here](#). Also at same time on Saturdays.

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



Craighouse Development

Cycle to Work Day

Forth Road Bridge celebrations

Colony of Artists

Ryder Cup

Yesterday the council's Development Management committee decided upon the application by The Craighouse Partnership to develop the listed buildings and land at Craighouse and approved it by 9 votes to 6. There is still a chance that the decision could be called in by Scottish Ministers but certainly the developers are ploughing ahead with their plans.

[Our video here](#) shows the comments by the planning convenor and others involved in the decision making process.

Today is Cycle to Work Day when employers are encouraged to offer those cycling to work a free coffee and croissant when they get there. This is a national event across the whole of the UK championed by Paralympic cyclist Dame Sarah Storey hoping that others might be persuaded to take to two wheels.

As a cyclist you can pledge your miles and share this on social media to offer advice and information to those who do not yet know about the cycle to work scheme. [Click here](#) to offer your pledge.

Sustrans offer some confidence boosting advice on ways to travel to work on a bike. [Click here](#) for that information.

50 years ago today the Queen opened the Forth Road Bridge on a very foggy September day. Accompanied by Prince Philip she drove across the bridge for free although every eligible vehicle after that had to pay until tolls were scrapped on bridges across Scotland by the SNP government in 2007.

The Forth Bridges Festival is about to start and you can get more information on that [here](#). There is lots to do in South

Queensferry this weekend!

<http://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Abbeyhill-School-Artists-Email.pdf>

Today you could have your photo taken standing next to the Ryder Cup.

The Ryder Cup Trophy is to visit 'the four corners of Scotland' on an Official Trophy Tour, bringing the iconic trophy to the doorsteps of fans and members of the public across Scotland. The first stop for the world-famous trophy will be Edinburgh's OMNI Centre today.

The launch event at Edinburgh's OMNI Centre will also incorporate the unveiling of a large-scale installation welcoming The Ryder Cup back to Scotland. The striking image of one of Scotland's 'Big Five' – a Golden Eagle – carrying the iconic Ryder Cup trophy 'back to Scotland', will adorn the exterior of The OMNI Centre in Edinburgh until the end of September.

During the day, there will be an opportunity for the general public to get a picture next to The Ryder Cup Trophy.

The trophy will then, travelling by helicopter on a week-long tour, take in the nation's spectacular scenery at the most Northern, Eastern, Southern and Western courses participating in the ClubGolf programme. The wider legacy of The 2014 Ryder Cup is also important with participating courses also being chosen for their tourism and environmental connections.

VIDEO – Council approves planning application for Craighouse



The Development Management committee met today for eight hours in the City Chambers to hear both sides of the argument about the development planned for Craighouse.

The final decision was to grant all three planning applications made by The Craighouse Partnership which accords with the advice from planning officials. The decision was 9-6 in favour.

The developer still has to enter into a Section 75 agreement with the council but it will contain a developer contribution of £336,000 to the education budget.

The Edinburgh Reporter spoke to some of the key people after the meeting ended.

Local Greens have signalled dismay over the decision by planning committee to grant permission for new high-cost housing at Craighouse. While Green planning committee member, Nigel Bagshaw, voted against permission, the committee as a whole voted in favour.

Local Green councillor Gavin Corbett slammed the decision, claiming:

“This is nothing short of a betrayal of the thousands of people who have submitted objections to the massive over-

development of Craighouse as one of the most special places in the city.”

Neighbouring Green councillor Melanie Main added:

“In deciding to ride roughshod over a host of planning protections, those members of planning committee who supported the application have not only signalled a dramatic change at Craighouse, they have utterly undermined their future credibility as custodians of the city”

And Green MSP Alison Johnstone, who lives locally, said:

“One of the biggest disappointments in today’s decision is that it has closed the door on exciting plans to re-invent Craighouse as a hub for community enjoyment and local businesses in favour of bland and exclusive private housing. What a failure of the imagination!”

Edinburgh Riding of the Marches this weekend



The Edinburgh Riding of the Marches is an event that the Lord Provost has described as one of the most visually arresting of his tenure thus far. It takes place this Sunday so you would be well-advised not to miss it!

This year the event will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. In partnership with leading veterans’ charity Poppyscotland, over 270 riders led by the Edinburgh Captain, Captains Lass and the First and

Second Officers will inspect the city boundaries before making their way to the Royal Mile to stage a spectacular mounted cavalcade.

The Edinburgh Riding of the Marches takes place on Sunday 7 September 2014 and will attract representatives from the 30 riding towns of Scotland from as far afield as Shetland in the north to Annan in the south. The event attracts around 15,000 spectators throughout the city.





The contribution to the First World War by horsemen and horses alike was profound. In the region of 6,000 horsemen lost their lives in cavalry attacks and a further 16,000 were injured. A total of 1 million horses were sent to the front with only 65,000 returning to Britain. To this day, horses are still used within the military in ceremonial parades and in the rehabilitation of ex-Servicemen and women. This is reflected in the representation of HorseBack UK in the ride, an equine therapy charity which has received funding from Poppyscotland.

The cavalcade of 270 horses will leave Holyrood Park at 3.30pm and then make its way up the Royal Mile to the Mercat Cross, opposite the City Chambers, where the city banner will be returned by Captain for 2014, Stuart Mitchell. This will take place from 4pm.

The Riding of the Marches commemorates the tradition of inspecting the city's boundaries first recorded in 1579, although the tradition is likely to have been carried out for centuries before. In times of peace after the Union of Parliaments in 1707, the annual inspection ceased until 1946 when a ride was held to celebrate peace after the Second World War. It returned in 2009 and has grown into one of the city's major annual events.

A collection will take place for Poppyscotland on Sunday, with volunteers from the charity on the Royal Mile offering the public the opportunity to make a donation to support those who have served, those still serving and their families.

Further information can be found

at www.edinburghridingthemarches.co.uk

Woman reported missing in Edinburgh



Police in Edinburgh are appealing for information to help trace a woman reported missing from Edinburgh.

Yaye Ndoeye, was last seen on 23rd and 25th June when she attended a medical appointment at a local hospital however she has since failed to attend future appointments.

Members of the public are now asked to come forward if they can assist in locating her.

Yaye originally comes from Senegal and is believed to be seven months pregnant.

Inspector Murray Starkey said: "We are concerned as Yaye has not accessed local medical services and we are keen to trace her so that we can confirm her welfare.

"Yaye has previously visited a number of places within the UK including Glasgow and London and we are currently engaging with our colleagues in these areas as part of our ongoing enquiries.

"Anyone who knows or has seen her in the last three months is asked to contact police immediately.

"In addition, I would ask that Yaye get in touch and let us

know she is alright.”

Those with information can contact Police Scotland on 101.

Serious assault in Gilmerton Dykes Crescent



A serious assault last night has led to an appeal by Police Scotland for witnesses.

The incident happened between 9.30pm and 9.40pm yesterday in Gilmerton Dykes Crescent.

An 18-year-old man was within his home when three men forced entry to the address before attacking him.

The men then made off from the property before fleeing on a motorcycle towards Gilmerton Dykes Street.

As a result, the victim sustained serious facial injuries and was taken to St John's hospital where he continues to be treated.

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

The first suspect is described as white, around 5ft 11ins tall with a heavy build and wearing a black hooded top and balaclava.

The second suspect is described as white, between 5ft 8ins and 5ft 10ins tall with a medium to stocky build and wearing black clothing and a black balaclava.

The third suspect is described only as being of stocky build and also wearing black clothing and a black balaclava.

Detective Constable John McShane said: “This has been a terrifying ordeal for the victim, who was left with painful injuries to his face after being attacked within the property.

“We are now keen to speak with anyone who remembers seeing anything suspicious in or around Gilmerton Dykes Crescent on Tuesday evening.

“In particular, if anyone remembers seeing a dark-coloured motorcycle either entering or leaving the area between 9.30pm and 9.40pm, is asked to contact police immediately.

“In addition, anyone with information that can help us identify and trace the suspects is asked to get in touch.”

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

Harlaw Hydro – building to start soon



Today is a big day in the development of Edinburgh’s first community owned renewable energy project, located at Harlaw Reservoir near Balerno.

Harlaw Hydro raised over £300,000 with a community share launch. There are now 232 shareholders who own the project,

71% of them in the local area.

For the last year the Harlaw Hydro technical team have been project managing the pre-build stage, satisfying all the technical and legal issues and we are now ready to bring in the diggers!

To celebrate this the Lord Provost wielded the Golden Spade in a sod cutting ceremony.

The Edinburgh Reporter was there to capture it all on film:

Scottish Independence Referendum – Nicola Sturgeon's view



By Nicola Sturgeon, Deputy First Minister

There are only days to go now. On September 18, we'll have the biggest opportunity in Scotland's political history. We'll decide whether we should be an independent country.

As Deputy First Minister of Scotland, I'm asking you to vote Yes. That's because I believe with all my heart that Scotland can, should and must be an independent country.

There are many good reasons why we need to be independent. One of the most important is that we will always get the governments we vote for.

Let's take the last General Election in 2010. Once again, Scotland overwhelmingly rejected the Tories. They won just one – that's right, one – Westminster seat out of 59 north of the border.

Yet we are now saddled with a Tory government which is

hammering our poor and vulnerable, pushing our children into poverty and harming our economy with austerity.

You may well ask if we can afford to be independent. It's a fair question, and there's a very clear answer: there's absolutely no doubt that we can.

Even now, we're better off financially than the UK as a whole. According to the Financial Times, Scotland is already one of the top 20 wealthiest nations in the world – richer per head than France and Japan.

We've generated more tax per person than the UK for every one of the last 33 years. And we're blessed with a strong and diverse economy which is about much more than oil.

We've a fantastic food and drink industry worth £13 billion, manufacturing exports alone of £15 billion, we're world leaders in creative industries, life sciences and renewables. With independence, we'll be able to capitalise on all these fantastic assets and use our wealth to generate more opportunities. No longer will our taxes and best people drain south. Instead we'll protect and develop our own public services and build a fairer and more equal society.

By taking action such as removing Trident weapons of mass destruction from the Clyde and opting out of the House of Lords, we'll save £600 million a year – money we will put back into Scotland.

We'll also protect pensions as well as helping the low paid, preserve free over-60s travel and prescriptions and create thousands of new jobs.

Of course, a Yes vote won't bring us a land of milk and honey. We'll have to work hard, and we'll make mistakes. But they'll be our mistakes, and we'll learn from them.

I want a country which gives its people the lives they deserve – a country which rewards work, cherishes education, provides for all, gives hope and dignity to the elderly and vulnerable and allows families to thrive and children to flourish.

Scottish Independence Referendum – Danny Alexander's view

✘ Danny Alexander is LibDem Chief Secretary to the Treasury, a job he has held since 2010. Clearly a Better Together supporter this is his view on the vote on 18 September.

Scotland is thriving as part of the UK

By Danny Alexander MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury

During this referendum campaign I have been travelling around Scotland, meeting people and listening to the issues that matter to them. And everywhere I go I hear stories about successful businesses creating jobs in Scotland. One thing connects them all: they're doing well because Scotland is part of the United Kingdom.

We all benefit from being part of a larger integrated borderless economy, with common regulations and free movement of people. That is true about all of Scotland's key sectors: financial services, (such an important industry in Edinburgh), renewable energy, defence manufacturing, life sciences, oil and gas or food and drink.

Only a few days ago over 130 business leaders went public to say that case for independence has not been made. These are some of the people who create the jobs and wealth that help make Scotland successful.

It's easy to see why so many parts of Scotland are doing so well. The UK economy is recovering strongly with low interest rates and low inflation. Employment is rising and there are now 160,000 more jobs in Scotland than in 2010. Within the UK, we Scots have more and better opportunities.

I am in no doubt that the talent and dedication of the Scottish people is one of our greatest national assets. But that asset will yield even more success as part of the UK. That's because the UK offers stability and strength, with certainty about our currency, better funded public services and safer savings and pensions.

And with a more powerful Scottish Parliament we can have the best of both worlds, so that we can find Scottish solutions to Scottish issues while remaining part of a stronger United Kingdom. Saying 'no thanks' to independence does not mean 'no change' – it means greater power for the Scottish Parliament. I want it to mean more power handed from Edinburgh back to communities in Scotland – not the centralising agenda we've seen from the SNP.

The nationalist's obsession with separation, their shambolic uncertainty on currency and their wild overstating of revenues from North Sea oil as verified by Sir Ian Wood would derail our current recovery and make our public services, like the NHS, unaffordable.

We should all be incredibly proud of everything Scotland has achieved. Let's make sure that our children and grandchildren

can be even more successful as part of the United Kingdom – by voting “No Thanks” on 18 September.

Oxgangs Primary School raise their green flag



Oxgangs Primary School gathered out in the playground and in the environmental garden for a short speech and a symbolic green flag raising ceremony at the end of last week. Our photograph shows Leah (11) Beth (11) and Tiah (11) all members of the Eco Council at the school after they had successfully hoisted the flag in their eco garden at the school.

Eco Lead Coordinator Janet Buckle explained: “To gain our first green flag, we created an action plan in three areas. In our first area ,which was litter, we tried to reduce the amount of litter in the school buildings and within the school grounds. The children promoted this at Assemblies and we learned anti- litter songs. Our Primary three pupils took part in the annual Spring clean campaign and helped clean up our school grounds and the area around it. Litter surveys were completed to identify the litter ‘hot spots’.

“Our second area was energy and our target was to become more aware of energy conservation. Each class appointed energy monitors to switch off lights when leaving the class, energy reminder labels were made and displayed. The children created and promoted a Green Christmas campaign to encourage energy conservation at home. Each class took part in the school run

Eco Day of Action and learnt about energy creation and conservation.

“The last area was transport, and the target was to encourage the children to walk to and from school and to promote safe cycling and scootering. Bike ability 1 practical workshops were delivered to all our middle years pupils last year and Bike Ability 2 was rolled out to all Primary six pupils. We created a new scooter storage facility. Edinburgh Council donated one free scooter pod and a successful Sustrans funding grant helped fund half the costs for a second pod. Our Parent Teachers Association and our Playground Development Group kindly donated the rest of the money and we now have a second pod. This has helped make scootering more popular and free up spaces in our bike shed for more bikes.

“All of our school community has been on an Eco journey and we are delighted to receive our green flag for all our hard work and continuing commitment and we are already working towards our second green flag with enthusiasm.”

Wednesday in Edinburgh – what’s on today



Magic Carpet: introducing little ones to the fantastic objects in the museum through 25 minutes of stories, songs and activities. Suitable for ages 2-4 with an accompanying adult. 10.30-10.55am or 11.30-11.55am today and every Wednesday until 17th December 2014 – meet at the Lighthouse Lens, Grand Gallery, Level One, [National Museum of Scotland](#), Chambers

Street. Free – sign up on the day at the Information Desk in the Entrance Hall. A similar session for ages 0-2 is held on Thursdays at the same times.


Edinburgh College Recruitment Day: an opportunity to talk to lecturers about each programme area and interview/audition and apply for courses online (bring whatever equipment you may need.) Places available to start now on a wide range of courses from access to degree level, vocational training and professionally accredited qualifications. 3-7.30pm, [Edinburgh College](#), Granton Campus, 350 West Granton Road,

✖ **Blackwell's Edinburgh Presents Charlaine Harris: *Midnight Crossroad*.** Harris, queen of fantasy, celebrated mystery writer and author of the hugely successful Sookie Stackhouse novels (which were made into HBO's *True Blood* series), will introduce her new novel, *Midnight Crossroad*, 'a chilling small town murder with a jaw-dropping twist.' 6.30-8pm, [Blackwell's](#), South Bridge. Free tickets available from the shop's front desk, by calling 0131 622 8218 or by emailing events.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk

Titian in Ten: ten minute pop-up talks delivered by NGS staff. Gain an exclusive insight as staff from across the galleries offer different perspectives on Titian's masterpieces. 2pm, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed.

Behind the Scenes: Your Chance to Explore the Archive. Have you ever wanted to see what lies in the Gallery of Modern Art's Archive, and to have a chance to make your own selection from the materials held there? In conjunction with artists **Carson & Miller**, NGS are offering you the chance to do just that. Carson & Miller will play '*An Archive Game*' in the Gallery of Modern Art's archive store – part of the gallery that is usually unseen by visitors. Come by yourself or bring a partner to join in. The selection you make when you play could form part of a forthcoming gallery exhibition in

the **Keiller Library**. There will be five events throughout the day, each lasting 30 minutes, at 10.30am, 11.30am, 1.30pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm, all at the [Scottish Gallery of Modern Art TWO](#), Belford Road. Free places should be booked by calling 0131 624 6268.

Hospices of Hope Open Meeting: Carolyn Perolls, Chief Executive of Hospices of Hope Trading, will talk about the wonderful work undertaken by Hospices of Hope's teams of health professionals in **Romania, Serbia and Moldova** to improve  the lives of adults and children with life-limiting conditions – work that could not be carried out without the generosity of Hospices of Hope's customers. Come along and learn about the satisfaction of raising funds for these very necessary causes. 2-4.30pm, [Royal Overseas League](#), 100 Princes Street. All welcome – tea, coffee and cake provided!

Lunchtime Concert: Liedertafel 1878 Male Voice Choir from Goddelsheim, Germany. 12.15pm, [St Giles' Cathedral](#), High Street. Free.

Walk The War: join **Andrew Grant** on a tour of Leith. 10am-1pm, starting at [Leith Library](#), 28-30 Ferry Road. Free but please book in advance by emailing the library at leith.library@edinburgh.gov.uk or calling 0131 529 5517. Part of the *Leith in World War One* season.

Charity Cake Extravaganza: Edinburgh Bakers, It's Good 2 Give and Lauriston Castle host this charity event, with all proceeds going to It's Good 2 Give. Magician, raffle – and four slices of cake per ticket! Pledges of cakes required: tickets cost £5 if you pledge a cake, £10 if you just want to eat it. 6.30-8.30pm, Victorian Glasshouse (outside if good weather), [Lauriston Castle](#), 2a Cramond Road South. See Edinburgh Bakers' [website](#) for more details and how to obtain tickets – **NB numbers limited**.

After School Art Club: a chance to experiment and learn from

others, be creative and above all have fun. For children aged 4-12. 5-6.15pm, [Craigmillar Community Arts](#), 58 Newcraighall Road. £1 per person.

✖ **Zoo Arts:** visual art sessions for local young artists who would like to improve their skills and be inspired and involved with exciting projects that run on a 2-4 week basis. For ages 9-14. 4-5.30pm, [North Edinburgh Arts](#), 15a Pennywell Court. 50p per session, includes healthy snack. More information [here](#).

Gaelic Workshop: free, very informal language class/workshop for total beginners. 2.30-3.30pm, [Forest Cafe](#), Lauriston Place.

Free The Technics Two (vinyl session): 'not only do we demand a revolution we can dance to, we want to dance to our own tunes.' 4-7pm, [Forest Cafe](#), Lauriston Place

Samba Drumming Workshop @ FC+: 5.50-7.30pm, [Forest Centre Plus](#), 38 Castle Terrace.

Leith Community Safety Surgery: tenants and homeowners welcome to come along and meet local officers from the police and council. Seek advice, raise concerns or chat about your community. 12 noon – 2pm, [McDonald Road library](#), McDonald Road. No appointment needed.

Five things you need to know

today



Craighouse Planning Application

RSNO

Real Nappy Project

Harlaw Hydro

Edinburgh is number 2!

Today the council's Development Management Committee meets for a whole day devoted to one planning application, the redevelopment of Craighouse which was previously owned by Edinburgh Napier University and run as part of their citywide campus.

The current owners now wish to develop the site for housing, but there have been many objections and everyone who wishes to have their say should have their opportunity today.

Despite the fact that the planning officials have recommended the applications be granted, there will no doubt be some heated words over the important site to the south of the city.

Get your tickets now for the opening of the RSNO season. The RSNO's 2014:15 Season opens with Oundjian Conducts Scheherazade, at the Usher Hall, Edinburgh on Friday 3 October. For more information please visit www.rsno.org.uk

The Changeworks Real Nappy Project will be hosting a new Nappuccino at the Pregnancy and Parenting Centre in Tollcross on Friday 5th September. Parents and parents-to-be are welcome

to drop in anytime between 10 and 11.30am to receive free information and advice from the knowledgeable volunteers, see a demo of real nappies and to buy some good quality second hand cloth nappies in a friendly coffee morning setting. More information

at: <http://www.changeworks.org.uk/shared/edinburgh/536/>.

This morning the Lord Provost will wield his Golden Spade at the event to mark the building of the Harlaw Hydro project. This successful community based project has raised

We hope to bring you more about this which is billed as one of the Capital Coalition's cooperative projects later today.

London has been named the UK's favourite city for the fourth year running, favoured particularly for its nightlife with Edinburgh in close contention in second place. Brighton, whilst in fifth position overall, pipped London to the post in walking away with the inaugural Best UK City for Restaurants and Bars award. Edinburgh once again takes the number two spot overall, and Bath is in third place with the city being awarded the highest score for its architecture. Cambridge, in sixth place, came top for culture, just ahead of rival Oxford, while Glasgow, in ninth position, was voted the most welcoming city.

The top UK Holiday Hotel this year is Chewton Glen in Hampshire, voted top for service. Runner up Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons in Oxfordshire is more appealing for its food, whilst Babington House in Somerset came a close third after still being considered top drawer for design. Once again, 14 of the top 15 UK Business Hotels are in London, with the only non- London hotel in this category being Manchester's The Lowry Hotel. The number one UK Hotel Spa is ESPA Life at Corinthia, Corinthia Hotel London.

New York beat Paris for a second year running for the coveted top overseas city title thanks to knockout scores for both nightlife and places to stay. For the fourth year, Italy is favourite country, gaining top scores for both food and culture. However the friendliest people and best places to stay can be found in the USA. The first ever award for Best Overseas City for Restaurants and Bars goes to Sydney.

Two further inaugural accolades awarded this year are Best Hotel in the World for Design which goes to Viceroy Anguilla, the Caribbean; and Best Hotel in the World for Service, awarded to Four Seasons Hotel George V, Paris.

Mandarin Oriental Bangkok, Thailand takes the prestigious number 1 spot in The World's Top 100 list.

Days out – Bo'ness Hill Climb Revival

The Bo'ness Hill Climb takes place over Saturday and Sunday 6-7 September 2014. The event has been going for 80 years but had a break and was then revived about 7 years ago. The racing action takes place at the western end of the town at Kinneil Estate.

This is now a real weekend of fun for all the family with lovely cars of all vintages and many which are the sole survivor of their type and make. You can bring your own classic car to join in the fun and there will be an air show and pipe band to round off the weekend's entertainment.

Lots more information [here](#) and some great photos [here](#).

Here is a video of the action from last year.