

Crash on Pennywell Road

A Lamborghini sports car crashed into a bus stop on Pennywell Road earlier this evening. The Edinburgh Reporter has seen this car on many occasions in the city centre being driven by a middle-aged man but tonight there are unconfirmed reports that the car was being driven by teenagers at the time of the crash.

[@edinburghpaper](#) [@EdinReporter](#) car crash on Pennywell Road tonight [pic.twitter.com/2A0WxPuSy8](#)

– [barry dickson \(@radiobasher\)](#) [August 28, 2014](#)

Need for Speed hit a bus stop on Pennywell Rd
[pic.twitter.com/ECa10WzQDq](#)

– [Muirhouse+SalvesenCC \(@MuirhouseSalvCC\)](#) [August 28, 2014](#)

American Football – Edinburgh Napier Knights 2014/15 Season Preview




With three consecutive wins to end last season, there is a positive atmosphere around the [Edinburgh Napier Knights American Football](#) team going into their first preseason

training session on September 7th. This session will give Head Coach Pete Laird the opportunity to run the rule over his returning charges and layout his blueprint for the current campaign. The recruitment drive follows in the week after during the Napier Student Association Fresher's Week culminating in the Rookie Day on September 14th, an opportunity for potential new players to try their hand at American Football.

The first fixture of the new season against the UWS Pyros on the 8th of November may seem a long time away but there is a lot of crucial work that needs to take place on the practice field before then. With training sessions twice a week, a weekend training camp and a couple of scrimmages, the squad will be prepared to hit the ground running going into the first game of the new BUCS Border Conference.

A summer of league reconstruction will see the Knights travel to Newcastle, Sunderland and Glasgow to take on the Raiders, Spartans and Tigers, as well as welcoming the UWS Pyros, Teeside Cougars and Northumbria Mustangs to Sighthill over the course of the season.

The Knights have once again linked up with long term sponsor Student Recommend and The Three Sisters Bar, Cowgate, who will also be supporting the Knights annual Varsity game against city rivals the Edinburgh Predators on Superbowl Sunday, February 1st.

Now entering its fourth year, the game which is traditionally hosted by the Knights at Boroughmuir's Meggetland Stadium will see a capacity crowd, the biggest for an American Football game in Scotland, gather for the clash with the Knights looking to avenge the narrow 9-0 defeat they suffered in the equivalent fixture in the last campaign. 

With eyes set on a playoff push, there have been a number of

backroom changes over the summer. Second Year player Joe Walsh takes over Presidential duties from Rolfo Jesus Whitaker and there will be a new Offensive Coach Jamie Archibald set to be installed to complete the backroom staff along with Defensive Coach Scott Smith.

Head Coach Pete Laird said of the upcoming season: "The restructuring of the league has thrown up some new opponents for us this season which is an exciting prospect. There is great potential among the returning group of players and with a few additions and a lot of hard work there is a terrific opportunity to build on the results that we finished the last campaign with. As ever we look to improve year on year to get to the level we believe we are capable of competing."

Ones to Watch

Few people scored against the Defence of National Champions Stirling Clansman last season but second year **Michael Gunn** can proudly claim to be one of the few. Gunn's punt return against the Clansman in his second game for the Knights left the opposition scratching their heads at their first loss of points in the 2013/14 campaign. Playing wide receiver and second string quarterback last season, the departure of QB Michael Onufer has left the starting spot available, with Gunn one of the candidates to succeed the South Carolinian. Either way Gunn will be a crucial offensive weapon in the Knight's arsenal.

The Knights Defensive lynch pin, linebacker **Ryan Strachan**, is back for his final season in a Knights jersey. The No.55 is a stalwart of the Knights defence, his ability on the pitch has made him a feared opponent for both club and country being one of the Knights Great Britain representatives. After a season where he was named in the Double Coverage team of the season, the new Napier Vice-President will be looking to carry on from where he left off.

Incoming Club President **Joe Walsh** is another defensive player looking to build on last season. Playing as a defensive tackle, Walsh could be found breaching the offensive line time after time. With a fantastic football head on his shoulders, Walsh has the capabilities to lead the team on the pitch as well as off it.

Finally, a second player returning for his final year as a Knight is **Rolfo Jesus Whitaker**. Last year Rolfo started out as QB and ended up winning the Defensive Hammer Award playing as a Safety. A fantastic all-rounder, Whitaker has had a summer of recuperation following a foot injury he picked up at the beginning of the post season. Everyone at the Knights is hoping that they can deliver a strong showing for Whitaker's swansong.

Author – Michael Dart. Images – [JLP-Photography](#)

Scottish Independence Referendum – the chat from both sides



A Yes vote in next month's referendum is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to restore 'real democracy' in Scotland, Yes Scotland Advisory Board chairman Dennis Canavan has said.

Instead of running the risk of being controlled by more governments we reject at the polls, independence means Scotland will always get the governments we vote for.

And it will relieve Scotland of the deep-seated 'elitism' that

remains a hallmark of the Westminster system.

Mr Canavan was speaking at a meeting in Elgin organised by Yes Moray on the same day that a new report examining the backgrounds of more than 4,000 business, political, media and public sector leaders showed that the UK remained 'deeply elitist'.

The analysis by the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission found that small elites, educated at private schools and Oxbridge, still dominate top roles, adding key institutions do not represent the public they serve.

Commission chairman Alan Milburn said they had to open their doors to a broader range of talent. He told BBC Radio 4's Today programme the report serves as a 'wake-up call' to schools, universities and government.

But Mr Canavan said the best way to create a fairer, more socially just Scotland was with a Yes vote on September 18. He was speaking as Prime Minister David Cameron, who was educated at Eton and Oxford, paid a flying visit to Scotland to address a CBI dinner in Glasgow.

Mr Canavan said a recently published comparison showed that the proportion of privately educated parliamentarians at Westminster was more than double the corresponding figure for the Scottish Parliament.

Mr Canavan said: 'No wonder the UK is the fourth most unequal society in the developed world. One of the great benefits of a Yes vote on September 18 is that we will make good the democratic deficit that too often has subjected the people of Scotland to Westminster governments that we have overwhelmingly rejected as a nation.

'And never again will we be ruled by Downing Street cabinets stuffed with Tory toffs, as we have now, who are responsible

for such obscenities as the Bedroom Tax and the maintenance of a huge arsenal of weapons of mass destruction, less than 30 miles from our largest city.'

'With the full powers of independence we can create a fairer country in which all the people benefit from our enormous wealth and resources. It is not something that will happen overnight, but if we vote Yes we will begin that exciting and inspiring journey.'

Experts have spoken out against Alex Salmond's reckless threat to default on Scottish debt if he doesn't get his way on currency in a separate Scotland.

The SNP leader has said that he would walk away from our obligations if he didn't get his way on creating a Eurozone style currency union if we vote to leave the UK.

Today both Michael Saunders of Citi and Sam Hill of RBC capital, said that if the First Minister carried out his threat it would cost more to borrow in a separate Scotland. This would increase costs for families in Scotland.

The comments from the two economists follows on from those of Professor Ronnie MacDonald who warned that a debt default would mean huge spending cuts to our schools and hospitals.

Stirling Labour MP Anne McGuire said:

"Alex Salmond's threat to walk away from our obligations is irresponsible, dangerous, and reckless for every man, woman and child in Scotland.

"It would send a signal to the international money markets that Scotland does not pay its debts.

"We know what happens when you don't pay your debts. You get a bad credit rating and everything costs more.

“That is the reality of these threats – Scotland would need to be financed by the pay day lenders of the international money markets. Spending on our schools, hospitals and pensions would have to be slashed.

“We don’t have to take this risk. We can keep the pound, safeguard our pensions and protect public spending by saying No Thanks to Alex Salmond’s dangerous threats on 18 September.

We can have the best of both worlds for Scotland – a strong Scottish Parliament backed up by the strength, security and stability of the UK. “

Angela Constance MSP, who is the Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Training, Youth and Women’s Employment, joined youth activists at a college Freshers Day today with a warning that only a Yes vote will guarantee the powers required to create and keep the jobs we need in Scotland.

‘The vote in three weeks’ time comes down to a choice between two very different futures for young people in Scotland.’ said Ms Constance.

‘Scotland is one of the top 20 wealthiest countries in the world, but today too much of the benefit of that wealth is lost to Scotland,’ she said during her visit to New College Lanarkshire in Coatbridge.

‘With a Yes, we have the opportunity to make sure that Scotland’s vast wealth is put to work to deliver more jobs for young people in Scotland.

‘What we need is full economic powers so we can prioritise the jobs and future of young people here in Scotland.”

Generation Yes campaigners urged fellow students to pay close heed to how starkly First Minister Alex Salmond exposed Alistair Darling on the jobs issue during this week’s TV

debate.

And Ms Constance added: 'Westminster hasn't delivered a single economic policy that gives Scotland a competitive edge over London. As a result, too much of our young talent is forced to leave Scotland.

'As things are, almost 70,000 people leave Scotland every year – more than half of them aged 16-34. A No does nothing to change that.

'We now know that a No vote won't deliver a single new job creating power for Scotland and that's not good enough for our young people. It's a crucial piece of new information that has emerged this week, and is something both young people and their parents will have noticed.

'With a Yes, by contrast, we can secure the powers we need to deliver a brighter future for more young people, closer to home. I know that there is so much more we can achieve for young people. And that is a powerful legacy from a Yes vote.'

Nikki Turner, a first year social work student at the college, said: 'Students leaving Scotland when they graduate is a clear failing of the Westminster system and something we can address.

'If we're better together why are young people forced to look outwith Scotland to find opportunities? With Yes we can keep families together and create more jobs here in Scotland.

'Scotland barely ever figures on Westminster's radar, and far too many young people have to go to London or further afield to find decent opportunities.

'The No campaign doesn't offer any hope of changing that – as we saw from Alistair Darling's failure to name any job-creating powers that Scotland would get without independence."

Yes Scotland Chief Executive Blair Jenkins underlined: 'A Yes

vote three weeks today secures forever the financial control we need to guarantee our policy choices – giving us the tools to create high-quality jobs for graduates here in Scotland, prioritise our publicly-funded NHS and make Scotland's wealth work for a fairer society.

'If you want the tools to boost inward investment and exports, independence is the only way.

'If you want to energise new areas in our economy, with a revolution in childcare, or guarantee innovative lending to start-ups and small businesses, independence is the way to get us all working to our full potential.'

More than one hundred business leaders wanted to sign a letter saying No Thanks to separation but felt pressured to stay silent because they feared a nationalist backlash.

Yesterday over 120 business leaders, employing over 50,000 people in Scotland, signed a letter stating that the business case for separation had not been made, and that they would vote to stay in the United Kingdom on 18 September.

Today the Telegraph reports comments from two of the business leaders who helped gather signatures for the letter.

Gavin Hewitt, the former Chairman of the Scottish Whisky Association, and Amanda Harvie, former chief executive of Scottish Financial Enterprise, both said that some businesses were still afraid to speak out.

They said that many of the business leaders he approached agreed with their position to stay in the UK, but feared that SNP would block planning permission applications in their local authorities and withhold public procurement contracts and grants in government as a result.

Earlier this year, Channel 4's Dispatches reported that

nineteen firms said they were aware of threats of “retribution for opposing separation.

It was reported that the intimidation is alleged to have come from the offices of Scottish Government Ministers including Alex Salmond himself.

It has also been previously reported that the Scottish Government tried to suppress a report from Scottish Financial Enterprise which was critical of separation.

Better Together has called for an open debate, where everyone is able to express their view without fear of consequence or retribution.

Shadow Business Minister Ian Murray said:

“With postal ballots being filled out across the country and polling day itself a matter of days away it is deeply troubling that people still feel they cannot air their view of what is best for Scotland for fear of the wrath of Alex Salmond.

“We are about to make the biggest decision of our lifetime. There will be no going back and yet still, people feel they cannot speak out against Alex Salmond’s unanswered questions.

“The fact is, leaving the UK would hurt Scottish jobs. Our businesses today can sell to a domestic market of 63 million rather than just 5 million. One in 5 Scottish jobs with companies headquartered elsewhere in the UK. Scotland working together with the rest of the UK, as part of the UK, creates jobs.

“The majority of people believe that if we say No Thanks future is brighter and more secure in the United Kingdom. We can have the best of both worlds – a strong Scottish Parliament, with more powers guaranteed, backed up by the strength security and stability of the United Kingdom.

Intimidation will not stop them saying No Thanks on 18 September.”

The Edinburgh Reporter produces a selection of remarks and comments and pointers to articles about the Scottish Independence Referendum whenever we can.

People living in Scotland are invited to vote in the referendum on independence from the United Kingdom on 18 September 2014. The referendum question is “Should Scotland be an independent country?”

Whether you intend voting Yes or No to that question, your views, and those of others, have a place here. We invite comments and we also invite you to write about what you think by using our Submit your Story feature [here](#).

Buy the Good Stuff campaign launched today



Launching the “Buy The Good Stuff” campaign and website at Edinburgh’s Leamington canal bridge are (back row from left) Stuart Pownall (correct, business development manager at Re-Union Canal Boats), Katie Yule (events coordinator at Edinburgh Social Enterprise Network) and Cllr Gordon Munro (canal champion at Edinburgh City Council) with (front row from left): Lorna Baird (social enterprise adviser Business Gateway), Lindsay Chalmers from Edinburgh Social Enterprise Network and Margaret Morrison senior economic development

officer at The City of Edinburgh Council.



“Buy The Good Stuff” is a call to action to the general public to consider how they shop around the city and can really make a difference by purchasing from social enterprises. Re-Union Canal Boats plays host today to the Monster branding for the campaign.

Photos by Colin Hattersley

Colin Hattersley Photography

Public Relations – Press – Corporate – Charities –
Arts & Entertainment

07974 957 388

colinhattersley@btinternet.com

www.colinhattersley.com

Bobby Kinloch 1935 – 2014 RIP



Bobby Kinloch, the man who scored one of the most famous goals in the history of Hibernian Football Club has passed away aged 79.

Supporters shared their memories on social media, and the club issued the following statement on their website:

“Hibernian are saddened to learn that former player Bobby Kinloch has passed away. He was 79. The club sends our deepest condolences to his friends and family.

“A dynamic free-scoring inside forward, Kinloch recorded 34 appearances during his brief three-year stay at Hibernian, but his goals, 22 in total, left a lasting impression.

“Without any shadow of doubt, his most telling contribution was during the club’s extraordinary Fair’s Cup campaign during the 1960/61 season where he scored the winner that knocked out Barcelona at Easter Road.

“On an unforgettable night in February 1961, Kinloch stepped

up, kept his composure and expertly scored a dramatic late penalty to ensure Hibernian both won the match 3-2 and the tie 7-6 on aggregate.

“Even now, more than half a century after that heroic deed, there are few that would argue that Kinloch’s spot-kick that beat Barça is one of the most famous goals in the club’s 139-year history.

“An ebullient, bouncily inventive and strong-minded character, Kinloch wasn’t even originally assigned to take the penalty – awarded after Johnny MacLeod had been tripped in the area and a decision that triggered off a 13-minute delay after a forceful Barcelona protest.

“But after regular spot-kick taker Sammy Baird informed him that he was too unwell to assume responsibility for the penalty, Kinloch placed the ball on the spot and scored a truly monumental goal. Cue euphoric scenes at Easter Road.

“Inevitably that goal came to define Kinloch’s football career, although he also scored another fabulous goal in the semi-final tie against AS Roma, which was eventually lost after a controversial third play-off game in Italy.

“Irrepressibly determined and bursting with infectious self-belief, Kinloch and the incomparable Joe Baker provided the majority of the goals that took Hibernian towards the cusp of reaching a major European Final.

“Born in Glasgow, Kinloch grew up in Forres and played for Forres Mechanics before joining the RAF and it was from there that he signed for Hibernian in 1959.

“His early progress as a creative inside-forward was encouraging and he made his debut against Kilmarnock at Rugby Park in the opening game of the 1960/61 season, albeit at wing-half.

“Admirably direct and determined, Kinloch was soon employed by manager Hugh Shaw as an attacking midfielder and he responded with an avalanche of goals – 17 during his debut season.

“He packed an explosive shot which yielded some memorably spectacular goals and had the priceless knack of finding the net at regular intervals.

“Kinloch scored a hat-trick against St Mirren in October 1960 and scored twice against Aberdeen, Airdrieonians and Hamilton Academical – his goals-to-games ratio was nothing short of prolific.

“But the following season, Kinloch wasn’t able to pin down a regular place, although he still contributed five goals from 11 starts, and he agreed to join Greenock Morton in September 1962.

“Joining Berwick Rangers in 1964, Kinloch, always keen to tackle new challenges, chose to emigrate to Canada where he played for Toronto City and Hamilton Steelers.

“Returning to Scotland in 1967, Kinloch experienced further spells with Raith Rovers and Dunfermline Athletic, where he won the Scottish Cup, before enjoying a very successful post-football career in business.

“A regular attender of Hibernian Former Players’ Association reunions and events, Kinloch also came to watch matches at Easter Road regularly before the onset of his illness.

“He also took immense pride in seeing his grandsons Sam and Max Todd represent the club at under-20 level. Max featured for the first team during this summer’s pre-season friendly programme.

“For Hibernian supporters with clear memories of the glorious European nights at Easter Road, Kinloch’s goal against Barcelona will forever be remembered as one of the greatest

ever highlights; part of club folklore.

“A much loved member of the Hibernian family, Bobby Kinloch will be missed by everybody at Easter Road – his memory marches on...

The Edinburgh Reporter also send our condolences to Bobby’s friends and family at this sad time.

Witness appeal following Drumbrae collision



Police are appealing for information following a one-vehicle road collision in the early hours of this morning.

Enquiries are underway after a Vauxhall Corsa travelling northwards on Drumbrae North collided with a wall on Queensferry Road at around 3.15am.

The 18-year-old driver of the car sustained serious injuries and was transferred to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, where he his in a stable condition.

Anyone who may have witnessed the incident or was in the area at the time is urged to contact Police Scotland on 101.

Ends

VIDEO – Ryanair's Michael O'Leary announces 2015 schedule from Edinburgh Airport



Further growth for Ryanair was announced today with new routes to London Stansted, and increased frequencies on the routes to Barcelona, Pisa and Rome. Their colourful CEO, Michael O'Leary was in town at The Balmoral Hotel to make the announcement, which is perhaps less exciting than others which have been made in the past but clearly show that the airline is committed to increasing its presence in the capital.

Ryanair fly to and from 187 airports all over Europe with 9 destinations from Edinburgh and are already the world's largest national scheduled airline, but Edinburgh to London Stansted is considered a key new route to counter the high cost of their competitors.

The airline plan further growth next year and so in little over 12 months time they would hope to have a 20% market share in Edinburgh.

Ryanair carried 86 million passengers this year but nonetheless anticipate growing by 50% over the next five years. The delivery of new Boeing aircraft this autumn will be the first of 180 new aircraft which should allow that growth in passenger traffic.



CEO of Ryanair Michael O'Leary said: "We have been number 1 or 2 in most markets up till now solely because of our low fares. The average saving on flying with Ryanair against others is about 163 euros.

"We have spent the last 12 months evolving and improving the

customer experience. We have spent heavily on improving the brand and the family product. We rolled out the business product just yesterday and continue to invest in the digital.”

The business has clearly recognised the things which only served to infuriate those trying to book flights. O’Leary continued: “The Recaptcha feature on the website has gone. We now have a 24 hour grace period for minor changes to passenger bookings. We have transformed the website and the mobile app and the response from customers has been fantastic to such an extent that our forward bookings are 6% higher than last year.

“Month on month over the last five months we have been running with load factors about 4 or 5% up on the same period last year.”

The airline now offers Family Extra which they hope will encourage families to use Ryanair more.

“The Business Plus service will be a very important tool for us particularly here in Edinburgh where we want to cater for the business customer going to London or Dublin. It is a little known fact that we already have a huge proportion of the business traffic. We have not done enough for the business passenger until now. For around £40 business people can have flexibility with Fast Track through security and Priority boarding and the premium seats at the front and back of the plane along with 20kg checked baggage.

“In Scotland we are continuing to grow. Edinburgh will have a 3 times daily service to London Stansted from the end of October and following that we expect that all business fares will reduce to under £100 return even if you are booking on the day before travel after the introduction of this service.

“We expect to carry over 3 million passengers from Scotland’s three airports. This will sustain about 3,000 jobs across Scotland.

“We will offer 32 routes out of Edinburgh with additional flights to Barcelona, Pisa and Rome with five aircraft based here. The message is that Ryanair is wonderful; we have transformed the customer experience and I am committed to being nicer to people by practising on a daily basis. It is a slow but difficult process!”

To celebrate Ryanair are offering 100,000 fares of just £19.99 for travel in September October and November available before midnight on 1 September 2014 while stocks last.

O’Leary concluded: “It is no secret that our growth at Edinburgh is directly related to our fantastic relationship with Edinburgh Airport and we expect to look at new routes from winter 2015 onwards when we will have new aircraft.”

CEO of Edinburgh Airport Gordon Dewar said: “Ryanair are our perfect partners and have the same ambition for growth as we do. We are delighted with the new business passenger experience, and we are excited to continue our relationship with Ryanair.”

The Edinburgh Airport recorded an exclusive interview with Michael O’Leary who had already been in Glasgow and Prestwick this morning to make similar announcements there.

Scottish Book Trust Children’s Book shortlist announced

Scottish Book Trust is delighted to announce today that three Edinburgh-based authors Alexander McCall Smith, Gill Arbuthnot

and William Sutcliffe have been shortlisted for this year's [Scottish Children's Book Awards](#), celebrating the most popular children's and young adult books by Scottish authors or illustrators.

Run by Scottish Book Trust with support from Creative Scotland, these are Scotland's largest book awards, split into three age categories, with a total prize fund of £12,000. Shortlisted authors and illustrators receive £500 per book, and the three winning books receive £3,000 each. Over the next five months, children across Scotland will be reading the three shortlisted books in their age category and voting for their favourite. The three winning books will be announced at a special award ceremony on 4 March 2015.



Internationally renowned best-selling novelist Alexander McCall Smith is shortlisted in the Younger Readers (8-11 yrs) category for *Precious and the Mystery of the Missing Lion*. Published by Birlinn, this is a delightful tale exploring how

the young Precious Ramotswe became the loveable private investigator of the *No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* series.

McCall Smith, one of the world's most popular authors, lives in the Merchiston area of Edinburgh. After the success of *No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* he wrote four more series including *44 Scotland Street* novels and his most recent *Corduroy Mansions* series. In total he has published 74 stories as well as a number of academic texts. Over 40 million copies of his books have been sold and he continues to produce an average of 4 – 5 books every year. He has received numerous awards for his writing, including the British Book Awards Author of the Year Award in 2004 and CBE for services to literature in 2007.

Gill Arbuthnot is shortlisted in the Older Readers (12-16 yrs) category for her novel *Dark Spell*. Published by Kelpies and set in St Andrews, the book follows the adventures of teen witch Callie as she tries to come to terms with her powers and battles an unknown force.

Edinburgh born & bred, Gill A attended James Gillespie's High School before leaving the city for St Andrews University. Here she studied Zoology and then completed teacher training. Despite having a career in science Arbuthnott never gave up her intention of writing, and when she witnessed the millennium clock in the museum of Scotland she was inspired to write *The Chaos Clock* for children. Now with a large back catalogue of published work including, *Beneath*, *The Keepers Daughter* and most recently *Winterbringers*, Arbuthnott lives in Edinburgh again, working as a writer and teacher.

Commenting on her nomination, Gill said:

"I am thrilled to be shortlisted for the Scottish Children's Book Awards. It's a particular pleasure to be in the running for an award which is going to be decided by the children and young people at whom the books are aimed, and a great honour to have made it onto the shortlist, especially looking at the

range of tremendous books which have won in previous years."

Best-selling author William Sutcliffe is shortlisted in the Older Readers (12-16 yrs) for his novel *The Wall*. Published by Bloomsbury, it powerfully depicts the realities of life on the West Bank through the emotive coming-of-age story of thirteen-year-old Joshua.

London born William Sutcliffe attended private boy's school Haberdashers' Aske's in Hertfordshire. After leaving school he went on to study at Emmanuel College, Cambridge where he met his wife, novelist Maggie O'Farrell. He currently lives in Edinburgh. William has published five novels prior to *The Wall*, including *Are You Experienced?*, *New Boy*, *The Love Hexagon*, *Bad Influence* and *Whatever Makes You Happy*. *The Wall* is his first children's novel and has already received high acclaim, being longlisted for the Guardian Fiction Prize and shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal. William's work has been translated into 20 different languages.

Commenting on his nomination, William said:

"I am delighted to be shortlisted for the Scottish Children's Book Awards. It is an exciting prospect to know that my book will be read widely in schools across Scotland, and discussed, and voted on. It is vital that children read, and talk to each other about what they read. It's fantastic to have your work embraced into that process."

THE SCOTTISH CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS SHORTLIST:

Bookbug Readers (3-7 years)

- *Princess Penelope and the Runaway Kitten* by [Alison Murray](#) (Nosy Crow)
- *Robot Rumpus* by Sean Taylor, illustrated by [Ross Collins](#) (Andersen Press)
- *Lost for Words* by [Natalie Russell](#) (Macmillan)

Younger Readers (8-11 years)

- *Precious and the Mystery of the Missing Lion* by [Alexander McCall Smith](#) (Birlinn)
- *Attack of the Giant Robot Chickens* by [Alex McCall](#) (Kelpies)
- *Pyrate's Boy* by [E.B. Colin](#) (Kelpies)

Older Readers (12-16 years)

- *Dark Spell* by [Gill Arbuthnott](#) (Kelpies)
- *The Wall* by [William Sutcliffe](#) (Bloomsbury)
- *Mosi's War* by [Cathy MacPhail](#) (Bloomsbury)

Jasmine Fassl, Head of Schools at Scottish Book Trust said:

"The Scottish Children's Book Awards are much more than a celebration of Scottish literature – they are about expanding children's horizons far beyond their physical boundaries and barriers. By simply reading just one of the shortlisted novels in their category, a 5 year old can imagine what it's like to have rampaging robots as babysitters, a 10 year old can hop aboard a pirate ship, and a 15 year old can be transported into the mind of a teenager in a war zone. We hope that children, teachers, parents and librarians across Scotland will take this journey with us and get lost in these 9 wonderful stories."

Jenny Niven, Portfolio Manager for Literature at Creative Scotland, commented:

"Literacy, and access to books for Scotland's children and families is absolutely critical for our capacity to learn, to develop and to imagine. The work of Scottish Book Trust is fundamental in this. The next step beyond access is to provide the means for children and young people to develop an independent love of books and reading, and the Scottish Children's Book Awards play an enormous role in making this possible."

“By voting for their own reading choices they are taking steps in their journeys as independent readers – steps which will have an impact on their education, their wellbeing and their imaginations far into the future. Creative Scotland is delighted to support this work, and is encouraged to see such a strong shortlist of Scottish books for our voters to choose from.”

The Scottish Children’s Book Awards also encourage budding authors or journalists to put pen to paper: the popular Book Review Competition offers pupils the chance to win book tokens for themselves and an author visit for their school.

Budding film makers can enter the book trailer competition to entice their peers to read the books too and win book tokens for their school. Scottish Book Trust provides extensive learning resources for teachers on how to create book trailers.

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh



Ryanair

Hydrospin is the new fitness routine

Stockbridge Festival Vintage and Craft Market

Potty in Portobello

Festival Fireworks

The Edinburgh Reporter is off to meet the colourful Michael O'Leary today to see what he might have to say about anticipated news of flights to new destinations. Ryanair have already rolled out a new website which is more user friendly and which remembers you from one time to the next. Contrary to reports O'Leary did not impose a charge on using the bathrooms on planes, nor has he yet introduced standing only seats on shorter routes, but we are ready for anything!

Edinburgh Leisure have set up a new way of keeping fit at the Royal Commonwealth Pool. Here's a preview:

The Stockbridge Festival Vintage and Craft Market SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2014 11AM TO 4PM

Jubilee Gardens, Saunders Street, Stockbridge

You are invited to take a stall at this fun event.
Sell craft items, clothes, bric a brac, jewellery, vintage.
Cost to stall-holders will be £35 per table.

For more info about the market and to book a stall contact: vjglynn@gmail.com

StockFest reserves the right to decline applications as it determines.

For more info about Stockbridge Festival contact: <http://facebook.com/stockfest>

Portobello residents could help archaeologists uncover the area's pottery industry. This weekend Dig Portobello will encourage the digging of small trenches to examine potteries which used to be a central part of Porty industry. If you live

in Portobello then have a closer look in your own back garden to see what you can find.

You are encouraged to sign up and dig a small trench no more than 1m x 2m in size in their gardens, with the guidance of professional archaeologists. Those without gardens or people from outside the area can also take part, as the council has given permission for test pits to be dug on selected areas of council-owned land.

A range of activities will take place over the weekend, all based at or starting from [The Wash House Community Centre](#) on Adelphi Grove. Volunteers of all abilities are encouraged to sign up for free geophysical survey training on Friday 29 August at 12pm and an introductory talk at 7:30pm. The archaeological explorations will take place from 10am on Saturday 30 August–Sunday 31 August.

The project will also provide guided walks around Portobello and a range of drop-in workshops, including sessions on ceramics, artefacts, and 'Wee Pottery Workshops' for children. The full timetable and information on how to sign up can be found at [AOC Archaeology](#) .

To sign up for the geophysical survey training, to take part in the excavations, or to register your children, please contact the Portobello Heritage Trust with details of which days you would like to participate. Please specify whether you are digging in your own garden, and please let them know of the address.

Contact Margaret Munro of the Portobello Heritage Trust on 0131 657 2866 or [munroporto\(at\)hotmail.com](mailto:munroporto(at)hotmail.com)

This year's fireworks take place on Sunday evening. Starting at 9pm the **Virgin Money Fireworks Concert** will bring Edinburgh's summer festival season to a close. This

spectacular night out ends the 2014 Edinburgh International Festival, with over 4 tonnes of explosives and 400,000 fireworks choreographed to live orchestral music lighting up the sky against the iconic backdrop of Edinburgh Castle, in what is the largest annual fireworks concert in the world.

Share your fireworks photos with us [here](#) on EdinburghReportage. We would love to see the whizzy rockets aloft above the Castle or the Waterfall tumbling down the Castle Rock.



The Scottish Chamber Orchestra conducted by Garry Walker performs classic favourites including Wagner's *Ride of the Valkyries* and Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*, accompanied by an awe-inspiring display created by international firework artists Pyrovision, headed by Keith Webb.

The Fireworks Concert is one of Edinburgh's favourite annual events, bringing together families, visitors, and communities from across the city and beyond, in the grand finale to Edinburgh's summer festival season. Around 250,000 people are expected to watch the spectacle, gathered in official viewing areas in Princes Street Gardens and at the family viewing area at Inverleith Park, as well as at vantage points around Edinburgh, Fife and the Lothians.

This is the 32nd annual end of Festival Fireworks Concert; the first was held in 1982. The display is designed, built and coordinated by fireworks experts Pyrovision, lead by head designer Keith Webb. Keith has worked on every fireworks display in some capacity since 1984, this being his 30th year. It takes a team of 15 pyrotechnicians 7 days to lay out the fireworks at Edinburgh Castle. Fireworks are set up on 17 different levels of Edinburgh Castle, from the ramparts to along the top of the Castle rock. In addition to the four tonnes of explosives and hundreds of thousands of fireworks

used during the 45 minute concert, 12 tonnes of kit are also deployed.

The hugely popular fireworks 'Waterfall' is laid out over 118 feet and descends 131 feet in 1 minute. The elements of the Waterfall take two days to make in the manufacturers factory, 2 days additional work at Pyrovision's headquarters in Lincolnshire, and half a day to layout at the Castle. The cabling for the Waterfall takes a further half a day to set at the Castle. The Waterfall consists of 70 firing units laid out for 118 feet (36 metres) across the Castle. Lasting 1 minute the display descends 131 feet (40 metres) down the Castle rock. Coarse aluminium flakes cause the fireworks to descend, fine aluminium flakes gives the display its beautiful silver/whiteness. In 2013, the display featured two Waterfalls for the first time, a longer secondary waterfall outlining the edge of the Castle ramparts alongside the traditional one.

This year, 55 musicians from the Scottish Chamber Orchestra will perform in the Fireworks Concert, with Gary Walker conducting Wagner's *Ride of the Valkyries*, Beethoven's *Egmont Overture*, Mendelssohn's *War March of the Priests from Athalie*, Debussy's *Marche Écossaise* and Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*. The orchestra features 55 players on stage, including 14 violins, 5 horns, 4 cellos, 3 flutes, 2 bassoons, and 1 harp. Each year Keith Webb and his team carefully choreograph the fireworks to work with the chosen music. Keith uses the music as direct inspiration for the effects created, and the 'images' it conjures up for him.

Visit <http://www.eif.co.uk/virginmoneyfireworks> for up-to-the-minute news, features and advice on how to make the best of an evening the Virgin Money Fireworks Concert. Tickets to watch the event from Princes St Gardens are still available via Hub Tickets. They can be bought in person at the Hub, by phone on

0131 473 2000, or online at www.eif.co.uk. The family viewing area at Inverleith Park is free to enter from 7pm and features a live big-screen relay of the concert from Princes St Gardens.

Virgin Money Fireworks Concert

Scottish Chamber Orchestra

Garry Walker Conductor

Wagner Ride of the Valkyries

Beethoven Egmont Overture

Mendelssohn War March of the Priests from Athalie

Debussy Marche Écossaise

Tchaikovsky 1812 Overture

Sunday 31 August 9.00pm


eif.co.uk/virginmoneyfireworks

Sponsored by **Virgin Money**

Thursday in Edinburgh – What's On Today




Bach Before Breakfast: John Bryden plays Bach and Shostakovich on the Cathedral Steinway. Coffee and croissants follow. 8.05-8.35am every day until Friday 29th August, [St Mary's Cathedral](#), Palmerston Place. Free: retiring collection.

Map Making: drop-in workshop for families working together. Take inspiration from the *Where Do I End and You Begin* exhibition and make your  own hand-drawn map of Scotland. 1.30-3.30pm, [City Art Centre](#) (meet at reception), 2 Market Street. Free, no booking required.


Easel Sketching in the Gallery: inspired by the Titian exhibition and working from a costumed figure. 2-4pm, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free; no booking required. Also on Friday 29th August at same times.

Artist Talk: best known for his short films exploring historical themes, **Henry Coombs** will discuss his artistic process and inspiration before showing a selection of his films. 6pm, Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed. Part of GENERATION By Night.

Lunchtime Concert: Mark Spalding, piano. 12.15pm, [St Giles' Cathedral](#), Royal Mile. Free.

 **Zombies in the Museum!** Edinburgh is on lock-down following the outbreak of an infectious disease. Brave survivors are needed to help in a mission to locate the source of the outbreak. You will be trained in how to survive a zombie attack. *Zombies in the Museum* is part of **Scotland Creates**, a national project working with partner museums, young adults and creative partners. This event has been devised by young adults, for young adults. **For ages 14+.** Soft drinks only. 7-10pm, [National Museum of Scotland](#), Chambers Street. Tickets cost £5 and can be booked [here](#) or by calling 0300 123 6789. Supported by the Esme Fairbairn Trust and Creative Scotland.

Blackwell's Edinburgh Presents Writers at the Fringe: Zoe Venditozzi, Jonathan Falla, Victoria Hendry, Lisa Tuttle and Louise Walsh give a taste of their work. 5.45-7.45pm, [Blackwell's, South Bridge](#). Free tickets available from the shop's front desk, by calling 0131 622 8218 or from the [Fringe box office](#).

The Travelling Gallery at the Collective Gallery: today the [Travelling Gallery](#) brings its **GENERATION TG** exhibition to Calton Hill. The exhibition focuses on what it is like to be a contemporary visual artist in Scotland, and features the work of five artists working in a range of media. 11am-6pm, [Collective Gallery](#), 38 Calton Hill. The Collective Gallery is also showing **Ross Sinclair's** GENERATION exhibition *20 Years of Real Life* until 31st August. 

Lunchtime Concert: Danae Eleni (soprano) and **Guy Newbury** (piano.) 1.10-1.50pm, [St Mary's Cathedral](#), Palmerston Place. Free: retiring collection.

MYDG Creative Youth Hub: drop-in youth cafe with creative activities including dance, photography, nail art and lots more. Tuck shop provided. For S1+ 5.30-9pm, [North Edinburgh Arts](#), 15a Pennywell Court, free.

Live Music Now: David Foley and Jack Smedley, founding members of the 5-piece folk band *Rura*, play a mixed programme of traditional and contemporary Scottish and Irish folk music. 6-6.30pm, [Scottish National Portrait Gallery](#), 1 Queen Street. Free.

Rubbish news – Dundas Street bin is replaced



Earlier this morning new Twitter user [@DundasStBin](#) began telling us his story.

This is my first tweet. 9.30am 27th August and I'm on the brink of spilling. [@Edinburgh_CC](#) Dundas Street Bin x pic.twitter.com/ZqRRRzl8hq

– Dundas St Bin (@DundasStbin) [August 27, 2014](#)

Unlike BBC political journalist [Brian Taylor](#) who has a Twitter account but does not use it, the bin kept on talking. His first tweet at 9.30 was soon picked up by STV who wrote about it [here](#).

What a morning I've had, causing a bit of a stink. No pun intended. Thanks to all my followers. Power to the bins.

– Dundas St Bin (@DundasStbin) [August 27, 2014](#)





There was a bin missing on the other side of the street however

[@Edinburgh_CC](#) *I wasn't aware that I was damaged. Are you talking about my missing friend across the street who disappeared last week?*

– Dundas St Bin (@DundasStbin) [August 27, 2014](#)

[@dundasstbin](#) Update just received the missing bin will be replaced this afternoon and the area is being cleaned up aswell.

– Edinburgh Council (@Edinburgh_CC) [August 27, 2014](#)

The Edinburgh Reporter was on hand to capture the installation of the new bin which is big news on Dundas Street today. Just to clarify this is not a completely new bin, but has come from somewhere else. We hope this bin settles in to its new surroundings quickly.

Edinburgh clubs face tough ties in League Cup



Both Edinburgh clubs face tough ties in the Scottish League Cup next month.

Hibs travel to Dingwall to face Ross County after seeing off Dumbarton in dramatic fashion last night, whilst Hearts travel to Glasgow to face Champions Celtic following their 2-1 away victory over Stehousemuir.

The ties are due to be played on September 23 and 24.

Full draw:

Dundee Utd v Dundee

Falkirk v Inverness CT/Rangers

Ross County v Hibernian

Kilmarnock v St Johnstone

Aberdeen v Livingston

Partick Thistle v St Mirren

Celtic v Hearts

Hamilton v Motherwell

Come and see the Ryder Cup in Edinburgh this weekend



Peter Vardy Edinburgh offers guests an opportunity to see and hold the Ryder Cup

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see and be photographed alongside the coveted Ryder Cup will be on offer at Peter Vardy Edinburgh, the fast-growing automotive retailer's BMW dealership in the City Seafield Road on Saturday 30th August from 9.00am until noon.

Guests will be invited along to see the trophy at close quarters on a first come first served basis, while afterwards, BMW will send out a personalised email with

photograph to each guest. In addition, the dealership will also have on sale its BMW golf lifestyle range, face painting for youngsters and nail beauty treatments.

The Ryder Cup, started in 1927, has been fought-out every other year between the cream of European and American golfers, and will take place this year at Gleneagles, Perthshire, on 26 to 28 September. The trophy is named after its donor, businessman Samuel Ryder.

Alongside its counterpart, the President's Cup, which is contested between American golfers and those from the rest of the world excluding Europe, the Ryder Cup is very special in professional sport because no prize money is paid despite the huge sums it generates in sponsorship and television broadcast fees.

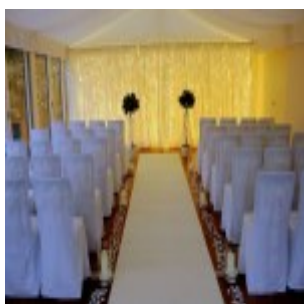
Peter Vardy, CEO, said: "Many of the customers at our BMW dealership are golf fanatics and when we secured the opportunity to display the Ryder Cup for a morning, we jumped at it.

"It's not all golf though; families will be able also to enjoy a fun day out as well as inspecting our superb display of new and used BMW vehicles.

Treasure hunt and luxurious dining at the Botanics

The catering team that works with one of Edinburgh's most scenic locations has created a new treasure hunt experience to help visitors explore the deepest corners of the sprawling gardens before indulging in a luxurious dining experience.

Sodexo Prestige, exclusive caterers at Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE), in the heart of the historic Scottish capital, is now playing host to a majestic treasure hunt, leading guests on a magical mystery tour of the gardens.



Arming visitors with specialist GPS accessible via the latest Samsung Galaxy tablet, the device will help guide guests around the deepest corners of the gardens, exploring the local wildlife and blossoming gardens.

But after a day of exploring, guests can enjoy a lunch made with some of Scotland's finest, in-season produce in the Caledonian Hall or David Douglas Room for 15 guests or more.

This unique experience is just one of the "Hidden Gems" being revealed across the 50 Sodexo Prestige venues in the Prestige

Venues & Events portfolio.

Amanda Brown, National Accounts Director at Sodexo Prestige in Scotland, said: “We always strive for our venues to stand out from the crowd and offer our guests something that extra bit special.

“Our main focus is always on the customer experience and using fresh, locally-sourced and sustainable produce whenever possible. The fact we can offer guests these added perks is just fantastic and also testament to the high level of quality the venues we provide our hospitality services for and how we can work with the venues to provide an extra special occasion.”

Several of the other 50 UK venues in the Sodexo Prestige PV&E folder have unique Hidden Gems, making them perfect for hosting a meeting or event with a difference and you can see these [here](#).

Hibs announce supporters' consultation meetings



Hibs have announced the registration process for supporters,

who wish to get involved in a unique consultation designed to help shape the very future of the Club.

A simple online registration is available for supporters wishing to take part in one of a series of meetings, due to kick off next Monday evening (1 September) at Easter Road Stadium. In addition, there is a dedicated email address, and a telephone line that will be manned during office hours.

The consultation process, which was announced more than a week ago, will see a minimum of three meetings take place – on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week.

A major online survey will be formulated, based on those discussions. However, the consultation will be as wide as possible, and the Club is considering how else to ensure supporters are given every opportunity to participate.

Leeann Dempster, Chief Executive, will lead the process. She said: "This is an exciting and unique opportunities for our supporters to help us to shape the future of their Club – covering issues such as supporter representation, ownership models and membership schemes. We want as many people to take part as possible."

Alan Stubbs praises fans' contribution to League Cup victory



Hibs' head coach praised the contribution of the fans in the dramatic 3-2 win against Dumbarton at Easter road last night.

The players were harshly booed off the pitch following Saturday's defeat to Falkirk, but last night they continued to back the players even when they went two goals down.

Stubbs also suggested that the manner of the win would be a catalyst for the players to progress in their fight for promotion.

Speaking after the game Stubbs said: "We haven't dealt with two set pieces. I've told the lads that we need to be better, we need to be stronger. I'm not prepared to give stupid goals away no matter who we play against. Our concentration needs to be better and we will work on that. We can't afford to give teams never mind a one-goal start but a two-goal start and expect to win 3-2 every week but tonight is a reward for what they have done the past few weeks.

But they showed great character to come from 2-0 down. I think the reason they stuck at it is the fans were great. They really stuck with them and kept urging them forward.

Even at two-nil I thought that the players still tried to do the right thing. Sometimes players can get really nervous and start to make the wrong decisions and kick the ball upfield but I thought they showed an intelligence and kept probing.

"The only thing that let us down at times was our final ball into the box.

"I'm pleased for the lads getting into the next round and hopefully this will be the catalyst for us to kick on."

City of Edinburgh Methodist Church commended on its credit union scheme

Lothians MSP Sarah Boyack has lodged a motion at the Scottish Parliament to commend The City of Edinburgh Methodist Church on its recent partnership with Capital Credit Union, to facilitate the provision of credit union financial services to staff, members and the wider community in Edinburgh, Lothians and Borders. Ms Boyack was unable to attend the church's launch event for the partnership but wants to support the initiative.

The motion has attracted strong cross-party support.

The motion reads:

*Motion S4M-10847: Sarah Boyack, Lothian, Scottish Labour,
Date Lodged: 20/08/2014*

Access to Credit Union Services

"That the Parliament congratulates the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church and the Capital Credit Union on their new joint credit union scheme, which aims to offer affordable loans and mortgages as an alternative to payday borrowing; welcomes the commitment by the church staff and trained volunteers to offer weekly workshops that aim to provide access to credit union services to churchgoers and across the wider community, and further welcomes the plans by the Methodist Church in Scotland to work with the Church of Scotland and the Church of England to launch the Churches' Mutual Credit Union on 1 October 2014."

So far, the motion has been supported by: David Stewart, Anne McTaggart, Margaret McCulloch, Hanzala Malik, Annabelle Ewing, Jayne Baxter, Richard Lyle, Patricia Ferguson, Mark McDonald, Neil Findlay, Mike MacKenzie, Elaine Murray, Stuart McMillan, David Torrance, Jackie Baillie, Dave Thompson, Cara Hilton, Nigel Don

The church has taken a stand against payday lenders by offering fair and affordable savings, mortgages and loans, to their church members and the wider community in the city.

The City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, based at Nicolson Square, joined forces with Capital Credit Union, an experienced Edinburgh-based credit union, to provide these financial services. This partnership is the first of its type in the city. As with all credit unions, members are required to save a specific amount each week, which is then pooled and can be loaned out again at low interest rates.

The credit union will be held at the church on a weekly basis and run by church staff and specially-trained church volunteers.

Spurred by recent media championing by Prime Minister David Cameron and Archbishop Justin Welby, the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church wants supports the “not for profit, not for charity, but for service” ethos of the credit union movement

The credit union partnership was officially launched earlier this summer at an event at the church’s Well Café at Nicolson Square.

Belinda Letby, minister of the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, said:

“As a church, we see every day how tough times have been over the last few years for our members – and not only for them, but for their families and the community around us.

“We want to help protect people from predatory payday lenders, who seem to offer a quick way out, when in reality they not only prolong but exacerbate the problem.

“The wonderful thing about credit unions is that all members save, so they will always have something to fall back on. This, more than anything else, is why we have set up the credit union, because we believe that by working together we can help prevent problems before they even arise.”

Capital Credit Union CEO, Marlene Shiels, said :

“We are incredibly proud to be in a position to work with the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church provide credit union facilities. Credit unions are built on the ethos of people helping people, and this is a perfect illustration of our philosophy in action.”

Hibernian 3-2 Dumbarton



Hibs' fans breathed a huge sigh of relief last night after three goals in the last 12 minutes secured a place in the next round of the Scottish League Cup following a dramatic encounter with Dumbarton at Easter Road.

The Sons had led 2-0 but a brave fight back from Alan Stubbs' men spared their embarrassment.

New signing Liam Fontaine made his debut replacing Cambridge Town bound Michael Nelson whilst Danny Handling celebrated his new four year contract by replacing Paul Heffernan in the starting XI. Scott Robertson returned from suspension replaced the suspended Liam Craig.

David Gray took over the captain's armband.

There were several familiar faces in the Dumbarton camp, with former fan's favourites Ian Murray and Guillaume Beuzein in the dugout and Colin Nish, David Van Zanten and Scott Taggart in the team.

There was almost a delay in the start of the game due to the late arrival of the Dumbarton team bus.

Hibs dominated the first half and Alex Harris, Handling,

Farid El Alagui's and Fontaine all having chances to open the scoring, but the Dumbarton defence held firm.

Man of the match Matt Kennedy also had the fans off their seats with another fine display down the left wing as Hibs struggled to grab the initiative.

As so often happens at Easter Road, Hibs fell behind against the run of play in the 51st minute when Scott Agnew's corner kick was headed back across goal by Colin Nish and Mich Megginson hooked the ball high into the net, then seven minutes later the 'Sons' added a second from another corner when the ball ricochet off Mark Gilhaney into the net.

Despite this setback, the fans continued to get behind the players and substitute Jason Cummings was denied by a superb save from Scott Rogers before Scott Allan's shot was deflected just wide of the post.

There was a nice touch when Nish was substituted and left the field to a standing ovation from all four stands.

With 12 minutes remaining Hibs pulled one back when Gray beat his man down the right wing and sent in an inch perfect cross which El Alagui headed into the corner of the net.

From then it was one way traffic and six minutes later El Alagui levelled the scoring with another powerful header, this time from a Jordon Forster cross.

With extra time looming, substitute Sam Stanton cut inside from the right and curled a fantastic left foot strike into the far corner of the net from the edge of the box.

Afterwards Alan Stubbs made a point of praising the supporters for continuing to get behind the players even when they went two goals down.

Hibernian: Oxley, Gray, Fontaine, Forster, Harris (Cummings

56'), Robertson, El Alagui, Handling (Stanton 68'), S Allan, Booth, Kennedy. Substitutes not used: Perntreou, Heffernan, Tudur Jones, L Allan, Dunsmore.

Dumbarton: Rodgers, van Zanten, Linton, Graham, Turner, Gilhaney, Agnew, Nish (Kirkpatrick 71'), Megginson, Taggart, Flemming (Campbell 81'). Substitutes not used: Ewings, Prunty, Murray, McDougal, Coleman.

Referee: Don Robertson.

Attendance: 5,066

Dog abandoned outside Musselburgh pub



The Scottish SPCA is appealing for information after a dog was abandoned outside an East Lothian pub.

Scotland's animal welfare charity was alerted after the elderly female Staffordshire bull terrier was discovered outside The Burgh public house on Musselburgh High Street on Friday evening.

The dog is now in the care of the Scottish SPCA's Edinburgh and Lothians Animal Rescue and Rehoming Centre in Balerno where she has been named Myrtle.

Scottish SPCA Chief Inspector Paul Anderson said, "We have been told a man and woman were in the pub with Myrtle that afternoon.

“They went outside at around 5.30pm and apparently had an argument, resulting in them walking away in different directions and leaving Myrtle behind.

“No-one at the pub recognised the pair and they are described as being in their late thirties and of average height and weight.

“We are very keen to trace these two people and would ask anyone with information to contact us.

“Myrtle is a lovely dog in good condition and she’s now receiving the care she needs.”

Anyone with information is being urged to contact the Scottish SPCA animal helpline on 03000 999 999.

Wednesday in Edinburgh – What’s On Today



Bach Before Breakfast: John Bryden plays Bach and Shostakovich on the Cathedral Steinway. Coffee and croissants follow. 8.05-8.35am every day until Friday 29th August, [St Mary’s Cathedral](#), Palmerston Place. Free: retiring collection.

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.

War Artists Series: The First World War – New Art for a New

Type of War. Freelance art historian **Dr Patricia Andrew** traces art from the beginning of the century and discusses how artists met the challenge of the First World War. This was a new type of war, and as it progressed artists had to cope not only with an unprecedented degree of slaughter but also with censorship, despite a wish to convey the truth of what they were seeing. After the war there were numerous commissions for war memorials and memorial paintings. War art and artists could never be the same again. 12.45-1.30pm, Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed.

✖ **Blackwell's Edinburgh Presents *New Writing Scotland 32: Songs of Other Places*.** *New Writing Scotland* is the principal forum for poetry and short fiction in Scotland today. 'Excellent contemporary literature, drawn from a wide cross-section of Scottish culture and society, and including new work from more than forty authors, some award-winning and internationally renowned, some just starting their careers.' 6-8pm, [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



Faith in the Face of Empire: The Rev Dr Mitri Raheb is a Palestinian Pastor in Bethlehem, theologian, author of 16 books, winner of several international peace prizes and renowned speaker on peace and justice in Palestine. He is also the director of the **International Centre of Bethlehem** and **Dar Al Kalima College**. Dr Raheb will discuss his new book, *Faith in the Face of Empire: The Bible Through Palestinian Eyes* with **Kathy Galloway**, head of **Christian Aid** in Scotland. 12.30-1.30pm, [St Andrew's and St George's West Church](#), 13 George Street.

Lunchtime Concert: Maxwell String Quartet. 1.10-1.50pm, [St Mary's Cathedral](#), Palmerston Place. Free: retiring collection.

The Christiane Trio: Music by Beethoven & Brahms. **Kay Stephen** (violin), **Helen Beauchamp** (horn) and **Richard Beauchamp** (piano). 7.30-8.40pm, [St Mary's Cathedral](#), Palmerston Place. Free: retiring collection.

Zoo Arts: visual art workshop for young artists. Have fun exploring, experimenting and creating with artist Alice Betts. For ages 9-14. 4-5.30pm every Wednesday, [North Edinburgh Arts](#), 15a Pennywell Court. 50p per person per session. See Zoo Arts Extra's [Facebook page](#) for more information.



Five things you need to know today Edinburgh



Oaklands School

Gayfield exhibitions continue

Big Beach Busk

Colony of Artists

The Edinburgh Mela

Oaklands School on Ferry Road is a very special place and the recent inspection has just confirmed that once again. The inspectors said in their report that the children are happy and motivated and enjoy learning.

The school employs what is known as the MOVE programme to try to ensure that each child is as mobile as they possibly can be which the report praises.

The report also applauds the school on their approach to meeting the complex needs of children and young people with visual impairment.

The inspectors said: "We are satisfied with the overall quality of provision. We are confident that the school's selfevaluation processes are leading to improvements. As a result, we will make no further evaluative visits in connection with this inspection. During the inspection, we identified aspects of innovative practice which we would like to explore further. We shall work with the school and The City of Edinburgh Council to record the innovative practice and share it more widely."

This is the letter about the inspection:

http://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/OaklandsINS260814_tcm4-837370.pdf

Although the Fringe is over and the Edinburgh International Festival is in its closing week, Gayfield is continuing its design exhibitions and talks until Thursday 11th September to allow Edinburgh residents and visitors alike some extra space to enjoy them.

A trio of design-led exhibitions form Gayfield Creative Spaces' summer programme and they have already played their part in this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe. These exhibitions also link to a series of six Twilight Talks where leading designers, curators and researchers discuss important issues around design.

India Street is an international collaboration between

Scottish and Indian designers exploring the legacy of Scotland's former Turkey red dye industry through contemporary eyes. The exhibition was one of four finalists for the Fringe Sustainable Practice Award and was recently filmed by India Today, India's top news network.

Fragments features new work by ceramic artist Carol Sinclair which addresses issues around memory as part of Making Well, a focus on design and health. A digital book available as a free downloadable app extends the reach of the exhibition beyond the gallery space.

Garden Party brings together high-quality design from Scotland and Holland and celebrates with Timorous Beasties' deckchairs, upcycled hampers by Laura Spring, light sculpture by Geoffrey Mann and furniture by Dutch design master Piet Hein Eek. All these stunning pieces are available to purchase.

Gayfield's series of **Twilight Talks** continues this Thursday (28th August) at Creative Exchange Leith with 'Digital Counts' when Alan Shaw of CAT Glasgow and artist and lecturer Geoffrey Mann look at the role of digital tools in the development of their design process. 'Cloth and Memory' on 4th September at Lyon & Turnbull and 'The Power of Place' on 11th September at Gayfield complete this first series of six design discussions.

Gayfield's Creative Director Dr John Ennis said, "There's always so much to see and do in August, it's impossible to fit it all in. That's why we decided to extend our exhibition opening times and our Twilight Talks into September when people have a bit more space in their diaries. As a brand-new venue in central Edinburgh focusing on design, we've been delighted with the support and interest shown so far."

The fifth Big Beach Busk takes place in Portobello this weekend. On Portobello Prom on Saturday there will be music to

entertain you, all put on by a group of volunteers.

This is what they say:

“The Busk doesn’t really have rules as such. The only thing you really need to think about is respect. Respect your fellow buskers. If you’re rocking an amp don’t blast it out next to a harp player. Be kind. Respect the residents. The prom is home to lots of folk. I think most people love the Busk as much as we do but try not to play the same tune on repeat right outside someone’s window. Be nice.”

In Abbeyhill there is a community of artists living in the lovely houses there. On 20 and 21 September they will be showing off their work and opening their doors to the public each afternoon.

[Click](#) to find out the list of artists who will be putting their work on show.

The Edinburgh Mela takes place on Leith Links this weekend.

[Post](#) by [The Edinburgh Mela](#).

Witness appeal following Cowgate assault



Police are appealing for information after a Spanish man was assaulted in

the Old Town in the early hours of Sunday morning (24th August.)

Around 2am on Sunday, the 27-year-old victim and friend were walking along the Cowgate, in the direction of Victoria Street. The victim was then approached from behind by the suspect and punched to the head.

The suspect was pursued by police in the direction of Candlemaker Row. He knocking over two females as he ran away, but was then lost to sight.

He is described as white, around 30 years old, 6ft tall, muscular build, short dark hair, and wearing a beige short-sleeved, tight t-shirt and black trousers.

Police are now appealing for anyone who may have witnessed this assault, or who has information that can help with the investigation, to contact police on 101.

Detective Sergeant Lynsey Thomson said: "This was a completely unprovoked assault in which the victim was punched without notice by a suspect who was unknown to him. The victim was taken to ERI where he was treated for a broken jaw. Enquiries are continuing to trace the perpetrator and anyone who witnessed this assault should contact police immediately."

Hibs hope to sign defender Liam Fontaine



Hibs' Head Coach Alan Stubbs is hoping to sign 28-year-old defender Liam Fontaine, who was released by Bristol City in the summer after 279 appearances for the club.

The former Fulham defender who had a spell in Scotland with Kilmarnock could replace Michael Nelson who is understood to

be the subject of interest from another club.

Fontaine could be in the Hibs squad to face Dumbarton in the League Cup tonight.

Nelson who won a League Cup medal with Kilmarnock signed for Hibs from Bradford City at the start of last season following the heavy defeat by Malmo. After a bright start, he suffered a facial injury in a game against Celtic and missed several games before returning to the side which suffered relegation from the Scottish Premiership.

Police name man who died in Wester Hailes



Police have confirmed that the man who died following a serious assault in Wester Hailes was Robbie Morrison, from Edinburgh.

The 31-year-old was the victim of a serious assault in Dumbyden Gardens at around 4.30pm on Friday 22nd August.

He was transferred to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and was in a critical condition over the weekend, before succumbing to his injuries yesterday morning.

His family do not wish to give a statement at this time.

A Taste of Brazil in a Scottish Police Box



Walk across the meadows in Edinburgh any morning at around 11 o'clock and, amongst a sea of grey commuters heading to their jobs and rushed students late for lectures, you will see a couple riding a three-wheeled bicycle. The woman sits upfront on a cool box, arms brimming with fresh fruit and veggies, the man pedals hard behind. Fernando and Gardenia Miranda and their Brazilian creperie Tupiniquim have become an Edinburghian institution.

Over the past four years they have served a constant stream of the most delicious crepes you're ever likely to encounter, with fillings like slow cooked beef with spinach and butternut squash or chicken peri-peri with goats cheese and avocado seasoned with their celebrated hot sauce. Brazilian music – live or recorded flavours the atmosphere but it's their cultural events, open-air cinema nights, caiporera shows and concerts that have brought together an incredibly diverse community. They give locals and students the chance to showcase their short films and struggling musicians a stage, but the extraordinary thing about this two person gastronomic/cultural centre is the fact that it is all run out of a shed; an old green police box abandoned in the 1960s.

Fernando and Gardenia met back in Brazil when they worked in a bakery together. Fernando moved to Edinburgh to study and Gardenia followed a little while later, as did marriage and a baby. One morning Gardenia had a bad toothache and was on her way to the dentist with Fernando, when she saw the old police box with a 'to let' sign on it. She stopped, looked at it and said 'lets take it'. They had no idea what they were going to use it for and originally thought hotdogs – an idea that was

quickly abandoned after Fernando investigated the hot dog making process online. He had spent a while in a crepe stall in Camden market, and eventually the couple decided their mission was to bring Brazilian crepes to the people of Edinburgh.

But four years on Tupiniquim faces closure. The landlord is selling the former police box and Fernando and Gardenia don't have the means to buy it. Between their life savings and a small bank loan they can raise £10,000 but that's only half the £20,000 needed to buy it. This eccentric Brazilian couple refuses to accept defeat. They have come up with a plan to buy the former police box with a little help from their friends. They've set up a kickstarter page like no other. Pledge £150 you can secure yourself a crepe every week for a year. That works out as less than £3 pounds a crepe – at around half the normal price that's a fairly cost effective and healthy lunch. For the real die-hard fans, you can go for the £250 pledge; a crepe every day for the whole year which works out insanely cheap at 70p. They also offer 'Brazil in your home' for £250 – a fiesta dinner of traditional feijoida, crepes, and fresh juices for 15 people. Smaller pledges can be exchanged for recipes, starter kits, lunches for two or aprons.

Since opening Tupiniquim Fernando and Gardenia have gone above and beyond, creating a cultural institution for their appreciative crepe-lovers. Now they're asking their loyal customer base to return the favour and it looks like its working. Check out their kickstarter page at <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1456781635/help-tupiniquim>

many photos available

Submitted by [Indigo Bates](#)

Man charged with attempted murder in Dalkeith



A 22 year old man has been charged with attempted murder following an incident in Dalkeith yesterday.

Around 5am on Monday 25th August officers in Midlothian police responded to a report of damage being caused to a house in Woodburn Drive, Dalkeith.

A crime scene was established and the area was cordoned off to allow enquiries to be carried out.

The 22 year old man is appearing at Edinburgh Sheriff Court today.

Police Scotland is appealing for anyone who may have seen a male wearing dark clothing who was cycling a dark frame bike and carrying a white rucksack, in the Woodburn area in the early hours of Monday 25th August, or who has information that could assist the enquiry to phone 101.

Alternatively, members of the public can anonymously contact the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Police and banks tackle

ongoing telephone scam



Police in Edinburgh have joined representatives from the banking sector to launch a new campaign aimed at tackling an ongoing telephone scam.

The fraudulent tactic known as 'vishing' involves members of the public receiving a call from someone claiming to be from their bank.

The caller informs the victim that there has been suspicious activity on their bank account and requests that money be transferred to another account as a safety precaution.

In the past six weeks, 16 people from across the Capital have fallen victim to this scam, resulting in over £650,000 in cash being stolen.

Detectives from the Economic Crime Unit are now working alongside all of the main banks within Edinburgh to warn and inform communities about this crime.

All public branches will display a specially designed poster reminding the public never to give out their details if they are cold-called.

In addition, police will distribute crime prevention leaflets across the city to advise communities about the scam and provide information on how to avoid falling victim.

Front of house bank staff will also be provided with further information to help tackle 'vishing' by helping them identify customers who may have received a fraudulent phone call.

Detective Inspector Arron Clinkscales said: "Those responsible for committing these offences are despicable individuals who mostly prey on the elderly and vulnerable members of our communities.

"It is essential that police and the banking industry work together to address this matter and ensure that the public are fully informed on the type of tactics criminals will utilise to obtain their personal details

or money.

“Our awareness-raising posters be available within bank branches throughout Edinburgh and local policing teams will deliver crime prevention leaflets to various addresses across the city.

“In addition, bank staff are being given additional training to identify potential victims before they remove large sums of money from their accounts.

“I would like to take this opportunity to remind the public that neither the police, nor banks, will cold-call an account holder and ask for personal details, or for money to be transferred elsewhere.

“If you receive a call like this, do not comply. Hang up and ensure the line has been cleared before contacting police.”


Chris Wilson, Royal Bank of Scotland Managing Director RBS in Scotland said: “Fraudsters work by creating fear that a customers savings may be under threat. No bank will ever ask a customer to transfer their savings or part of their savings to another account or another bank in order to “protect the funds”.

We’re delighted to join Police Scotland in this campaign to raise customer awareness around how these scams work.”

Tuesday in Edinburgh – What’s On Today



eBook Surgery: get help with downloading free eBooks, audiobooks and emagazines. 2-3.30pm, [Central Library](#), George IV Bridge. Free, no appointment required.

 **Bach Before Breakfast: John Bryden** plays Bach and Shostakovich on the Cathedral Steinway. Coffee and croissants follow. 8.05-8.35am every day until Friday 29th August, [St Mary's Cathedral](#), Palmerston Place. Free: retiring collection.

Drama Workshop: explore mime, improvisation and working with scripts – build up your confidence and try something new! For ages 12-16. 5.30-6.30pm, [Corstorphine Library](#), 12 Kirk Loan. To book your place drop in to the library or call 0131 529 5506.

Chatterbooks! This fortnightly group for ages 7-12 starts again today: games, quizzes, arts, crafts, reading, chat, juice, biscuits and lots of fun! 4-5pm, [Oxgangs Library](#), Oxgangs Road North. Call in to the library and speak to a member of staff to book your place.


‘Those who live forever unconquered’ – Edinburgh’s First World War Monuments. The First World War Memorials around Edinburgh commemorate the young men of the city who marched off to war, from the Hearts FC players to those who died in the Gretna Green train disaster. The Scots American Memorial is also evocative and poignant. **Paul McAuley**, Conservation Officer with the City of Edinburgh Council, discusses the memorials using art, artefact and poetry. 12.45-1.30pm, Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed.

Blackwell’s Edinburgh presents *Swim Until You Can’t See Land*: Edinburgh-based author **Catriona Child** launches her second novel, which charts the relationship between two women born sixty years apart whose chance encounter marks a watershed. 6.30-7.30pm, [Blackwell’s, South Bridge](#). Free tickets available from the shop’s front desk, by calling 0131 622 8218, emailing events.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk or via [eventbrite](#).

Lunchtime Concert: New Beginnings African Children’s Choir

from Uganda. 12.15pm, [St Giles' Cathedral](#), Royal Mile. Free.

Edible Gardening Seasonal Advice: drop in to find out how to grow your own food and take a look around the productive garden with the Edible Gardening Project Team. 1-3pm, Demonstration Garden, [Royal Botanic Garden](#), Inverleith Row. Free, no booking required.

Yann Seznec in conversation: Drill Hall based artist and musician Yann often uses technology as a medium to reveal natural processes that are  imperceptible to the human eye and ear. In *Currents* he expands his interest in technology as a tool, to consider how it shapes our environment. Seznec will talk about his work, ideas and approach with composer and sound artist **Martin Parker** before giving a **performance** using the instruments specially created for *Currents*. 6.30-7.30pm, [Out of the Blue Drill Hall](#), 36 Dalmeny Street. Free but please book in advance via [eventbrite](#).

Lunchtime Concert: **Conal Bembridge-Sayers** (tenor) and **Tim Stuart** (piano) 1.10-1.50pm, [St Mary's Cathedral](#), Palmerston Place. Free: retiring collection.

Reading Women: this month the group will be discussing *The First True Lie* by **Marina Mander**. 6.30pm, [Looking Glass Books](#), 36 Simpson's Loan. Contact the shop for more information or to be added to the group's email list.

Letter from Scotland



The swirling gannets of the

Bass Rock

"They're like a cliff of seagulls." I've never forgotten the colourful phrase Donald Dewar once used to describe the hollering on the opposition benches in parliament. It just captures the whirling excitement, the screeching disapproval, the mocking laughter of row on row of angry politicians.

I was reminded of this when I took a boat trip to the Bass Rock this week to see the gannets. The noise – and it has to be said, the smell – of 150,000 hollering gannets is overwhelming. They swooped around our boat and clouded the air above the rock. They made their point from every crevice and ledge. This is a democracy, so every one must have his say.

It has to be admitted that the birds are making better use of the rock than we humans ever did. It's been a hermit's cell, a castle and a prison for anyone the king didn't like and, in Cromwell's time, the Covenanters. The last humans abandoned the rock in 1988 when the Northern Lighthouse Board automated the Stevenson lighthouse. Since then it has become home to the largest colony of gannets on any rock anywhere in the world. They could declare independence if they wanted to.

Back on land, this is what the Scottish Parliament did at its last session on Thursday before the referendum on 18th September. The vote was 61 to 47. Alex Salmond had been in jolly mood since his outing to Arbroath on Monday when he renewed the 14th century declaration. The new "Declaration of Opportunity" replaces "freedom, which no honest man gives up but with life itself" with an opportunity to defend the NHS, create a fairer Scotland and give a reason for young Scots to stay here.

The No campaign, by contrast, was taking a cold shower of what they would call "reality." Alistair Darling submitted himself to the latest craze for being deluged with buckets of cold water, presumably to illustrate the cold predictions of the

bankers and rating agencies for the pound in an independent Scotland.

It appears, dear reader, that I was wrong last week about the death of Ferguson's shipyard, the last non-naval shipyard on the Clyde. Its 70 workers are now hopeful that businessman Jim McColl will save the yard. It's remarkable and praiseworthy that the owners of the local bus company McGill's were prepared to be white knights if no one else came forward.

But while businesses may be saved, people cannot live forever and this week were the surgeon-politician Sam Galbraith and the folk singer Jean Redpath. The gaunt figure of Sam Galbraith stalked the first years of the Scottish Parliament as a no-nonsense education secretary. But he'd had an earlier career as a neurosurgeon and had his own struggle with ill-health as the world's longest surviving lung transplant patient.

Jean Redpath was a transatlantic folk deva who began life in Fife where, she said, she learnt no Scottish songs at school. It was only when she went to join the heady world of Greenwich Village in New York in the 1960s that she developed the Scottish song writing and song singing that has endeared her to audiences on both sides of the Atlantic ever since.

Someone who could have died several times over is Sir Chris Bonington. But no, he turned up this week at the age of 80 to re-climb the Old Man of Hoy. He first pioneered the route up this terrifying sea stack off Orkney 48 years ago.

I wonder what the cliff of seagulls made of that.

Scottish Independence Referendum – Vote Yes for Scotland's Future



Contributed Article

On the 18th September we are all being asked to make one of the biggest decisions of our lives. The decision we take will not only affect the future of our children but also their children and so on. This decision can give the people of Scotland Hope for a better future with our own government. I am very saddened to read in the newspapers the result of a poll which showed that so many women are afraid to vote yes as they are too "feart of what will happen after a YES vote wins" I have been writing and changing this for over a week now. It is worth it to me if it helps others to make up their minds whether they are Yes or No voters. In this post I am trying to get some information over to as many women as I can in plain speak about the issues. I know it is a bit long and I don't apologise for it. So here goes:

I believe that the working people with families don't have enough of the facts and figures in easy speak terms to come to the decision they need to make. This is probably down to the busy lives they lead. So I will try to give you as much information here as I possibly can: How many jobs have been lost in Scotland since the 1980's? I come from a left of centre background Labour supporting family steeped in Labour tradition, believing in social justice, equality, a fair day's wage for a fair day's work and looking as a society which is

more than about money. We now live in a society where we know the price of everything and the value of nothing.

I was a traditional Labour supporter all of my adult life, was a Member of the Labour Party and canvassed for them throughout the 1970's 80's and 90's. My husband and I have a comfortable lifestyle, our own home, holiday a few times a year and no financial worries. However, financial interests are not what motivates me to vote Yes, which seems to be the main thrust of the comments I have taken days to read through by the NO Campaign.

I am more interested in a fairer and just society with policies being undertaken by a Scottish Government on behalf of the Scottish People and not by a Westminster Government which has lied to us for years. I have watched as many friends and family have been put on the scrapheap by losing jobs (ones that were often regarded as safe), losing their homes and most of all losing their Hope. Where we are in Scotland is not good enough. The Westminster Government is not serving the people of Scotland who need it most and has not done for many years. We live in a society which is the 4th most unequal in the world. Make no mistake this Referendum is about those who have and those who haven't.

If you look at any of the housing estates in Scotland, a lot of which are a failure of Labour which i used to support, you will see not only the the young people who never had a job but also the working people who are having to depend on food-banks. The fact that Labour over so many years has failed to deliver to those people who need it most is a disgrace. In Ayr life expectancy for men is now 68. One in four baby boys born this year will die before they are 65! Labour at Westminster should hang their heads in shame. They are coming up here talking about borders, currency etc promising us this and that if we vote NO.

We have fallen for these promises many times in the past but

NEVER again. What happened to the promises from the Thatcher Government – they gave us the Poll Tax. They also brought our country to it's knees. Dismantled our coal industry, manufacturing and so many others. They were the ones who brought us high unemployment. They are trying to tell us we are thinking with our heart. Forget it, we are thinking with our brains – we are waking up to what this is all about. We are waking up to a level of injustice and a society that is so unfair to the people at the bottom that we have to do something else.

Do I think that Independence is going to solve everything – no I don't. Will there be negotiations, lots of treaties, will it be hard? Yes it will be at times, but I'll tell you what – we will be doing it from a position of sovereignty, where we can truly represent the people of this country and we can organise ourselves better. That is my vision and that is why I am voting for Independence. If there are still people out there who are voting no, well go and look at the arguments.

If you still have fear and you look at the arguments and think I don't know or I am still voting no – fine. The worst thing for me is why you are going to vote no? I am not going to argue with you I am just saying it as it is. It is your opinion and you have as much right to that opinion as any of us. If you say I can't stand that Alex Salmond and the SNP, forget it go and bile your heed. By all means go back and look at all the choices and research, you should look at the arguments for and against, switch your brain on and engage in debate. If you still think No then vote No. What are you going to tell your grandchildren when they ask why you didn't vote for Scottish Independence "well I didn't like that man "what's his name now?" We are voting for ourselves and each other we are not voting for Alex Salmond but for our own decision making process.

Women are seen as being the ones with the "low voice, if any". That is not true, there is nothing worse than the cringing

Scot who thinks we are not good enough because we haven't been to College or University or haven't any qualifications. We all have been through the University of Life and have skills and on the ground knowledge which are far more important. Those people can't articulate an argument any better than the rest of us. Many women for too long now, have had the opinion that it is best to listen to the men; we are too frightened to voice our opinions in case we make a fool of ourselves; this is so wrong. We live in Scotland , most of us for a very long period of time. We were brought up by our parents saying to us "Don't get above yourselves".

Well it is about time we did get above ourselves, this is about who we want to be and the type of country we want to live in. This is our chance in this country not to be involved in illegal wars, not to have nuclear weapons on our shores. What damage did Chernobyl do not just to their area in Russia from the fallout in the West of Scotland. The areas populated around where nuclear weapons are based have witnessed the highest increase in Cancer. My mother, who unfortunately is not with us anymore, stated when I was young that the fall-out from Chernobyl would be known in a number of years. We used to laugh at her when she told us that everything we eat from these beautiful fields in Scotland would be contaminated. She was right all along. I ask myself, how many of my friends and ordinary people I know in the passing have died recently from cancer.

An overwhelming amount of funerals I have been to over the past few years have been of those people under the age of 60 who died of Cancer. Previously fit young women and men. Does Westminster worry about fallout from nuclear weapons based in Scotland – no it will not affect them and as it looks like it to me – we are disposable, along with our children and grandchildren. We are now getting the usual lies from Westminster Government and MP's, we love you Scotland, don't leave us – it makes me weep. We have been told for as long as

I can remember that we are scroungers, we depend on the money from English taxpayers to keep us in booze, fags and bingo. Many English people don't want to keep "supporting us Scots" because they have been fed these same lies by Westminster.

We are more than able to stand on our own 2 feet, making decisions for ourselves and have a thriving economy and export trade. We are a country rich with innovation, excellent tourism, massive energy exports, outstanding trade, superior education and laws that other countries try to emulate and best of all "our people" are regarded highly throughout the world. Lastly, I wish to let all of my English Family and Friends know that we YES supporters are not anti-English or anti-anything. We are pro Independence and that is the truth of the matter.

I hope you take time to decide what your vote will be and I look forward to an exciting time.

Submitted by [Rachel Dempsey](#)