

# VIDEO – First journeys on Edinburgh Trams



The Edinburgh Reporter was at York Place waiting for the first tram from the Gyle to arrive in the city centre. A muffled cheer was heard as the tram reached its destination. It was full to the brim of intrepid first journey makers and the windows were a bit steamed up!

Subsequent trams were not so full and it was very pleasant to step aboard at York Place and take a trip up to Princes Street where we got some more shots of the tram on a very beautiful Edinburgh morning.

Here are a few photos of some of those first journeys. You can add yours [to our storyboard here.](#)

[[View the story "First journeys on Edinburgh Trams" on Storify](#)]

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## Scotland's First ethical Biofuel "Tea Trike" gains bespoke Storm Kettle design

We are an eco-friendly Edinburgh-based tea business with a huge passion for tea, the environment and all things quirky!

My wife Kirsty and I started The Strange Brew Tea Co. back in

November 2013. We both want to follow our passions and spread the joy of great tasting (and somewhat unusual) tea to the masses!

We started with small markets, selling loose leaf tea, and only being able to offer small samples to passers-by...So! One cold winter's night, we had the strange idea of taking our tea mobile and effectively setting up a tea-shop on a tricycle...and so the "Tea Trike" was born!

We now serve great loose-leaf tea from only members of the Ethical Tea Partnership (and some great filter coffee for all you coffee fans) which we then place into degradable individual tea-bags, whilst using only compostable and recyclable packaging (including Vegware), and as you'll find by reading on, using only a sustainable energy source to heat our water to boiling. Phew!

Our next problem however, being environmentally conscious, was our power-source for heating enough hot water to keep everyone hydrated. We didn't want to use fossil fuels (gas/generators) and electricity was not looking good following a few long equations involving a truck load of solar powered trickle fed 12V/50ah batteries. We also wanted to be completely self-sufficient.

All was looking lost for our eco-friendly powered hot water device...until a quick chat with a musician friend (who also happened to be a chemical engineer) mentioned Bio-Fuel. A few more late evenings of research led to our current fuel source: Scottish Sustainable Woodchip in the form of Briquettes. So, in burning SSW (bio-fuel) we are only releasing carbon from recently deceased tree bits, which is then recaptured by replacement trees. The fuel itself is near smokeless and almost completely combustible.

Now, here is the final piece to the puzzle. We currently use an old stove, boiler and flue combination on our trike which

is highly inefficient in terms of heat transfer. The fire heats the water from below taking the water around 20 minutes to boil 4 litres, which also means we use more bio-fuel than we need to.

We have spoken to Storm Kettle who are renowned for their efficient kettle burner designs, transferring heat up a steel funnel (through the water) and therefore maximising boiling potential. This is perfect. The guys at Storm Kettle are currently producing a bespoke 6 litre model for us, which crucially has a built in tap (as we can't tip it due to the necessity of a flue).

We are currently in the middle of a Kickstarter campaign to help us finance the finished Storm Kettle, as it has been 4 months in the making and is going to cost a lot more than we expected, but we are nearly half way to our target!

You can see more about the project at <http://kck.st/1i03ER0> or by searching for "Scotland's first bio-fuelled "Tea Trike" boosts efficiency". All support is rewarded with various quirky teas, shortbread, and even some vintage tea-ware.

Whilst growing the business, we have been attending private events (such as small local markets, the RSPB Birdfair at Hopetoun House, and Montrose Music Festival) and will be attending Ardbeg Day at St. Andrew Square today, the Historic Motoring Extravaganza at Thirlestane Castle on Sunday, and the East Fortune Airshow and The Scottish Car Show later this summer. We are also in the final stages of adding some vintage charm to the streets of Edinburgh by obtaining a permanent spot to trade in our eco-friendly manner...!

Submitted by [Jim Strange](#)



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# In Photos – First tram journeys



Thomas Haywood was out at the Gyle tram stop this morning to capture these shots and then jump on the tram into town.

Although there was a large crowd waiting they all got on the very first tram driven by Craig Scotland.

This slideshow requires JavaScript.

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## View from a tram



People have taken to social media this morning to tell their story of their first tram journey. It is the most beautiful day in Edinburgh which has added to the great photos some of you have taken.

Here is a quick Storify of the first tweets and Instagrams.

[\[View the story "Edinburgh Trams " on Storify\]](#)

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# Petrie Out Campaign denies trying to 'starve' the club



Paul Kane leader of the newly formed Petrie Out campaign has insisted that he has never suggested that fans should refuse to buy season tickets in a bid to force through their demands.

The former Hibs player joined chairman of the Hibernian Supporters' Association, Mike Riley, Kenny McLean jnr, son of the former vice chairman who played a major role in saving the club from Wallace Mercer's takeover bid almost 25 years ago, and respected journalist Simon Pia at a hastily arranged meeting at the Hibernian Supporters Club in Sunnyside yesterday.

The four had met with Rod Petrie, and directors David Forsyth and Bruce Langham at Easter Road on Thursday to demand that the Hibs' Chairman sever his links to the club, something that he has categorically refused to do.

Representatives from numerous Supporters Clubs and groups linked to the club including the Hibernians, Erin Trust, Hibs.net and the Hibeas Bounce packed the hall to listen to the group.

Kenny McLean told how he had asked Rod Petrie to leave the football club but he had refused. He then gave an impassioned speech about his memories of the Hands off Hibs campaign in the early nineties and the rally at Easter Road where the great Joe Baker kissed the turf. McLean also revealed that he has received a phone call from Hibs legend Pat Stanton who was backing the Petrie Out campaign.

He said: "Only one person is starving the club – Rod Petrie has starved us of our heart and now of Premiership football."

Pail Kane then revealed that they were meeting new Chief Executive Leanne Dempster at 11.30am next Saturday and urged all Hibs fans to attend Easter Road to show their support for the campaign.

Kane said: "At no time did any of us in the meeting talk about starving the club of money that is not our agenda. Our group won't deprive the club of money. The individuals can take up that themselves. If someone doesn't want to buy a season ticket, I am not going to tell them to buy one. That's their decision. If they want to go down the route of not buying one and depriving the club of their money, that's up to them."

"All the groups have come together and we're very concerned about the club under Rod's leadership. Next week at 11.30 [Saturday] outside the main stand at Easter Road, the Hibernian supporters, who will ultimately make this decision, will be there.

"I think the pivotal moment of our campaign will be next Saturday. The opportunity for Hibs supporters to get rid of Rod Petrie is now there in their hands. Is that what they want? If they do, then it will happen – it has to happen.

"We hope that the fans will turn out numbers, but please do it in a very dignified manner because it's Hibernian FC we are representing and we don't want anything to lessen our campaign."

"If the numbers turn out that I'm thinking of, it would be very hard for Hibernian to keep Rod in the position.

"Rod Petrie has got to carry the can as he's been on the board for 15 years. And he's the only man in history who has relegated Hibs twice"

“It’s not personal with Rod Petrie, it’s about him not running the ship right. The club’s demise has been caused largely by Rod Petrie. He has now put us down to the Championship, along with all his other decisions down the years. He is the leader of this club and basically he has to go.

“We went to the meeting yesterday with Rod and asked for his resignation and for him to sever ties with the club, he refused. We have been forced into this because we asked him to go and he said ‘No’. It was cordial enough, there were no problems that way, but he says he wants to stay to see the changes through and we are not accepting that. We don’t want him anywhere near the club. He might think he has got more backing than we have – time will tell. We’ll find out next Saturday.

“There were grown men crying in my pub last Sunday night after the team were relegated. That’s what this club means to people. We now need the spirit of Hands Off Hibs to come back – we need as many to turn up on Saturday as possible. The more there are, the stronger the case we have.

“We might even ask the club to open up a stand, maybe two stands, if enough people turn up. Why would they ignore that? They can’t ignore the supporters. If they do, it’s a perilous road they are going down.”

“Leanne Dempster is very unfortunate to come in and be caught in cross wind. If she can do such a good job, the support will welcome her and give her a chance, but she can do it even better without Rod Petrie being there.

“It would be a very silly business person or chief executive who would see fans outside in their thousands, who bring two-thirds of the club’s money in, and decides to ignore them.

“We will be speaking to Leann next Saturday and that’s why I’m asking for a peaceful rally to show support for our campaign.

“If she sees the numbers I expect will be there, she will have a major decision to make. We are told she will be in complete control, so she should be able to make that decision. This is a crucial time in Hibs’ history and a crucial decision.”

Proclaimer and lifelong fan Charlie Reid also attended the meeting and later said: “Petrie has got to carry the can as he’s been on the board for 15 years. And he’s the only man in history who has relegated Hibs twice, as far as I can see. The supporters have got to maintain unity, what Paul Kane said is vital, they don’t want to cause a split in the support, there’s a clear objective and I think it’s an achievable objective.”

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## Trams are go



A small group of people swelled to a crowd this morning in York Place waiting to board the first tram to the airport. In comparison the crowd at the Gyle was a throng by the time the first tram got there to pick them up, but somehow all of them managed to squeeze on board, accompanied by Transport Convener, Councillor Lesley Hinds.

By the time tram number 275 driven by Craig Scotland reached its destination it was a fairly cheerful group who disembarked, all clutching their first platinum tram tickets.



In York Place Flossie was waiting to board her first tram hoping for media stardom as the first dog to use Edinburgh’s new tram line. We also met some real live passengers getting

on the tram to go to Edinburgh Airport and board a flight to Belfast.

We met three generations of the Milne family, Andy, Gordon and Douglas who all travelled together on the tram from York Place. Grandfather Andy had travelled on a tram on the last day in 1956 and was keen to be here again this morning.

The new form of transport has bred entrepreneurship too in the form of T shirts designed to reflect that the trams might have been worth waiting for.

Have you been on board? Send your photos [here](#) please!

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## Waverley Station is now a vehicle free zone



Waverley station will be closed to all vehicles from Monday, June 2, following a review of access arrangements by Network Rail.

All taxis will be removed from the station, with passengers directed to external ranks. The rail company says new arrangements have been put in place to aid passenger and pedestrian safety.

A number of dedicated disabled travel service vehicles will continue to be granted access via special arrangement.

David Dickson, Network Rail route managing director for

Scotland, said: "In recent months, we have been operating an access system for taxis only, however, we are keen to provide further improvements to passenger and pedestrian safety and a private vehicle-free Waverley will help achieve that.

"The changes which are now being implemented will further reduce the risk to passengers circulating on the south side of the station and improve air quality for all station users and staff.

"In the long term, the restrictions will also help to increase capacity for the forecast growth of the station and enable the station to comply with security guidance provided by the DfT."

Short-term drop-off facilities for private vehicles are available on Calton Road and on-street drop-off is available on Market Street. Free short-term parking for up to 30 minutes is also available in New Street car park to the south of the station.

David Dickson added: "Waverley station is the last Network Rail managed station to allow vehicles access to the concourse. The reason that is the case is because we recognise that Waverley is situated in a location which makes access challenging.

"Waverley now has three entrances to the station which are fully accessible. Lifts permit step-free access to and from Princes Street, Market Street and Calton Road.

"We understand that removing taxis and private vehicles from the station does away with a convenience that people have become used to, however; it is our job to balance convenience with the safety and best interests of all of our station users."

As well as creating fully accessible entrances from Princes Street, Market Street and Calton Road, Network Rail has implemented several measures which will help to ease the

transition to the new pick-up and drop-off arrangements:

- **New Street Car Park:**

New Street car park is within the confines of the station boundary to the south of the station. New Street car park is equipped with disabled parking bays close to the new lift providing step-free access to the station's Market Street entrance.

Free 30 minute parking is also available for passengers requiring drop-off or pick-up using a private vehicle or taxi. This will allow adequate time to reach any part of the station and return to the car.

- **Dedicated mobility access vehicles:**

We are committed to retaining access for organisations which provide transport to people with disabilities. Organisations and drivers which provide such a service can register with the station for continued secure access.

- **Passenger assistance location:**

We would encourage any passengers requiring assistance from station staff to use the Calton Road drop-off point. This drop-off is equipped with a phone line manned by staff who can offer help to passengers looking to access the station.

- **Taxi ranks**

A taxi rank is available on Waverley Bridge, with a further rank planned on Market Street.

- **Cyclists**

Cyclists are asked to dismount before accessing the station

Passengers seeking more information about the changes can call Network Rail's 24hr Helpline on 08457 11 41 41.

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# Fresh appeal for help to trace missing teenager



Police are becoming increasingly concerned for the welfare of teenager Thomas Wilson, who was reported missing last week.

Officers have been conducting extensive searches for the 15-year-old after he was last seen at his home on Balmwell Terrace on 20th May.

Thomas is described as white, 5ft 4in, of slim build, with short brown hair and blue eyes, and was last seen wearing a navy hooded top and navy jogging bottoms.

A boy matching his description has been spotted in the Craigmillar area of the city in the past 24 hours.

Inspector John Brock said: "Thomas has been missing from his home for ten days now and we are becoming increasingly concerned for his safety.

"Officers have been searching Edinburgh for him and we now have reason to believe that he is in Craigmillar.

"If anyone has any information that can assist with our enquiries, they are urged to contact Police Scotland on 101 immediately."

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# Five things you need to know today



**Edinburgh Trams open to the public today – Sing in the City Choir singing on a tram – Wifi – Tram Rules – Video of VIP guests at the official launch**

Yes today's the day – you can now get on the trams! Edinburgh Tram has taken a long time to complete , with an eventual bill of several times the original estimate for a single line rather than a network and a few years behind the original schedule. but it is there now for you to jump on at York Place and head out to Edinburgh Airport if you wish, or jump on and off at any of the tram stops in between. This is the beginning of an integrated transport system for Edinburgh which the operators say is fit for the 21st century.

The first tram leaves Edinburgh's Gyle Centre at 5.00am this morning, just as this article is published, and another tram will leave from York Place shortly and we will have photographs later! Remember to get your ticket either from the Lothian Buses app which should be updated by this morning or from a ticket machine.

This is an historic day for the city and so today we are devoting our Five things to Edinburgh Trams.

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Here is the Sing in the City Choir welcoming the official launch tram back to St Andrew Square yesterday afternoon with the media and VIPs on board.

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The trams have free wifi on board which will allow you to surf the internet to your heart's content.

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There are some rules governing what you can and can't do on the tram, in just the same way as there are bylaws for buses and taxis. Most of these are in place for safety reasons. For example no-one should put their feet on the seats, play loud music or cause a disturbance. If you try to get on with something which is a bit too big or likely to cause injury to other passengers you will be asked to get off!

Most importantly however you must have a ticket before getting on the tram. If you don't then you will be liable to a £10 fine. When the door closing tone is playing then you must not try to get on or off the tram.

No food or drink may be eaten or drunk on the trams. Any hot liquids must be in a sealed container. And anyone going to Easter Road, Tynecastle or Murrayfield may not take alcohol with them.

While there are spaces for wheelchairs and buggies, you may not get on a tram on a mobility scooter, but you can take your folded bike in its carrying bag onto the tram if there is space.

Guide dogs and assistance dogs are allowed on the tram if there is room. All dogs must be on a lead and any other animals must be in a cage or carrying case.

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During the official launch we met Norman Steven who travelled on the last tram with his father, and the Lord Provost also

welcomed one lifelong Balgreen resident onto the tram for the first time. The Edinburgh Reporter is out and about this morning and we hope to bring you photos and video of the trams and the people using them.

Here is our interview with Mr Steven

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## **Manager celebrates 40 years at Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home**



David Ewing is celebrating forty years working at the same place today. He has now worked at the Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home for forty years.

David joined the charity straight from school and has risen to become the General Manager in 2000 in charge of all the dogs and cats which either come there as strays or indeed to board there while their owners go on holiday. This generates some income for the home apart from the donations which they depend on.

The EDCH is the oldest animal charity in Edinburgh and was established in 1883. Its primary purpose is to take in strays. It takes close to £1million a year to run the home so they welcome and need all possible donations. When full to capacity they have 250 dogs and 160 cats.

It is clear that he simply loves what he does. A self confessed workaholic he leaves work behind only occasionally to go and teach martial arts – oh and to go home to his wife and his own dog! The home finds new owners for about 1000 dogs

a year so it is clear that his contribution to the welfare of thousands of pets has been considerable.

At the moment they have about 80 dogs waiting for new homes. Here is Denzil who you can meet on our video.



This is Denzil the staffie who needs a new home.

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## **Bogus workmen arrests in capital**



A 53-year-old man has been arrested and charged for fraudulent maintenance work in yesterday's joint initiative between Operation Wolf and Operation Aristotle, which targets bogus workmen.

The man was arrested yesterday (May 29th) following extensive enquiries after a vulnerable person from Kilgraston Road was defrauded of £11,700 for maintenance work. He will appear in court at a later date.

A further male was also detained yesterday, following a report of bogus workmen defrauding a 79-year-old man of £1300, in the North Gyle area in April.

A 54-year-old man is appearing in court today and a 36-year-old man will appear in court at a later date.

Superintendent Matt Richards said: "By targeting bogus workmen as part of Operation Wolf, we are demonstrating that Police

Scotland will not tolerate those who prey on vulnerable members of the community.

“Those who commit such crimes defraud the vulnerable and elderly of large sums of money, for work that is often unnecessary or incomplete.

“Operation Wolf activities are continuing today and we’ll be focussing on violence and anti-social behaviour in the city centre, with a focus on particular hot spots as well as offering reassurance to the public.”

Detective Inspector Stuart Harkness, who is leading Operation Aristotle, the bogus workman initiative, said: “Operation Aristotle officers will continue to work alongside Community officers to engage with those carrying out gardening and home maintenance work as part of their ongoing efforts to identify bogus callers operating in the Edinburgh area.

“These people target the elderly and vulnerable members of our community and we would appeal for people to be vigilant in relation to elderly or vulnerable neighbours.

“Anyone with concerns over the conduct of a cold caller or suspicions in relation to potential bogus workmen activity, should contact the police on 101, make their local officer aware or contact the registered charity Crimestoppers on 0800555111.

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## **Cycling – Pearl Izumi Tour success in Edinburgh**

*Runaway wins for Katie Archibald and Jon Mould*



The Pearl Izumi and Matrix Fitness Series both made their first visits to the Capital and were presented with a tough course, based on the Grassmarket, comprising a stiff, cobbled climb up Victoria Street – hardest on the Tour according to the commentator – and a fast, sweeping descent down Candlemaker Row. With hardly a flat section to the course, apart from George IV Bridge it was predicted to provide a severe test for all concerned. And so it was to prove with both women's and men's races being blown apart with riders spread all over the 1.3Km course.

The main events were preceded by races for juniors and 2/3/4 Category amateurs and these gave an indication of what lay  ahead for the top riders. Just before the Women's Matrix Fitness Grand Prix started, Sir Chris Hoy – promoting his new 'collection' of children's bikes – led a fifty strong group of riders round on a couple of demo laps.

Then, at 5:30 the first of the main events was lead away by the TV motorbike for a 45 minute race featuring Britain's top female riders. Straight away it was clear that the climb was going to influence the racing as, by the second and third laps, the field had begun to split up. A leading group formed comprising the favourites and the eventual top three and this was quickly whittled down to a select few. Halfway in and  Katie Archibald (Pearl Izumi Sports Tours International) put in a tentative attack to try and break clear, but she was pulled back and the race settled down for a few laps. This situation didn't last long, however and a more concerted drive off the front gave Archibald a lead which she extended lap after lap to come in alone, just over 30 seconds ahead of second-placed, Helen Wyman (Matrix Fitness Vulpine) with Claire Thomas (Velosport – Pasta Montegrappa) taking the final podium spot. Archibald also took the points competition and Pearl Izumi Sports Tours International won the team prize.

The men's race was greeted by a much larger crowd than the women's, probably down the more convenient start time of 7:30, but was virtually a repeat format, with the winner finishing alone. This time around, the race held together for almost the first lap behind the camera bike, before riders began to get shelled off the back of the bunch and it was very early in  proceedings when the eventual podium finishers broke away.

Jon Mould (NFTO Pro Cycling), Tom Scully (Madison Genesis) and Kristian House (Rapha Condor JLT) pulled out an early gap and were soon lapping riders as the field, again, disintegrated over the very hard course. Following the final sprint lap, Mould opened up the taps and powered away from his two rivals and eventually came across the line alone to take his third win of the 2014 series. Scully then took the sprint for third ahead of House, but they were almost the length of the Grassmarket finishing straight behind Mould. Like Archibald before him, Mould also walked away with the individual sprint prize, and Team Raleigh won the team prize.

Although neither of the main races finished with an exciting, Tour de France style, bunch sprint the crowd – three deep on some parts of Victoria Street – didn't seem to mind and fully appreciated the tremendous efforts by all the riders, both amateur and Professional.

*Images from the races will be available [here](#) over the next few days*

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## **Trams ready for passengers from tomorrow**



Edinburgh Trams held their official launch this morning and the sun shone!

The tram carried the Lord Provost, the Transport Minister, councillors and VIP guests out to the airport and back. Tomorrow the first service from the Gyle Shopping Centre at 5am will carry the very first passengers to York Place, and then the trams will continue in accordance with their timetable. There are understandably some nerves on the part of the tram company but the training and testing has all now been done and it is time for the people of Edinburgh to get on board.

There are 15 tram stops, in order from west to east: Edinburgh International Airport, Ingliston Park & Ride, Gogarburn, Gyle Centre, Edinburgh Park Central, Edinburgh Park Station, Bankhead, Saughton, Balgreen, Murrayfield Stadium, Haymarket, West End-Princes Street, Princes Street, St Andrew Square, York Place.

At this stage, the journey time from the Airport to the city centre will be approximately 34 minutes, however timetables may be reviewed after the first few weeks of passenger service.

Trams will run every 8-10 minutes Monday to Saturday between 05:29 (York Place) and 23:08 (York Place). Trams will run every 12-15 minutes on a Sunday between 05:29 (York Place) and 22:58 (York Place).

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# Man arrested following CCTV appeal



Police have arrested a man in connection with a sexual assault in Leith after members of the public identified him from CCTV footage released yesterday.

Officers appealed to the public for assistance after a 23-year-old woman was the victim of a sexual assault in the early hours of Monday 14th April while walking in Henderson Street.

Following a positive response, officers have charged a 20-year-old man and he will appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court on Monday.

Police Scotland would like to thank the public for their considerable assistance with this matter and their continued support.

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# Hibs' supporters' group meet Chairman



Hibs' fans are waiting to hear the outcome of yesterday's meeting between Chairman Rod Petrie, Non Executive Director Bruce Langham and David Forsyth from the Club and Paul Kane,

Mike Riley, Kenny McLean Jnr and their media advisor Simon Pia from a supporters led group.

The group visited the stadium around 2pm yesterday and indicated that their intention was to see the removal of Chairman Rod Petrie.

A press conference has been called by the group at the Hibernian Supporters Club where the disgruntled fans will outline their plans on the way forward for the troubled club.

After yesterday's meeting which lasted around 30 minutes, the club issued the following statement on their website:

"A meeting took place between Chairman Rod Petrie, Non Executive Director Bruce Langham and David Forsyth from the Club with Paul Kane, Mike Riley, Kenny McLean Jnr and their media advisor Simon Pia today.

The meeting began with Paul, Mike and Kenny outlining that they had a mandate from 95% of Hibernian supporters and all Hibernian groups, and demanded the resignation of Chairman Rod Petrie.

At the meeting, it was repeated that the Board fully understands the level of supporter anger and frustration, has recognised for some months the imperative for change, and has been actively working towards this.

The Club also expressed its deep concern that any actions to "starve" the Club of support during the challenging months ahead risk causing long-term damage.

The Club representatives asked for an opportunity for incoming Chief Executive Leeann Dempster, who takes on all Executive responsibility as of Monday, to outline plans for change – she is due to meet all supporters groups in her first week. The request to wait for a week before taking further action was turned down.

The groups Leeann is to meet under the Working Together umbrella include Hibernian Supporters Association and its branches, the fan websites, the Former Players Association, the Historical trust, The Hibernians and the Erin Trust. The group has been meeting regularly for the past two years.

The group was asked to outline their own proposals and plans for change. They declined, and instead made only one demand, which was for the resignation of Chairman Rod Petrie.

The Chairman stressed he was relinquishing all executive responsibility for the running of the Club from Monday. His non-executive role thereafter is to help facilitate the positive changes which the Board believes supporters will welcome."

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## **Two brothers found dead in Gracemount house**



Two elderly brothers were found dead inside a house in Gracemount, around 5pm last night.

The men have been named locally as John McIlwain and Robert McIlwain.

The Edinburgh Reporter understands that both men sustained gunshot wounds.

Police have confirmed they are not looking for anyone else in connection with the incident.

Armed officers attended the scene in Lockerby Cottages and

surrounding roads were closed.

A Police Scotland statement said: “Police in Edinburgh attended a property in Lockerby Cottages near Gracemount at around 5pm this evening.

“On gaining entry, two elderly men were found seriously injured and were pronounced dead at the scene.

“Enquiries are continuing but police are not looking for anyone else in connection with this incident.”

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## Five things you need to know today



**Trams trams trams – Edinburgh Labour talking about culture – Gorgie/Dalry Gala – Elizabeth Melville Day**

Today The Edinburgh Reporter will again be on the tram with the media pack. Tomorrow it's your turn. Are you excited yet or still fed up with the mess that the tram works have made of our city's streets?

Having been on an Edinburgh Tram several times now between St Andrew Square and the airport it is clear to us that this will be a very smooth way of travelling along the whole route. It is also quite green and pleasant when you get out towards and beyond Edinburgh Park. There are many places in between the two end points where the journey costs less, and there is an equally good reason to go there. (Generally if you avoid the airport stop then your journey will cost less.) If you get on the tram in the city centre you will be able to glide along

to the Gyle Shopping Centre where a short walk will take you into the shopping centre offering many High Street names.

For those who use wheelchairs the tram should be very easy due to the level access from the platform to the inside of the tram. Those of you with prams and small children will also find getting on and off very easy indeed.

For residents of Corstorphine and for those living in other residential areas close to the tram line we imagine this might be the transport of choice to come into the city centre. There will be a tram roughly every ten minutes or so. The trams will run from 05.00am at the Gyle Centre, 06.15 from the Airport and 05.29 from York Place.

The only thing missing for us is the Free Wifi that we so enjoy on the airport bus, but perhaps that will come soon?

Do remember to add your photos of your first tram journeys [to our storyboard here.](#)

Here are all the tram videos we have filmed so far. We are really looking forward to filming the first passengers getting on tomorrow morning. If you are planning to go on the first tram then perhaps you would let us know what you think of your journey?

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Over fifty guests of Edinburgh Labour will meet today at The Queen's Hall to discuss the relationship between Scottish Labour and the arts and culture sector. The political group will provide a report of their work to the Scottish Policy Forum so that they might influence the Labour manifesto for 2016. The meeting will look at six aspects of our culture: making great art in the capital city; educating the next generation of artists; supporting artists today; broadcasting in Edinburgh and beyond; equality and inclusion; leadership.

People from many artistic backgrounds will be there including visual artists, dancers, traditional musicians, theatre and craft peoples to festival administrators, agents and funders.

Speakers will include Margaret Curran MP and shadow secretary of state for Scotland, Sarah Boyack MSP , Ken MacLeod sci-fi writer and Susan Morrison, comedian and director of the Scottish History Festival.

The event will be chaired by Cllr Norma Austin Hart the Labour spokesperson for Art and Culture who said:- 'I have been talking to people from this sector trying to understand what they need from government. Labour has a proud history of investment and leadership in this area and we hope to build on that.. I hope our discussion will be the first of many across Scotland. This is not just about the referendum, although I am sure that will come up. Some people think that Scottish culture is in the control of the SNP. The people of Scotland are the owners, providers and judges of our culture. We want to know how we can best support and nurture this sector by starting a conversation. I believe we should put culture at the heart of everything we do.'

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The Scottish Parliament has approved the Single Use Carrier Bags Charge (Scotland) Regulations 2014, meaning the 5 pence minimum charge will commence on 20 October 2014. Scotland currently uses 750 million bags every year – the highest number in the UK. The purpose of the charge is to encourage shoppers to think about reusing bags to prevent litter and improve Scotland's environment.

A public consultation revealed overwhelming support for the charge, which will see funds generated being donated to good causes.

Welcoming the decision, Environment Secretary Richard Lochhead said:

“I am delighted that the Scottish Government’s regulations on carrier bag charging have been approved by Parliament. This is landmark legislation that underlines Scotland is serious about tackling litter, reducing waste and creating a cleaner, greener environment for everyone to enjoy.

“The vast number of single use carrier bags given out in Scotland is symbolic of our throwaway society. By requiring retailers to charge at least 5p per bag we want shoppers to stop and think about what we discard. Instead of taking another bag that could end up as litter, we want people to re-use their bags or consider alternatives like bags for life.

“This charge is not a tax but will see retailers donating the proceeds to charity and has the potential to raise millions of pounds for good causes, including environmental projects. The Scottish Government and delivery body Zero Waste Scotland have been working closely with retailers at all stages of the process and will continue to do so in the run up to October 20 and beyond.

“The level of support from the Scottish public is extremely heartening and I hope we can repeat the real success achieved in other counties, where similar measures have been brought in. I urge everyone to get behind it.”

Ian Gulland, Director, Zero Waste Scotland said:

“Zero Waste Scotland welcomes the Scottish Parliament’s approval for a single use carrier bag charge in Scotland. This is a hugely positive step which will help to reduce the number of bags in use and therefore the number ending up as litter in our communities.

“We are working with all types of retailers affected by the charge, in all parts of Scotland, to help them understand how the charge will work and what the impact will be for their business. I encourage them to get in touch.”

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The Gorgie/Dalry Gala takes place between 9 and 14 June 2014. The full programme [can be downloaded here.](#)

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On 21 June Professor Germaine Greer will be here in Edinburgh to celebrate Elizabeth Melville and the voices of Scottish women. Elizabeth Melville was also known as Lady Culross and in 1603 she wrote *Ane Godlie Dreame* which was the first work written by a Scotswoman ever published.

There will be a day of events from a lunchtime reception to a symposium in the afternoon and a choral concert in the evening.

Full details of these events [here on the Previously website](#)

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## **Nnedi Okorafor and Ken MacLeod – Science Fiction & the Exploration of Dangerous Ideas**

On Saturday 14th June 2014 two award-winning science fiction authors [Nnedi Okorafor](#) and [Ken MacLeod](#) will be in conversation with [Stuart Kelly](#), discussing [Science Fiction and the Exploration of Dangerous Ideas](#) and the freedom that science fiction writing offers, with reference to their own works, and with an audience Q & A afterwards. A dram will be served to over 18s to toast the memory of [Iain Banks](#).

Nnedi Okorafor is a Nigerian-American writer of science fiction, fantasy & speculative fiction. She is a tenured professor at Chicago State University, and has written three acclaimed books for young adults and two for adults.

Ken MacLeod was born in Stornaway. He specialises in hard science fiction and space opera. His work explores socialist, communist and anarchist political ideas and singularities, divergent human cultural evolution and post-human cyborg resurrection.

This **FREE** event is organised by [Scottish PEN](#) and will be held in the Demonstration Room, [Summerhall](#) from 7 to 8pm, but you need to book as places are limited and sure to be popular. To book click [here](#) or go to [Scottish PEN's website](#).

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# The Great Tapestry of Scotland to have a permanent home



The Scottish Borders Council reached a momentous agreement today at a full meeting of Councillors held in Hawick. After a full year of careful consideration of proposals from across the country, a site in the Scottish Borders has been confirmed as the preferred option for a permanent home for THE GREAT TAPESTRY OF SCOTLAND, one of Scotland's greatest works of art and a remarkable telling of our nation's story.

Scotland's people's historian and Borders man, Alistair Moffat; the author, Alexander McCall Smith; and the artist,

Andrew Crummy created this project which was transformed from artwork to stitched masterpiece by Dorie Wilkie and 1000+ volunteer stitchers from across Scotland, many of them from the Borders area. Councillors for the area voted overwhelmingly to approve a move forward and business studies will now be carried out.

For 18 days at the end of summer, queues snaked around Holyrood as people stood patiently for one and a half hours in the rain. None were waiting to listen to a debate or First Minister's questions. All were desperate to go no further than the foyer where the tapestry was on display. From September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the public flocked in large number to see the first showing of The Great Tapestry of Scotland. It is the longest stitched tapestry ever made anywhere in the world with 160 vivid embroidered panels and it tells the story of a nation. In less than three weeks more than 50,000 people came to marvel at it.

And now The Great Tapestry of Scotland is a step closer to finding a permanent base. Scottish Borders Council has today agreed with Alexander McCall Smith and Alistair Moffat, the co-chairmen of the tapestry trust that work should begin in earnest. The Leader of Scottish Borders Council, David Parker, has identified the key site for a new building designed to house this work of art. It will stand on a green field adjacent to Tweedbank Station, the terminus for the new Waverley Line. People from all over Scotland will be able to board a 'train to the tapestry', and lying midway between the arterial roads, the A7 and A68, the Tweedbank site is easily accessible by road.

The Great Tapestry of Scotland is currently on tour, having completed a record-breaking run in Aberdeen where 53,000 people came to see it, so many in fact that the gallery was forced to schedule late opening nights and weekend hours. It is currently on show in Paisley at Anchor Mill where 10,000+

are expected to view it in just four weeks. It returns to the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh on 1 July for 11 weeks. A permanent home in the Borders will be very appropriate, a stunning piece of embroidery finding its place in a region where textile production has formed part of its history and its future.

The business studies required by the council will be completed later this year. If these prove the case for a move to the Borders, the new home for the Tapestry is expected to bring a boost to tourism and education in the area.

David Parker, Leader of Scottish Borders Council said:-“The Great Tapestry of Scotland is a very special and unique work of art. It will become a treasured historical Scottish masterpiece and has the potential to be a very significant visitor attraction. Locating it in Tweedbank in a purpose built facility will truly showcase this magnificent tapestry and the story that it tells of the 420 million years of Scottish history. Its location at the Tweedbank Station will afford many visitors a fantastic opportunity to take the train to the tapestry and also to view other Borders attractions such as Abbotsford, Bowhill and the Borders abbeys. We are at an early stage of the project’s development but I can see no reason why we can’t deliver something very special for the Scottish Borders.”

Alistair Moffat commented:“By any measure the Great Tapestry of Scotland is a cultural phenomenon. Massively popular, with queues winding around each venue it has visited, it reaches right across Scotland to appeal to all Scots. It tells our nation’s story, the story of a people, in the most vivid manner imaginable. All of the love and care that went into its making shines out to enrapture and set a glow on the faces of all who see it. It has been a privilege to write the narrative, decide what should be included, but nothing prepared me for the first time I saw it last September in the Scottish Parliament. I wept.

“For all that experience in one place, for the achievement of the stitchers in bringing our ancestors out of the darkness of the past and for the evident glory in the creation of one of the greatest works of art ever made in Scotland, I wept like a bairn – tears of joy, relief, gratitude and pride. It was moving almost beyond words to see the wonders that the Scottish people are capable of bringing forth. And as a Borderer I am delighted that Scottish Borders Council have had the vision to back the project to build a permanent home for this remarkable object at Tweedbank. The tapestry began its journey four years ago in the Borders as I started to make notes on what it might show and it is fitting that it should come full circle, that it should come back home.”

Alexander McCall Smith:-“When we started this project we very much hoped that we would be able to find the Tapestry a home that would be worthy of it. We hoped – but we were not sure. Now we have this magnificent offer from the Borders and our hopes are fulfilled. The Borders region is rich in history and it is entirely fitting that this great work of art celebrating the history of Scotland should be housed there. I am confident that this will become one of the greatest tourist attractions in Scotland and will give immense pleasure not only to visitors to our country but also to Scots themselves.

“This is, quite simply, the best news we could possibly have and I am most grateful to the Borders Council for showing such vision. I am also most grateful to my co-chairman, Alistair Moffat, whose love and knowledge of the Borders has helped to bring this splendid result about. All of us are delighted – the artist, Andrew Crummy, Dorie Wilkie and her team of stitchers, and the trustees of this marvellous, wonderful project: this is a great outcome for all members of the team.”

Photo copyright Alex Hewitt/Great Scottish Tapestry Trust

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# Concern for missing Edinburgh man



Police are appealing for information to help trace a 21 year old man who has been reported missing in Edinburgh today.

Gary Spurling was last seen at his home on Lady Nairne Crescent at around 4.00am this morning.

Officers are increasingly concerned for his whereabouts and would like to appeal to Gary, or to anyone who may have seen him, to contact police immediately.

Gary is described as white, 5ft 8in tall, short fair hair, and a beard along the jaw line. He was last seen wearing a red hooded jumper, a grey baseball cap, navy blue jogging bottoms and navy trainers.

Inspector John Brock from Police Scotland said: "We are increasingly concerned about Gary, as are his loved ones. If anyone has any information that can assist with our enquiries, they are urged to contact police on 101."

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## Bridgend Farm House to be

# handed over to the community



Edinburgh Council have unanimously approved the hand-over of Bridgend Farm House to a local community group who are on track to receive a BIG Lottery grant to restore the building and open it as a community-run centre for learning, eating and exercise. It's being seen as a pioneering project in community ownership in Edinburgh, and amongst other examples happening across Scotland.

The farmhouse, on Old Dalkeith Road, stands at the gateway to Craigmillar Castle Park and next to the Bridgend allotments. A local charity has been formed, Bridgend Inspiring Growth (BIG), to create this centre for "learning, eating and exercise."

On April 29<sup>th</sup> councillors on the economy committee agreed to lease the farmhouse to BIG for 12 months to give it time to finalise a Growing Community Assets Stage 2 BIG Lottery bid – the charity is already through the first stage in the process with development funding. If the bid is successful, the council has agreed to sell the building to BIG.

Will Golding, chair of BIG, says: " This is fantastic news. We're very grateful for the Council's support. It's a breakthrough decision for community ownership in Edinburgh, and will enable ideas, plans and visions that have been developed over four years to be fully realised for people living and working in the communities surrounding Bridgend".

"It was incredible to see the support shown in the build up to the meeting and on the day itself. Well over 500 people signed a petition to show their support, with many passionate comments, and around 30 people came along to watch the committee meeting itself happen, celebrating outside together

afterwards”

The secretary of BIG Anna Danby says: “We plan to create a multifunctional space which includes a community kitchen and cafe, as well as facilities to deliver a range of training opportunities. These will be open to all but will seek to reach out particularly to those groups who are underprovided for in the area such as young people and those with a disability.

“The farm house will also provide a great base from which to encourage people to explore and use the surrounding park land – school groups, running, walking and cycling clubs, and environmental/conservation organisations could all benefit from such a resource.”

Earlier this year, BIG qualified for stage-one of the Lottery’s Growing Community Assets fund. This will allow it to engage professional help in preparing detailed architectural plans, gaining planning approval, completing a full business plan and carrying out further community consultation. This can now begin in the next couple of months, alongside its current community development work.

BIG have recently launched a community share issue which will enable members to co-operatively own and make decisions on the running of the farmhouse. If you are interested in being a co-owner in the farmhouse, or in getting more involved in the project as a volunteer, member of the committee, or with any other comments or suggestions then please get in contact via their website:

[www.bridgendfarmhouse.org.uk](http://www.bridgendfarmhouse.org.uk) or email :  
[bridgendfarmhse@gmail.com](mailto:bridgendfarmhse@gmail.com)

Malcolm Fraser, Leader of the Scottish Government Town Centre Review team said:- “The Bridgend Inspiring Growth group are an exemplar of how a local community can marry energy, need and opportunity: active local people taking over an old Council

property to use for outdoor training and education. I have been proud to support them in their efforts and look forward to their project moving forward.” .

Kenny MacAskill, SNP MSP Eastern Edinburgh said:-“Bridgend Inspiring Growths plans and initiative to develop Bridgend Farmhouse are fantastic, and essential for the local community. There is a need for this in the area, and with at least a further 1400 houses being built nearby in the next few years this need and demand will only grow. I fully support their plans. “

Ian Murray, Labour MP Edinburgh South said:-“The Bridgend Inspiring Growth Group have been working tremendously hard over a number of years to work with local people and seek funding to transform the old Council owned farmhouse. As with the local Dig-In vegetable co-operative, they are innovators and leaders in community ownership for community benefit. They get my wholehearted support for their project at the farmhouse and I hope everyone rallies around to make this inspirational project a reality.”

Alison Johnstone, Green MSP Lothian said:-“The Bridgend Inspiring Growth group has been doing absolutely brilliant work to fully engage local people to come up with an inspiring vision for the future use of the farmhouse and the wider area. I’m hugely impressed with what they have achieved so far and I hope they will continue to get the support they need to see their plans come to fruition.

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**Witness appeal following**

# racial abuse incident



Police in Edinburgh investigating an incident of racial abuse in the west of the city have today issued an image of two men they wish to trace in connection with their enquiries.

A 40-year-old Nigerian man was walking in Dalry Road with a female friend at around 4.15pm on Friday 7th February when he was followed and subjected to racial abuse.

Officers are keen to speak with the two men in this picture in relation to the investigation.

Anyone who can assist in identifying them is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101 immediately.

Constable Conor Stapleton said: "I would ask members of the public to come forward if they recognise these men so we can trace them and progress our enquiries.

"In addition anyone with any further information they believe relevant to this investigation is also asked to get in touch."

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# Seven arrested in bogus police officer hunt



Police have made seven arrests as a result of an extensive investigation into a group of thieves who have been targeting tourists in the city centre.

Between 30th April and 23rd May there were 19 reported incidents in the capital of thefts committed by people impersonating police officers. On each occasion the suspects claimed to be police officers in order to search visitors' bags.

Yesterday (Wednesday 28th May), investigating officers seized over £5,000 worth of foreign currency and a large amount of designer clothing following a search of a property in Murdoch Terrace.

One 26-year-old female and six males aged between 25 and 44 were subsequently arrested and held in custody. They will appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court at a later date.

Detective Chief Inspector Stuart Houston said: "It is imperative that people visiting Edinburgh can do so without fear of such criminal acts occurring and the police actions that led to the arrest of this group of individuals is a significant breakthrough.

"We would like to thank members of the public for their help and continued support."

Anyone with information on criminal activity in Edinburgh can contact Police Scotland on 101 or, alternatively, the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

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## **Three arrested for drugs and firearm offences**



Two men and a woman have been arrested and charged with drugs

and firearm offences following searches at two properties in east Edinburgh, under Operation Wolf yesterday.

Officers carried out drugs warrants at two properties in the Niddrie area of the city, which resulted in the recovery of approximately £2900 of controlled drugs, a four figure sum of cash, mobile phones, and an illegal weapon.

As a result a 55-year-old man and a 47 year old man were arrested and charged, and a 45 year old woman was detained and released, pending further enquiry.

Officers working under Operation Wolf carried out high visibility reassurance patrols while these properties were being searched and as a result a man was detained in relation to a domestic incident.

At the same time, a search of a property in the Lady Nairne area of Edinburgh resulted in the recovery of controlled drugs and suspected stolen property worth £2500, including two bikes. A 42 year old man and a 39 year old man will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Superintendent Matt Richards said: "Yesterday a total of £5000 was recovered in drugs and suspected stolen property in the east of the city. This is another success for Operation Wolf, where we have demonstrated we won't tolerate criminality in the community by cracking down on those responsible in the supply of drugs.

"The aim of Operation Wolf is to target the issues and concerns of residents across the city, and we will continue this approach over the next week."

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# Police release CCTV image following sexual assault



Police have released a CCTV image of a man they wish to trace in connection with a sexual assault in Henderson Street, Edinburgh.

A 23-year-old woman was attacked in the early hours of Monday 14th April while walking in Henderson Street, Leith.

Detective Inspector Bobby Deas from Police Scotland: “We wish to speak to the man pictured in the image in connection with our enquiries, and anyone who can assist us in tracing him is asked to come forward.

“Similarly, we would ask the man himself to get in touch and help with our investigation.”

The man is described as white, in his mid-20s, around 5ft 10in to 6ft tall, of medium build, fair complexion and with short dark hair.

He was wearing navy jeans, dark trainers and a black hooded jacket, which featured an Adidas logo on the right chest, a white stripe across the back and three white stripes on both shoulders. He was also carrying a blue rucksack

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

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# First Time Solo: Iain Maloney launches debut novel



How does a thirty-something Scotsman living in Japan end up writing a book set in Torquay?

That was the question put to [Iain Maloney](#) at the launch of his debut novel [First Time Solo](#) at [Looking Glass Books](#) on Monday. It's a story of young men joining the [RAF](#) at the tail end of World War Two, young men who think they're going to France but end up going to Babbacombe. It's about jazz and freedom, change and anger. And it started with [Spike Milligan's](#) War Diaries.



**Adrian Searle**, Iain's publisher at [Freight Books](#), opened the evening by outlining Iain's career to date. As a student at [Aberdeen University](#), Iain entered a writing competition for Freight's [The Hope That Kills Us](#), an anthology of stories about Scottish football. His was the only undergraduate submission and it won him a place in the book. Iain gained a Masters in Creative Writing from [Glasgow University](#); he now lives in Komaki with his partner Minori and runs an English language school in Ichinomiya. Adrian encouraged him to submit more work whenever he could, and he soon became the most published writer in [Gutter](#), Freight's award-winning journal for fiction and poetry from writers born or living in Scotland. As soon as Adrian read First Time Solo, he wanted it.

Iain began by reading two short excerpts from First Time Solo. In the first, two 18 year olds who've just signed up with the

RAF meet on the train to London, whilst the second finds them posted to the Devon coast ('face to face with Jerry') where a momentous event brings the war to them and changes their lives forever. Iain's style is staccato; short sharp phrases convey Jack's darting thoughts, whilst the conversation between Jack and Joe, a brash Glaswegian ('so you're a sheep shagger?'), instantly gives us a feel for these very different characters.

Iain's inspiration for the book came from his grandfather's war years. He too signed up in 1943 expecting to enter combat, but by the time he was trained the RAF no longer needed pilots, so he just went on training till the end of the war. Although the book is not Iain's grandfather's story, he wanted to explore the lives of young men who were perhaps fifteen years old in 1939, who saw the war approaching them, saw their fathers and brothers signing up, and realised that their turn would come; the war would not in fact be over by Christmas.



One of Iain's favourite writers is [Yukio Mishima](#). Mishima wrote of the liberating effect of war; servicemen knew that their time was mapped out and that they would probably die young, so they were free to live for the day. Diaries of British soldiers show that they too had a view of the future that we would not understand today. By 1943 the changes that were to come after the war were becoming evident; men who had been trained for nothing but battle were to return to the civilian world unprepared for post-war life. The freedom they had felt turned to anger; that anger fueled change. One of the characters in the book is what Iain calls 'a firebrand commie' – Adrian observed that the novel has strong political undertones without being a hectoring polemic. Iain credits his editor [Rodge Glass](#) with that, 'Rodge cut a lot of the hectoring and now the story makes sense.'

Growing up in Aberdeen, Iain used to annoy his parents by reading Spike Milligan's War Diaries into the small hours of the morning. These taught him that eighteen year old boys haven't changed much over the years; they still like the same jokes and have the same ways of dealing with their fears. Despite the book's strong sense of time and place, the characters' language feels modern; many authors, Iain says, have a tendency to use the vocabulary either of nostalgia ([Dad's Army](#)) or 'stiff upper lip' ([Bridge On the River Kwai](#)); he wanted to avoid cliches and create fresh dialogue whilst avoiding anachronisms.

Music is a huge part of Iain's life. In the war Americans, Poles and the Free French poured into London; it became a culturally vibrant city. Jazz and bebop flourished, clubs stayed open, people wanted to have fun. A perfect reason, then, for Iain to allow Joe, a trumpeter, to start a band with two of the other men. Having three American jazz players in the story also made it easier for Iain to use modern speech. His research for the book included asking his mother to interview his grandfather, but his own experience of leaving home to go to university also informed his writing. He may not have experienced war first hand or received letters telling him his friends have died, but the breaking of childhood bonds is a universal experience, a part of growing up. The war is still part of our collective consciousness; it is taught in schools, portrayed in film and on television; whilst Iain was able to rely on readers' prior knowledge to a certain extent, he wanted to focus on an aspect rarely examined – the experience of those who went to war but never engaged in combat.

Iain first had the idea for the book when he was still in Aberdeen; it's taken him ten years to achieve publication. In the meantime he wrote two other novels, both of them binned, and three drafts of First Time Solo. Once he had planned the story properly and knew the journey and the ending he

completed the third draft in a year; the characters changed greatly from draft to draft – Iain even killed off Jack’s girlfriend to avoid what he calls ‘the sweetheart cliché.’

Adrian said that the post-submission process is always slow – editing, designing and marketing all take time – but that Iain has been very patient. For Iain publication is a dream come true; Rodge Glass was, he says, a brilliant editor, having vast knowledge of what makes a novel work whilst remaining sensitive to a new author’s concerns. The Glasgow Masters course also toughened him up, ‘I was past the preciousness of it and could accept Roger’s suggestions and cuts.’

A voracious reader, Iain cites his influences as [Iain Banks](#), [Alan Moore](#), Mishima, [Janice Galloway](#) and of course Milligan himself. He’d like to see First Time Solo published in Japan, though it would of course need to be translated first. He’s about to feature, along with [David Peace](#) and [David Mitchell](#), in a Japanese magazine article about British writers working in the country. In Japan the war is still not a subject for comedy, and Iain would be intrigued to see how the book would be marketed there, and how the Japanese readership would receive it. He also hopes that it might be adapted for the screen, saying he would probably prefer television to film; his favourite TV series is Banks’ [The Crow Road](#). He’s not sure about a musical, but who knows? He’d have no trouble coming up with the music.

First Time Solo will be published by Freight Books on 19th June 2014 and will be available from [Looking Glass Books](#), Simpson’s Loan.

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# Woman cut free from car on Lanark Road



The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) was called to attend a road traffic collision involving cars at the junction of Lanark Road, Edinburgh this morning.

Operations Control Edinburgh received a call during the rush hour with reports of one female casualty trapped. They immediately mobilised two appliances from Sighthill fire station to the incident.

On arrival firefighters stabilised the vehicle before using hydraulic cutting gear to remove the roof and doors. Crews then safely removed the female casualty and passed her into the care of paramedics who took her to Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh for further treatment.

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# Chinese snuff bottles to be auctioned in Edinburgh

One of the largest collections of Chinese snuff bottles, valued at £40,000, are to be put on sale at Lyon & Turnbull on 4 June 2014, spanning three centuries the snuff bottles belong to Mrs Chris Bennett who lives in Perthshire. She started collecting in 1976 with a visit to a local auction, she said:-

“I saw a small painted glass bottle. I bid for it and came away with the bottle in my pocket, having spent all of £3.”

There are 157 bottles in the collection which are made from a wide variety of materials. Lee Young, Asian Specialist at Lyon & Turnbull said:- “Being so small, the artists often took the opportunity to express their playfulness and ingenuity. The stone would be carved, poked and prodded into a shape which was comfortable to hold in the palm of the hand, and at the same time, in beautiful or humorous shapes. For instance we have snuff boxes shaped like a fish, a three legged toad and chili peppers.”

The Qianlong dynasty (1736-95) is considered to be the pinnacle of snuff bottle artistry. The glass bottles with two or sometimes three different colours, are dipped in various layers of coloured molten glass, and then carved back through the layers to show a scene of birds in a garden, or dragons chasing each others tails and the forever flaming pearl, across the small circumference of the bottle, often not more than 6cm tall.

Mrs Bennett said:- “Weekends were spent browsing Edinburgh antique shops in search for bottles, and I soon found that this was not going to be a quick or easy. I am sad to see them go, but I hope the bottles will form the base of new collections and find homes with budding new or discerning experienced collectors alike.”

The collection has two interesting glass bottles with gold ‘aventurine’ splashes, one blue glass, and the other emerald green estimate, £500 each (lots 255 and 248). Young continued:- “The artist carver examined jade pebbles carefully so that their flaws and inclusions could be brought to their advantage. Flawed or plain, jade bottles offered many alternatives for the collector.”

In the collection there is a wide range from a green white

jadeite bottle estimate £700 (lot 264), an unusual yellow jade bottle estimate £2,000 (lot 244), a celadon melon shape £600 (lot 232), and a smooth white, which is highly prized. Other unusual bottles include a dark green glass melon bottle £800 (lot 217) and an amusing Duan stone chili £500 (lot 252). The ruby matrix bottle is also rare £300 (lot 254). Other materials include porcelain which was highly adaptable due to its mouldable qualities, glass or glass overlay, lapis lazuli, aventurine, rock crystal, cloisonné, or the inside painted bottles, which could take the artist months to complete, all through a tiny hole not wider than 5mm at times. There are also amber, shagreen, tortoiseshell, ivory, coral, mother of pearl and lacquer as examples of organic materials.

Snuff was introduced to the Chinese by the Portuguese in the 17th century. At first taking snuff was a hobby of the Emperor and literati Mandarins, then it spread across the country and by the 19th century, was found in almost every home.

Powdered tobacco was taken as a pinch on the top of the hand, from the thumb and forefinger, or from a small dish. One carried small bottles in the pocket, or kept a larger bottle in the home, with small dishes or saucers to offer to visiting guests. Lee Young said:- "Often, snuff is still found at the bottom of these small bottles, to remind us of their real use. But today, just as in the 18th and 19th centuries, snuff bottles are collected for their beauty and wit; being small, they can turn even the most space-challenged enthusiast into a collector."

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# Five things you need to know today



## **Qatar Airways – Edinburgh Council – Hidden Door Auction – Road Safety Hackathon – Invitation to Forrester High School**

The first direct link between Edinburgh and Doha was officially launched yesterday, topping off a momentous week of new route launches for Edinburgh Airport.

Qatar Airways now flies direct from the Scottish capital to Doha five times per week, fully opening Scotland up to Asia, Australia and China – something which has been missing from the Edinburgh route network for many years. The Middle Eastern carrier will fly Scotland's first scheduled 787 Dreamliner and will offer connectivity to over 120 worldwide destinations.

Seen as a crucial milestone for Scotland, the occasion was marked with a special event at Edinburgh Airport this morning where representatives of Team Scotland, joined by Humza Yousaf MSP, Scottish Minister for External Affairs and International Development, gathered to welcome Qatar Airways to Edinburgh and celebrate the inaugural flight.

Marwan Koleilat, Chief Commercial Officer for Qatar Airways, flew into Edinburgh on the first flight and was given a traditional Scottish welcome, complete with a piper and wet weather.



Gordon Dewar, Chief Executive of Edinburgh Airport, said: "This truly is a historic day, not just for our airport, but for the city of Edinburgh and for Scotland.

"Today's inaugural flight to Doha marks the first direct link

from Edinburgh to the Middle East and means Scotland's capital is finally connected with Asia, Australia and China. We're absolutely delighted to celebrate this occasion with our city partners and the Scottish Government, whose hard work has helped us reach this milestone.

"A direct link to Doha will not only enhance trade and culture links but will truly reaffirm Edinburgh Airport as where Scotland meets the world."

Minister for External Affairs and International Development Humza Yousaf said: "Scotland and Qatar are both strong oil and gas producing countries and the relationship between our two countries has continued to strengthen over recent years.

"This service will help build on this important link and promote Scotland as a great place to do business. By removing the need for extra connecting flights, it will also make Scotland a more attractive destination for tourists.

"We want to improve Scotland's international connectivity and we could attract more direct flights like this by cutting rates of Air Passenger Duty (APD), something that we don't currently have the power to do but which has wide support in the aviation industry.

"2014 is an exciting time for Scotland and we look forward to welcoming friends from around the world for our exciting programme of events that includes the Commonwealth Games, the Ryder Cup and a second Year of Homecoming."

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Edinburgh Council meets today as a full council for the second time this month.

Today's agenda includes a request to councillors to give the go ahead for the council to have compulsory purchase powers in relation to the development at St James Quarter. This £850m

project at Edinburgh's East End was pushed through at the last council meeting despite some fierce opposition from the Conservatives and the Greens.

Their worry was that the approval for the three way arrangement among the council, The Scottish Government and Hendersons who own the building to allow the demolition and rebuilding to proceed was being rushed. Now, unless the powers to acquire any pockets of the existing buildings or site are granted today, the development could be delayed by a year according to the Council Leader Andrew Burns.

You can watch live online and all papers for the meeting are [here](#).

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On Saturday 31 May 2014, Hidden Door will be hosting their very own evening of live bidding action.

With fantastic contributions from artists whose creations transformed the Market Street vaults, you'll have the chance to bid on something amazing! There is a wide range of art to bid on, from small quirky inexpensive pieces, to big, serious collectable works.

[More details here.](#)

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Edinburgh Council is organising a Hackathon during the weekend of 6-8 June 2014 when they hope that all participants will help them to crack a solution to making the city a safer place for everyone who lives here. What exactly do they mean by that?

It means that they want you if you can code and write an app over a weekend. They want you if you have an innovative idea

which will appeal to 11-14 year-old pedestrians and capture their attention. The council will open up their data to look at potential solutions. EdinburghApps continues to focus their gaze on being an enabler for innovative projects and so this Road Safety Hackathon is absolutely top of their list. They believe that 11-14 year-olds become more vulnerable to injury on the roads as they have to walk further to school, and that someone can develop an app to help prevent accidents.

More information on how to get involved, get registered and get 'appy [on the EdinburghApps website.](#)

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**The Children's story – The Holocaust through the art of Children**

**Forrester High School** in partnership with The Children's War Museum, an educational charity that explores historical and personal themes by following the lives of children and discovering history through their voices, are holding an exhibition of children's drawings entitled **Children's Story: children's drawings from the Terezin ghetto 1943-1944.**

This collection of 40 prints is taken from the original collection rescued from the Terezin ghetto and are on loan from the Jewish museum in Prague.

**Members of the public are welcome to visit the exhibition on Friday 30 May 2014 2-4pm by appointment.**

Please contact Julie Sutherland [julie.sutherland@forrester.edin.sch.uk](mailto:julie.sutherland@forrester.edin.sch.uk) to arrange your visit.

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# Anyone for Padel Tennis?



Brodies Champions of Tennis has announced that they are working with Total Padel based in East Lothian, who are going to showcase their first Padel Tennis Court during the tournament.

Padel Tennis is typically played in doubles on an enclosed court about half the size of a tennis court. Scoring is the same as normal tennis and the balls used are similar, however the court has walls and the balls can be played off them in a similar way to the game of squash by players using solid, stringless racquets. The height of the ball being served must be at or below waist level. The sport was invented in Mexico by Enrique Corcuera in 1969. It is currently most popular in Hispanic American countries such as Argentina and Mexico as well as in Spain, although it is now beginning to spread rapidly across Europe and other continents.

Padel Pro Tour (PPT) is the professional Padel Circuit which was created in 2005 as a result of the agreement between a group of organizers of matches of Padel, the Association of Professional Players of Pádel (AJPP) and the Spanish Feminine Association of Pádel (AFEP). The sport's popularity in southern Spain has exposed it to a large number of British visitors, leading to the increased popularity of the sport in the UK and a launch of the UK Padel Federation in 2011.

Viki Mendelssohn, Tournament Director, said:- "This is a really amazing addition to this year's event and will be a welcome interactive experience for everyone who attends the tournament – hopefully they will have a go and see just how much fun this game is. Padel Tennis is very much a sport in its infancy in the UK but it has a big future. For Brodies Champions of Tennis to be able to showcase the sport with

Total Padel is a real coup for us and we are really looking forward to seeing the court in action. I know a few of the Legends have played Padel before so we hope to get them on court and maybe a few members of the public will get the chance to have a game with them!”

Kenny Abbot, Managing Director of Total Padel, said: “We are delighted to be supporting the Brodies Champion of Tennis event this year. We will have our Tour Court in position at Raeburn Place for the duration of the event for all racket enthusiasts to try out and enjoy. Padel Tennis is a 21<sup>st</sup> Century sport growing globally and taking hold in the UK this year. This will be the first ‘show court’ in Scotland and we couldn’t think of a better event to showcase this sport. The sport is enjoyed by Rafa, Novak, Andy Murray, Lleyton Hewitt to name but a few Tennis stars. Importantly, however, this is an inclusive sport enjoyed by all who step onto the court, from families to professionals.”

**Tickets for Brodies Champions of Tennis are now on sale at [www.championsoftennis.com](http://www.championsoftennis.com)**