

Police deliver training to nightclub staff



Police in Edinburgh are working with Scotland's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) to bring a new form of training to the night-time economy, aimed at preventing sexual violence.

On Friday 6th June, Chief Inspector Graham Goulden will deliver training to employees of City nightclub and the Cavendish nightclub including everyone from glass collectors to management, outlining how they can help reduce sexual violence in the capital.

The training was developed by the Violence Reduction Unit in Scotland and uses parts of a film originally made in New Zealand. It aims to raise awareness of sexual violence and show how those working in the night-time economy have a clear role in its prevention.

Chief Inspector Goulden says "We can all play a part in preventing sexual violence. Pubs and clubs are part of the solution, they are our allies here. This is a great opportunity for the media to see us working with our partners in the industry for the benefit of everyone".

The training will be attended by licensing standards officers from the City of Edinburgh Council, licensing officers from Police Scotland, and the staff of the venues.

Film Festival announce 2014 programme



Artistic Director Chris Fujiwara announced details of the programme for the 68th edition of Edinburgh International Film Festival (EIFF) this morning at the Filmhouse.

This year the Festival, which runs from 18 to 29 June, will showcase 156 features from 47 countries, including 11 World Premieres, 8 International Premieres, 7 European Premieres and 95 UK Premieres.

The Festival boasts 124 new features, with highlights including Anton Corbijn's *A MOST WANTED MAN*, starring the late Philip Seymour Hoffman in one of his final performances, which screens within the Directors' Showcase strand; Gia Coppola's *PALO ALTO*, starring James Franco and Emma Roberts, which will screen in the American Dreams strand; and, straight from Cannes, Abel Ferrara's controversial title *WELCOME TO NEW YORK*, inspired by the case of former IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn, starring Gérard Depardieu, will receive its UK Premiere.

EIFF will also host the World Premiere of *CASTLES IN THE SKY* from Gillies MacKinnon, the story of the Scottish engineer and developer of radar Robert Watson-Watt (Eddie Izzard). The film is one of the contenders for the Michael Powell Award, along with *SET FIRE TO THE STARS*, the debut feature from Andy Goddard, a semi-biographical drama depicting the life of Dylan Thomas and starring Elijah Wood, also screening as a World Premiere.

Special Screenings include Anthony Baxter's *A DANGEROUS GAME*, the follow-up to the award-winning *You've Been Trumped*,

exploring American property developer Donald Trump's incursion into Scotland; and this year's family gala will be the UK Premiere of the animated heist adventure THE NUT JOB, featuring the voice talents of Will Arnett, Brendan Fraser and Liam Neeson.

Chris Fujiwara, EIFF Artistic Director, said:- "A film festival must keep trying to remain challenging, provocative and responsive, and I believe the programme we're unveiling today shows our success at doing that this year. It's a diverse and artistically strong programme that will delight and surprise our audiences, both old and new, and that will reward those who share our passion for exploring cinema in all its forms."

The International Feature Film Competition highlights filmmaking from around the world that is imaginative, innovative and deserving of wider recognition. This selection includes deadpan tragicomedy THE OWNERS from Kazakh director Adilkhan Yerzhanov; Nils Malmros' study of the extremes of human tragedy in SORROW AND JOY; Alejandro Fernández Almendras' TO KILL A MAN, a tense and restrained study of a how far a man will go to protect his family; ICE POISON by Midi Z, portraying the economic and moral crisis affecting young people in Taiwan; and Dietrich Brüggemann's emotionally wrenching STATIONS OF THE CROSS, which screens as part of the Focus on Germany. The International Premiere of relationship drama X/Y from actor-director Ryan Piers Williams, starring America Ferrera; Koji Fukada's AU REVOIR L'ETE, a portrait of a girl of the edge of adulthood; HAN GONG-JU, the debut feature from South Korean director Lee Su-Jin; Nathan Silver's UNCERTAIN TERMS, set at a home for pregnant teenagers; CLUB SANDWICH, a coming-of-age drama from Mexican director Fernando Eimbcke; and CONCRETE CLOUDS, the directorial debut of Lee Chatametikool, round out the International Feature Film Competition.

After a three-year hiatus, this year's Festival will see the return of the Award for Best Documentary Feature Film, supported by Al Jazeera. The nominees include GARNET'S GOLD from director Ed Perkins and producer Simon Chinn; 'TIL MADNESS DO US PART from influential Chinese filmmaker Wang Bing; Samantha Fuller's gripping tribute to maverick American filmmaker Samuel Fuller in A FULLER LIFE; Davi Pretto's CASTANHA, an endearing portrait of a 52 year old cross dresser; and the World Premiere of LIFE MAY BE, a bold and heartfelt meditation on art and identity from Mark Cousins and Mania Akbari. Completing the line-up are Farida Pacha's MY NAME IS SALT; CHANTIER A, an imaginative account on the reshaping of Algeria, directed by Tarek Sami, Karim Loualiche and Lucie Dèche; Stephanie Spray and Pacho Velez's MANAKAMANA, which stages a meeting of technology and spiritual belief aboard a Nepalese cable car; Thomas Heise's look at the everyday lives of inmates and guards at a juvenile prison in Mexico in STAEDTEBEWOHNER; and MY RED SHOES by Sara Rastegar, a family portrait set against the backdrop of the Iranian Revolution.

EIFF's Audience Award, a popular award with the public and filmmakers alike, will return this year. Last year the award went to *Fire in the Night*, directed by Anthony Wonke, a deeply moving documentary detailing the 1988 Piper Alpha disaster in the North Sea. This year the nominees include Jim Mickle's revenge thriller COLD IN JULY with Michael C. Hall and Don Johnson; John Maloof and Charlie Siskel's gripping investigation of the life of a brilliant photographer, FINDING VIVIAN MAIER; and Jeff Baena's zombie romantic comedy LIFE AFTER BETH, featuring star turns from Aubrey Plaza, Dane DeHaan and John C. Reilly.

Several Special Screenings take place across the Festival including, the World Premiere of TONY BENN: WILL & TESTAMENT, directed by Skip Kite, a vivid portrait of the long-time Labour MP who died in March of this year, and a retrospective

screening of docudrama CULLODEN from the legendary Peter Watkins which portrays the 1746 Battle of Culloden in the Scottish Highlands. And as previously announced, EIFF has teamed up with Empire magazine to host THE GREATEST MOVIE OF ALL TIME as voted for by Empire readers for their 301st issue. The winning film has been revealed as STAR WARS EPISODE V: THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK and will have an extremely rare theatrical screening at the Festival on Wednesday 25 June.

EIFF and Empire will also present a series of Hero Hangouts, which will see a variety of legendary names from the world of film interviewed live on stage at the Festival, including COLD IN JULY star Don Johnson; Elijah Wood, in Edinburgh for his starring role in SET FIRE TO THE STARS; Noel Clarke, who produced WE ARE MONSTER and produced, directed and starred in THE ANOMALY; and Simon Helberg and Jocelyn Towne, the co-directors of the Closing Gala WE'LL NEVER HAVE PARIS. Empire will host their famous podcast at EIFF and further Hero Hangout subjects will be announced over the coming weeks.

This year the American Dreams strand has been expanded to highlight the resurgence of American Independent cinema and includes the European Premiere of Craig Johnson's THE SKELETON TWINS, starring Bill Hader and Kristen Wiig and a powerhouse performance from Nicolas Cage in JOE, directed by David Gordon Green. International Premieres include insightful family drama HELLION, directed by Kat Candler and featuring Aaron Paul and Juliette Lewis, and Leah Meyerhoff's poetic road movie I BELIEVE IN UNICORNS.

Directors' Showcase presents work from established auteur directors and emerging talents. The selection includes the long-awaited UK Premiere of Bong Joon-ho's futuristic thriller SNOWPIERCER starring Chris Evans, John Hurt, and EIFF Patron Tilda Swinton and the inspired, hand-drawn animation IS THE MAN WHO IS TALL HAPPY? from Michel Gondry. Also in the Directors' Showcase are CATHEDRALS OF CULTURE, an expansive 3D project exploring the soul of buildings from six acclaimed

filmmakers including Wim Wenders and Robert Redford; and Taiwanese master Tsai Ming-liang's STRAY DOGS, allegedly his farewell to cinema.

Wicked and Wild will feature the World Premiere of Noel Clarke's futuristic thriller THE ANOMALY starring Ian Somerhalder and Brian Cox; Eli Roth's startling and depraved take on cannibalism in THE GREEN INFERNO; the explosive, nerve-shredding thriller LET US PREY from Brian O'Malley; and Leigh Janiak's terrifying and intimate horror HONEYMOON, starring Rose Leslie and Harry Treadaway as newlyweds.

For the Family brings together films and shorts from around the world which both children and adults can enjoy, including the International Premiere of ISLAND OF LEMURS: MADAGASCAR, the spectacular IMAX film narrated by Morgan Freeman; the spellbinding tale of one cat's adventure to save the day in THE HOUSE OF MAGIC; and the fun-filled family adventure ZIP & ZAP AND THE MARBLE GANG, based on a beloved Spanish comic book.

As previously announced, in addition to presenting the 25th McLaren Award for Best British Animation (again supported in its anniversary year by the British Council), EIFF will be hosting the World Premiere of four digitally restored animation stereoscopic films and a number of other screenings, events and panels in tribute to Scottish filmmaker and award-winning animator Norman McLaren, as part of the ongoing UK-wide celebrations marking the centenary of his birth, in partnership with the National Film Board of Canada.

The New Perspectives strand offers a range of exciting new work from emerging filmmakers across the globe, including Terry McMahon's gritty and unsettling drama PATRICK'S DAY; Noh Young-seok's suspenseful thriller INTRUDERS; and Hisham Zaman's LETTER TO THE KING, a memorable ensemble piece about five people who take a day trip from a refugee camp to Oslo. The World Premiere of London gangster drama THE GUVNORS

directed by Gabe Turner features a notable performance from Harley Alexander-Sule, one half of the hip-hop duo Rizzle Kicks; and Geethu Mohandas' LIAR'S DICE explores an uneasy alliance between a vulnerable young mother and an ex-soldier.

As previously announced, the British films in competition for the Michael Powell Award include 6 World Premieres and 3 UK Premieres. Among the contenders are WE ARE MONSTER by Antony Petrou, which explores the tragic real-life case of an Asian teenager brutally murdered at a UK young offenders institution by a racist fellow inmate; Guy Pitt's feature debut, GREYHAWK, following a withdrawn, blind ex-soldier who loses his beloved guide dog on an infamous housing estate; Uberto Pasolini's STILL LIFE, starring Eddie Marsan in a poignant tale of life, love and the afterlife; Gillies MacKinnon's CASTLES IN THE SKY, starring Eddie Izzard; and A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO A SPECTACULAR SUICIDE, directed by Graham Hughes, a sharply scripted and poignant comedy telling the story of a young man who wants to kill himself. Completing the line-up is HIDE AND SEEK, directed by Joanna Coates, a study of a modern attempt at living a utopian ideal; MY ACCOMPLICE, a romantic comedy set in Brighton, the debut feature of director Charlie Weaver Rolfe; Andy Goddard's SET FIRE TO THE STARS, starring Elijah Wood; and HYENA, the Festival's Opening Gala, directed by Gerard Johnson. As announced in December, the prize money for the Michael Powell Award will be increased to £20,000 this year, one of the largest cash prizes awarded at a UK film festival.

No Limits presents films that challenge convention and stimulate the mind including Jan Soldat's THE INCOMPLETE, a documentary portrait of a self-described gay slave; Peter Snowden's THE UPRISING, which explores the 2011 Arab Spring by skilfully weaving together YouTube footage of the uprisings; a surreal and visceral journey into human desire in PERFECT GARDEN by Mara Mattuschka and Chris Haring; and ATLAS from filmmaker/photographer Antoine d'Agata, who presents a series

of striking nocturnal images of prostitutes and recorded monologues in which they speak of their lives.

In the retrospective 'Border Warfare: John McGrath's Work in Television, Theatre and Film', EIFF celebrates the artistry and commitment of the radical writer-director-producer John McGrath, one of the UK's most fascinating and immensely prolific creators, who worked across different mediums to deliver powerful political productions. The season of films and TV productions will allow audiences to revisit McGrath's seminal work and includes three theatrical films written by McGrath: Ken Russell's sprawling spy thriller BILLION DOLLAR BRAIN with Michael Caine; and two films directed by Jack Gold and starring Nicol Williamson, THE BOFORS GUN, a darkly comic look inside a British army barracks in West Germany, which McGrath adapted from his own play, and THE RECKONING, in which a ruthless sales executive avenges the death of his father. Also screening will be a selection of TV dramas written or directed by McGrath and several filmed adaptations of McGrath's most famous theatre productions, including some that were staged by 7:84, the groundbreaking theatre company McGrath founded in 1971.

Films on Film, exploring filmmaking and the lives of those who have made film history, includes the European Premiere of DOC OF THE DEAD, exploring the history of the zombie in popular culture with contributions from Simon Pegg, Bruce Campbell and George A. Romero. Cult icon Dick Miller is celebrated by the likes of Roger Corman and Joe Dante in THAT GUY DICK MILLER, and the experimental satire LA ÚLTIMA PELÍCULA, by Raya Martin and Mark Peranson, pays tribute to the vanishing medium of film.

This year EIFF's Short Film programme is supported by Virgin Atlantic and will screen 172 new and 14 retrospective short films from 40 countries. In addition to the animated shorts which will screen as part of the McLaren centenary the Festival continues to showcase evocative and inspiring shorts

from UK and International filmmakers including a special programme as part of the Focus on Germany strand, Bridging the Gap, which explores the breadth of Scottish life, and the Black Box strand, which celebrates experimental and artistic shorts from around the world.

This year's two country Focuses showcase work from Germany and Iran. The Focus on Germany, which aims to shine a light on Germany's most inventive filmmakers with screenings of new and retrospective films, will include several UK premieres including HOME FROM HOME, the latest in the legendary 'Heimat' series by Edgar Reitz; and the historical romantic drama BELOVED SISTERS by Dominik Graf. The latter director is also the subject of a special retrospective celebration, 'Secret Master: Dominik Graf and the Hidden History Of German Cinema', which highlights Graf's brilliant work in the crime thriller genre. 'Interrupted Revolution: Iranian Cinema, 1962 to 1978' will look back to some of the dazzling masterpieces from a breakthrough period in Iranian cinema, while the Focus on Iran strand will celebrate the passion and range of today's Iranian filmmakers.

This year EIFF launches its Teen Spirit strand and Youth Hub as part of its ongoing commitment to engaging young audiences and encouraging new filmmaking talent. The initiative this year has seen a group of EIFF Young Programmers, aged 15-19, select films under the mentorship of the Festival. Screenings in the Teen Spirit strand cost only £5 each no matter what your age, and include GALORE, a powerful drama about sex, friendship and tragedy; BALLET BOYS, a warm-hearted, inspiring film which introduces us to three best friends passionate about ballet; FINSTERWORLD, a darkly comic, deftly intelligent and original take on modern German guilt; and a selection of short films. The Youth Hub is a new, free EIFF programme of events for young people, which runs throughout the Festival from 19 to 28 June at Space Club in Argyle House.

As previously announced, the 68th Edinburgh International Film Festival opens with the World Premiere of Gerard Johnson's HYENA, starring Peter Ferdinando, Stephen Graham and MyAnna Buring and the Closing Gala is the International Premiere of WE'LL NEVER HAVE PARIS, co-directed by Simon Helberg (*The Big Bang Theory*) and actor/director Jocelyn Towne (*I Am I*). Helberg also plays the lead stars alongside Zachary Quinto and Alfred Molina.

Tickets now on sale for Ladies Day at Brodies Champions of Tennis



LADIES DAY – FRIDAY 20 JUNE 2014

Some of the greatest players ever to grace the tennis court will return to Edinburgh as the ATP Champions Tour rolls into the capital for the second annual Brodies Champions of Tennis on 19-22 June. Organisers are delighted to announce Ocean Terminal as an Official Partner and the news that they have brought together a number of their retailers to put on a bespoke fashion show at the venue on Ladies Day, Friday 20th June (gates open 1200) adds to the growing glamour of the day. There will be also prizes for 'Most Fashionable Man & Woman' and funds will be raised on the day for Maggie's Centre Edinburgh.

Dennis Jones, Centre Manager at Ocean Terminal, Edinburgh's Waterfront Shopping Terminal, said : "Ocean Terminal is

delighted to support Brodies Champions of Tennis in bringing such a line up of returning tennis legends to Edinburgh. This will be an event not to be missed, with a fashion show from many of Ocean Terminal's top brands – French Connection, JOY, Phase Eight and New Look – and prizes for the best dressed man and woman will be judged by ex Scottish Passport and STV presenter Sarah Heaney.”

Viki Mendelssohn, Tournament Director, added : “Ocean Terminal is regarded by many as Edinburgh's most relaxing shopping environment, with a great mix of retail, leisure and dining options. They have a huge and deserved following in Edinburgh. We are delighted to have them on board as our Ladies Day partner and am looking forward to an afternoon of high quality tennis and fashion. We shall be setting up a catwalk in our concessions area where the models can strut their stuff. Who knows, we may even manage to persuade some of our players to take part and strike a model pose.”

Mark Cooper, Centre Fundraiser for Maggie's, said “Maggie's supports over 18,000 people affected by cancer each year in Edinburgh. We are delighted to be an affiliated charity with Brodies Champions of Tennis and look forward to seeing you all there.”

To purchase Ladies Day tickets, and take advantage of a promotional offer on buy one get one half price Volley category tickets, please visit www.championsoftennis.com

Tickets for Brodies Champions of Tennis are now on sale at www.championsoftennis.com

The Queen Victoria uses new anchorage point at Newhaven



Forth Ports Cruise welcomed the magnificent Queen Victoria cruise liner, operated by Cunard, to the River Forth for the first time last weekend when over 1800 passengers were brought to its new anchorage point.

The passengers came ashore at Newhaven Harbour for onward bus tours around the East of Scotland and Fife coast and then onto the city centre.

The photos show the ship at anchor and the passengers coming ashore at Newhaven Harbour near Leith.



Edinburgh firm helps older people take the plunge



Featured article

Five things you need to know today



Dreamliner on its way – Tickets for Erasure at The Corn Exchange on sale today – Tonight's talk about the Great Tapestry of Scotland – June exhibition at Open Eye Gallery

The Qatar Airways Dreamliner will land at Edinburgh Airport for the first time this morning. The Middle Eastern airline is to fly the 787 five times a week from Edinburgh to Doha. A direct connection to the new airport in Doha will open the way to Scots flying to Asia and Australia with shorter overall journey times. The airport is very excited about this, yet another new route in its armoury, coming hot on the heels of Zurich, Philadelphia and Chicago.

Our photographer, Thomas Haywood, is out at the airport today and we hope to show you his photographs later today.

It has just been confirmed that Erasure will play the Edinburgh Corn Exchange on November 2014 as part of their The Violet Flame tour. Their sixteenth studio album which has ten tracks was recorded in New York and London and is produced by Richard X.

Following concerts in North America, Andy and Vince will come to Edinburgh to wow their fans here.

[Tickets go on sale this morning](#) from 10am

Learn about the **Great Tapestry of Scotland** from Alistair Moffat, the historian of the project. 100,000 people have seen the Great Tapestry since it was unveiled in 2013. This is a rare chance to explore the story of the Scotland that it depicts.

Alistair Moffat, journalist and writer, will speak about the Great Tapestry of Scotland and Scottish Identity, tonight Wednesday 28 May 2014 at 7.30pm in St Andrew's and St George's West Church, 13 George Street, Edinburgh.

Ian Gilmour, minister of the church, has a vision for this congregation to engage with the big questions of the day. He said:-“In St Andrew's and St George's West we want to create the pattern for a parish church which Scotland needs today – bold, gracious and alive to current issues. We have a tradition of friendly debate and constructive argument, and we hope that these discussions will continue the Enlightenment spirit which we wish to maintain.”

The lectures are free and refreshments will be served afterwards.

St Andrew's and St George's West Church is one of the architectural gems of the New Town of Edinburgh. For more information please see www.stagw.org.uk or contact the parish minister, Rev Ian Gilmour, Church Office tel. 0131225 3847, email iany2@gmail.com.



From 9 June 2014 there will be a new exhibition at the Open Eye Gallery in Abercromby Place. The gallery explains:-“New figurative paintings by renowned portrait artist Graeme Wilcox depict commuters, fellow travellers and people in motion. These paintings are an attempt to realise a heightened sense of the everyday, people in a state of transition which can be

read as both physical and emotional. Graeme has the ability to capture a detailed snapshot in a moment of chaos or transience, inviting us to reflect on the interruptions that blur the relationship between time and environment."

[More details here.](#)

Edinburgh is a Host Venue for the Commonwealth Games in 2014 as the Royal Commonwealth Pool will host the Diving competition from 30th July until 2 August 2014.

Staging a world-class sporting event and hosting officials and athletes means that there will be some changes to business as usual in some areas of our city. Around the Royal Commonwealth Pool and the Macdonald Holyrood Hotel, Holyrood Road, the council are planning some limited changes in access and some road restrictions which will affect residents and businesses.

These changes may have an impact on you. The council is currently working with the Glasgow 2014 Organising Committee to finalise the plans and they will be holding an open afternoon from 3 pm to 7 pm today 28 May, 2014 at the Royal Commonwealth Pool where they will be able to give you full information on any changes or restrictions that may be put in place.

At this event they will include details about waste collections and other services such as social work. They are also working closely with other agencies, including NHS Lothian to minimise disruption to their services.

The most up to date information is available on the Council website and in your local library and neighbourhood office.

Waldorf wins at the Scottish Hotel Awards



Edinburgh's Waldorf Astoria continues to win even more awards this year.

Following success at the event last year the luxury hotel picked up six accolades recently at the 2014 Scottish Hotel Awards:

Guerlain Spa – Spa Treatments

Guerlain Spa – Spa of the Year

Galvin Brasserie de Luxe – Restaurant of the Year

Brenda Riva – Housekeeper of the Year

Nitin Ramtri – People Management and Motivation Award

Chris Logan – Ambassador for Hospitality



These awards bring to 19 the number the hotel has received since the rebrand as a Waldorf Astoria Hotel in 2012 and includes five for The Guerlain Spa, the only one of its kind in the UK. Described as ‘a haven of luxury and tranquility’ the Guerlain Spa follows the philosophy of luxury, innovation and sheer sensorial indulgence made famous by its Parisian namesake, Guerlain’s original ‘L’Institut de Beauté’ making it truly unique as recognised by the judges.

The Waldorf Astoria Edinburgh is also shortlisted in the Group Hotel of the Year category at the prestigious Catey Awards to be announced in July.

Dale MacPhee, General Manager, said: ‘I am thrilled that we have won so many awards and that each area of our business is recognised. Delivering consistently high service levels for our clients is our overall objective and this is a real team effort. This range of endorsements, together with our nomination at the Catey Awards later in the year, demonstrates that we are achieving that.’

Witness appeal following East

Preston Street robbery



Police are appealing for information following an assault and attempted robbery in East Preston Street, Edinburgh in the early hours of yesterday morning.

The incident took place around 1am in the early hours of yesterday morning (26th May) when the 30-year-old victim was walking on Clerk Street, away from town. He stopped at a bus stop on the north side of East Preston Street, at the junction with Oxford Street, and was approached from behind by two men.

The first suspect asked the victim for the time and when the victim took out his mobile phone to check, the suspect demanded that he hand over his phone and threatened him with a bicycle seat pole.

The two suspects made off in the direction of Oxford Street, where they were lost to sight. It is believed that a female cyclist may have witnessed this incident, and police are urging her to come forward.

The two suspects are described as white, 22 to 28 years old, 6ft tall, skinny build and with local accents. The first man was wearing a black jacket with the hood raised, and in possession of a bicycle seat pole. The second man was wearing grey trousers, a red jacket, black cycling helmet. He had blue eyes, and was riding a mountain bike.

Detective Constable John McShane from Police Scotland said: "We believe that a female cyclist was passing by as this attempted assault and robbery took place and we would urge for her to come forward as she may hold information that can help with our enquiry.

"Similarly, if anyone was in the area at the time and may have

information that can assist with our investigation, they are asked to come forward.”

Anyone with information should contact Police Scotland on 101 or Crimestoppers 0800 555 111.

Commonwealth Games – Song for the Commonwealth

Capability Scotland is hoping to hit the right note with its Commonwealth Games celebrations.

The disability charity has been awarded Celebrate it funding from the Big Lottery Fund to write a Song for the Commonwealth.

The project will bring together the creativity and talent of individuals who use Capability Scotland services across Scotland including individuals who the organisation’s New Trinity Service in Edinburgh.

The finished song will be recorded in a studio and performed at Capability Scotland’s very own Commonwealth Games ‘Closing Ceremony’ in July at Capability Scotland’s Upper Springland Service in Perth. A short film will be made to document the recording of the song and this will also be shown at the ‘closing ceremony’

In addition to producing a ‘Song for the Commonwealth’ Capability Scotland is also hoping to use part of the funding to increase opportunities for the people who use its services to participate in inclusive sports. A Commonwealth Games week has been planned across Scotland in which individuals can take

part in taster sessions of different sports.

Capability Scotland, Chief Executive, Dana O' Dwyer said: "Thank you to the Big Lottery for enabling our customers to have a voice. Customers from five Capability Scotland services will join the project, to have fun, make friendships and feel part of the Commonwealth Games. They will bring their creativity and passion for music together, while they work on a wonderful song for the Capability Scotland 'Closing Ceremony."

Follow Capability Scotland on Twitter: @Capability_Scot, or

Like them on

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CapabilityScotland>

Green MSP calls for an end to bed blocking

✖ Alison Johnstone, Green MSP for Lothian, is calling on The Scottish Government to step up its response to the crisis of bed blocking in the NHS.

New figures show in April this year 173 patients ready to leave hospital had been kept in for more than the four week target, compared to just 44 patients in April 2013. 72 were waiting for a place in a care home.

Last week Alison Johnstone raised the issue of care of older patients in parliament with Health Secretary Alex Neil.

Alison Johnstone MSP said: -"These figures confirm what I said last week – there is clearly a crisis in the care situation with older patients stuck in hospital, and I'm aware of some

distressing and frustrating situations in Lothian region affecting elderly people and their families.

“The Scottish Government is placing confidence in investment being carried out by the NHS but today’s figures suggest action must be stepped up. We must ensure adequate care home places and care-at-home packages so that people are treated with respect and that our health service resources are being used to best effect.”

Val McDermid on top form at the Central Library



‘My life’, says [Val McDermid](#), ‘is a testament to the power of books: they made me.’

This may well be true, but Val has also made quite a few books herself. Prodigious writer, frequent broadcaster, entertaining speaker, highly competitive quiz team member and now unmasked as Threat to a National Treasure, Val has recently moved back to Edinburgh from the Borders. On Thursday she was at the Central Library to talk about her new Tony Hill novel [Cross & Burn](#), although the discussion certainly didn’t end there. In conversation with [Christine Hamilton](#), Val soon had the packed and appreciative audience in fits.

Val’s love of books started early. She grew up in Kirkcaldy and when she was six years old her family moved to a house opposite the library. Like Roald Dahl’s Matilda (though her

parents were nothing like the Wormwoods), Val spent most of her time amongst the book stacks, and much as she resented the Presbyterian-style rule that insisted two of her four books should be non-fiction, she realises that this expanded her horizons. One of her favourite writers is [Robert Louis Stevenson](#), whom she discovered at the age of seven via a 'classic comic' version of Treasure Island. She was entranced; for her this book has everything – plot, characters, setting and a clear and lucid language with 'no showing-off.' She re-reads it frequently and always find something new to admire; it showed her what a book could do. Stevenson could turn his hand to everything from verse to travel literature and science fiction, 'whatever mood you are in, he has something that speaks to you.'

☒ Stevenson doesn't say a great deal about higher education, so all Val knew about that came from her beloved [Chalet School](#) books, from which she learned that her the options were Oxford, the Sorbonne or the Kensington School of Needlework. Val didn't speak French so she applied to [Oxford](#); sewing didn't get a look in, Dior's loss clearly being our gain. [St Hilda's College](#) had never before admitted anyone from a Scottish state school. It was a profound culture shock on both sides – not only did Val have to master Received English, she'd also to deal with vegetables that looked like table decorations and pizzas that were no longer half-moon shaped and covered in batter. Despite all that she had a wonderful time at Oxford, 'I had no chip on my shoulder: these people had the keys to the kingdom, and I wanted them.' She did not find the college snobbish – indeed, she sees now that she was especially well looked after; the Principal even asked her to cat-sit so that Val had somewhere to stay in the holidays. People were, she says, generous, kind and unpatronising; Val was judged only on the quality of her mind. After Oxford, she used that sharp mind in journalism until finally turning to full-time writing in 1991.

✖ Cross & Burn is Val's eighth Tony Hill & Carol Jordan novel. The title comes from a quote, 'The hardest thing in life is to know which bridge to cross and which to burn'; Tony and Carol need to build some bridges. Unfortunately no-one told Val's publisher's art department that, and their first attempt at the cover showed a rather Klan-like flaming cross. They've sorted that now. At the end of book seven, [The Retribution](#), there seemed no way that Val could get Tony and Carol back in the same room – but she already knew how she could do it. There is, Val says, always a solution to a problem of structure; she thinks about it before she goes to sleep and usually knows the answer in the morning. In Cross & Burn she returns to each character's basic principles – Carol's drive for justice and Tony's personal empathy – and puts one of them in such a dangerous situation that only the other can help. Val refutes as total rubbish the often quoted idea that 'the characters take on lives of their own' – when she closes the laptop she knows no-one will die until she comes back and lets them. Tony and Carol don't start cavorting the minute her back is turned, 'It's not Toy Story.' Asked by Christine why she'd decided to burn down poor Tony's house, Val insisted that it had given her no pleasure at all; she needed to make Tony suffer, to take away from him one of the things that mattered most. Bit worrying for her neighbours though...

The Hill/Jordan books have been televised by [Coastal Productions](#) as [Wire In The Blood](#), with [Robson Green](#) playing Tony. Val refused several other offers because she didn't like the companies' ideas, but Coastal (Green's own outfit) allowed her to act as a consultant and collaborate on the series. She feels that the end result does occupy the same fictional landscape as the books, and she's even made two cameo appearances herself – though their success may or may not be measured by the fact that Green has told her she can be the corpse in the next one. Green is the only actor who matches Val's idea of how a character looks, so he's the only

one who's affected her subsequent writing. Tony is a deep thinker, so for TV it was necessary to invent a visual language to show his thoughts; as a result Tony's now talking to himself more and using a white board to marshal his ideas. Val explained that copyright law is very different in the world of TV; she had to ask Coastal if she could use the Paula McIntyre character, who'd been largely developed by one of the scriptwriters. Coastal agreed, so Val was taken aback to find herself on the end of an irate call from the scriptwriter himself; he'd named Paula after his wife and wasn't happy to find Val had turned her into a lesbian...

Val doesn't get upset when her own books are upsetting, because she knows what's going to happen next and has spent hours pondering words and cutting the story back to the bare bones so that the reader's imagination supplies the rest (and we all know how scary our own imaginations can be.) She does find other writers' books frightening though – when she read [Denise Mina's Garnethill](#) she woke up screaming. She would not avoid a book because it was frightening, but she won't read what she calls the 'pornography of violence' – the writers, male and female, who glamorise violence against women in a almost gleeful way.

☒ Something that makes Val want to run screaming from the room for very different reasons is working with a children's audience. She wrote the very successful [My Granny is a Pirate](#) for her son, but found it hard work – there are, she says, so many words you can't say and issues you can't allude to. Even illustrator **Arthur Robins'** picture of Jolly Roger peeing on a pirate's wooden leg was axed by the publisher. Despite all this, there's a sequel on its way, **Pirate Granny and the Revenge of the Skeletons**. The first book was turned into a musical last year, and Val's keen to point out that she'd be happy to talk to Pixar (or anyone else) about the film and TV rights. As for those children's audiences, she says the only answer is chocolate money, thrown

firmly in the direction of any smarty pants 5 year old's head.

A new project for Val has been the re-imagining of [Northanger Abbey](#). She particularly likes [Austen](#)'s original because it's a satire rather than a straightforward romance. This is largely lost on a modern readership (it certainly was on me when I was force-fed it for O-level...) because the object of the satire, the Gothic novel, has been lost; we don't get the jokes. She needed a modern substitute for [The Mysteries of Udolpho](#); the [Twilight](#) books and their numerous imitations were a gift that came along at just the right time. Val went through Northanger Abbey scene by scene, noting in one column what Austen had done and in the other what she needed to do herself. The only rules laid down by [Harper Collins](#) were that she must stick to the original plot and characters, rules which Val saw as a liberating framework rather than a straightjacket. Northanger Abbey is set in [Bath](#), a place visited by everyone on the eighteenth century social circuit; Val needed to find a backdrop for modern teenagers, a place where they would spend enough time for events to unfold – so where better than the [Edinburgh Festival](#)? This also allowed her to move the Abbey itself to the Borders. The hardest part of the writing was finding the teenage voices of Cat Moreland and her friends; Val didn't want to sound like an Old Person trying to be hip, but she needed to search out trends rather than fads to make sure the book didn't age as quickly as yesterday's frappuccino. In the original Jane Austen focuses on the meaningless over-use of 'nice'; by eavesdropping on her son and his friends, Val hit on 'cool' as the word she needed. 'I've got my finger on the pulse of the zeitgeist. Did I just say that?'

It doesn't end there of course. Having written one non-fiction book twenty years ago (about female private investigators), Val swore she'd never do another one – so needless to say she's almost completed a modern overview of forensics with an historical perspective for the [Wellcome](#)

[Trust](#). She's found it fascinating to talk to experts in many different disciplines, and fully intends to make use of what she's learned in her subsequent books. She's also about to publish one of her several stand-alone novels, *Skeleton Road*.

Now that she's back in the city, Christine asked, will it feature in her work? Probably, but even though she's living just round the corner from the [Oxford Bar](#), she somehow doesn't think a meeting between Tony and [Rebus](#) would go too well.

She's also quick to point out that she arrived 'AT' – after the [trams](#) – which she says are one of the most embarrassing things about living in Edinburgh. 'Manchester did it brilliantly – what happened here?'

So that just leaves her assault on a media darling. Val's carving out a name for herself as a quiz maestro, she's been on [Celebrity Mastermind](#) and [Pointless](#). Having been denied the chance in schoolgirl hockey, she's thrilled finally to be representing Scotland on [Round Britain Quiz](#), and she's looking for a pub team to join in Edinburgh. She's so keen that when she appeared on [Only Connect](#) with [Clare Balding](#) she physically shoved the country's favourite broadcaster out of the way to get at the answer. Luckily that bit was edited out, so Val hasn't received any death threats from Clare's fan club. Yet.

This was an entertaining, informative and immensely well-received evening, and credit must also go to Christine Hamilton for her excellent chairing and to **Annie Bell** for her fantastic work in organising **Edinburgh Reads** and bringing brilliant writers like Val to the library.

[Cross & Burn](#) is published by [Little, Brown](#).

[My Granny is a Pirate](#) is published by [Orchard Books](#).

Val will be appearing at the [Borders Book Festival](#) on 14th June 2014.

Radio 1's Big Weekend – Saturday sets



Lorde serenades the crowd during her encore

Glasgow has forever been hailed the home of proud Scottish behaviour. Rowdy, good fun and filled with camaraderie, it only seemed natural that Europe's biggest free music festival set its next footsteps in Scotland's largest city.

Tickets for Radio 1's Big Weekend were released in March and snapped up at uncontrollable speeds, due to the popularity of the acts and the free ticketing policy the BBC has operated since the festival began. A total of 50,000 people arrived at Glasgow Green over the weekend, eager to take advantage of the arrival of massive music names on Scottish shores.

* * * * *

Radio 1's broad spectrum of listeners invited a varied crowd to the first day of the event. In a very clever effort to get people through the gates early in the day, boy band of the moment One Direction opened the main stage.



One Direction

Whether or not you enjoy their music, the sheer number of people who had heard of One Direction and their fan base resulted in a packed main stage. The crowd was varied, from young children on their parents shoulders, to twenty/thirty-something year old men there just to experience the 1D mania. They had an undeniable stage presence; brilliantly bold urging

the crowd to sing along (as if they needed any encouragement). Reeling off hit after hit, you realise that although their music may not be made to appeal to everyone, it inadvertently does. They've been responsible for one of the most recognisable music catalogues of the 21st century, and when performed live, it translates to an unassailable crowd pleaser. They are The Beatles of the internet generation, and with Harry Styles misted in a Jagger-esque aura, the mass hysteria you experience is entirely justified.



Lorde

Hailing from New Zealand, Lorde has gone from writing music in her bedroom to performing to huge international crowds, all before turning eighteen. Her subdued set early on Saturday afternoon was nothing short of beautiful, as she took to the stage in high waist black trousers paired with a white vest. She looked and acted like she meant business. Delivering highlights from her brilliant debut 'Pure Heroine', she jolted and swayed her hair in perfect sync to her music. It was like watching a teenage girl dancing around her bedroom, unrestrained as though no one was watching. In turn it felt affectionate and intimate. She feels her music, and reverberates that to every corner of the audience. One of the most touching moments came as she introduced 'Ribcage', a song she wrote when she was fifteen and realised the inevitability of growing old. She looked out on to a packed crowd, and smiled. She may only be a young woman, but her stage presence and lyricism reflects that of somebody near three times her age. Lorde was Big Weekend's most innate and expressive performer.

Pharrell

His name has been attached to every one of the world's most popular songs in the past eighteen months. As expected, all of Pharrell's recognisable hits propped up in his perfectly slotted set on Saturday afternoon. Opening with the Daft Punk

collaboration 'Lose Yourself to Dance', he started subdued with subtle groove provoking a swaying crowd. His vocals, whilst there, were barely audible. Perhaps this was an issue with sound (I was near the back of the crowd, and his voice has more intricate flare than booming power), but the half recognisable record was not necessarily the best choice for an opener. Saying this, he ploughed his way through his impressive repertoire of music, dropping in cuts from his latest album including Marilyn Monroe and Happy, and some of his older work. His most bizarre performance came in the form of Gwen Stefani's Hollaback Girl, a song Pharrell wrote and produced under his early noughties power group, The Neptunes. It got the crowd going, but Pharrell's effort was questionable on that part. His band, choreography and backing singers were on point, but maybe a little bit more passion from the man himself would work better as a festival gig.

Calvin Harris

Both sub-headline slots on the main stage were filled by Scottish music heroes at the weekend. Whilst Paolo Nutini brought soul to the stage on Sunday night, the world's highest paid DJ performed on Saturday, setting off pyrotechnics and smoke flares aplenty. Bombastic, non stop and relentless, Harris reeled off his catalogue without a duff note in between. It was an atmospheric, standard set for the DJ. He delivered what the crowd wanted, but was a little afraid to drop something unexpected. Nothing overly boring, nor earth shattering – just standard EDM affair.



Coldplay

Undoubtedly, the most astounding feat of Big Weekend came with Coldplay's euphoric headline set. Delivering some of the most incredible stage work the city had seen, they effortlessly soared through a rather short set for the stadium band, but included all of their best work and the obligatory new ones. That's the thing, though. The crowd was more than willing to

listen to their new music – it's as wonderful as the classics. As the lights stretch out as far as you can see, and twisting LED dandelion seeds fall from the sky, you realise that although the spectacle is there, it isn't necessary with Coldplay's immense catalogue and charisma. Seeing them live is a mindblowing experience, and as Chris Martin watched the 25,000 strong crowd sing the hook of 'Viva La Vida' back to him, it might just be the same for them too.

Chris Hoy rides the Grassmarket this Thursday



Sir Chris Hoy is more used to a velodrome surface than cobbles, but he is up for a challenge, and this Thursday he will take to the streets to ride a few laps of a closed road circuit in the shadow of Edinburgh Castle down in the Grassmarket. He will be accompanied by 50 lucky fans who will be drawn at random in a prize draw conducted by Evans Cycles.

Sir Chris Hoy will be back home in Edinburgh for the final stop of the 2014 HOY Tour, to show off his new range of kid's bikes with an inflatable test track in the Grassmarket.

Britain's leading televised cycle race Series makes its debut in Edinburgh this week, with the country's top professional cycling teams heading to the Grassmarket for an evening of action packed racing.

On Thursday 29 May 2014 the men's Pearl Izumi Tour Series and

women's Matrix Fitness Grand Prix Series both take place in the city for the first time.

Looking ahead to Thursday's ride, Sir Chris Hoy said:- "I always love coming home to Edinburgh, this week will be extra special as I'm launching the new Hoy kids range of bikes in the city where each of these bike names originated. The Napier, Bonaly, Cammo and Meadowbank bikes are all named after these places where I enjoyed some of my first cycling experiences. To find out more go to www.hoybikes.com and come along on Thursday to try the bikes out with me."

Following the amateur ride, Britain's leading televised race series for women, the Matrix Fitness Grand Prix Series, will have its first ever round in Scotland, with racing underway at 17:30.

This month the first ever Friends Life Women's Tour was held in the East of England, and with Scottish riders Eileen Roe and Charline Joiner first and second in the standings, interest and support is sure to be high.

At 19:30 attention will switch to the men, with Round Six of the team based Pearl Izumi Tour Series on the 1.3-kilometre course.

Among the home riders taking part will be NFTO Pro Cycling's Commonwealth Games medallist James McCallum and Starley Primal Pro Cycling duo Jack Pullar and David Lines.

The Pearl Izumi Tour Series is unique in that the focus is on the teams, with squads battling to place their top three riders as high as possible in the standings in order to take the all-important team victory.

Looking ahead to the round, Series Race Director Mick Bennett said:- "Coming after Tuesday's Durham round, Edinburgh will be another tough test for our teams and riders."

“We have been looking forward to the Edinburgh event ever since it was confirmed, and think that the Grassmarket circuit will provide for spectacular racing and a great atmosphere from which spectators can enjoy the event.”

In addition to the professional races there will be support activities on the circuit from 13:00 onwards, including youth races at 14:30 and a Category 2/3/4 amateur race at 15:30.

Starting and finishing on the Grassmarket, the circuit then takes in the cobbled climb of Victoria Street, crosses the George IV Bridge, before returning to the Grassmarket via Candlemaker Row.

Highlights of the Edinburgh round of The Pearl Izumi Tour Series will be shown on ITV4 at 9pm on Friday 30th May, with a repeat at 6am on Saturday 31st May.

Hibs' pair excused Under 21 duty



Hibs' youngsters Sam Stanton and Danny Handling have been told not to join the Scotland Under 21 squad from the Netherlands match on Wednesday.

The pair were due to meet up with the rest of the squad for the European Championship qualifier, however manager Billy Stark believes that the 20-year-olds would not be in the right state of mind for the match at St Mirren Park.

Stark said: "The lads are in a state of shock. Some fans might think players don't care what happens, but they were distraught when I spoke to them last night.

"They felt humiliated and I just felt it would be very difficult for them to come here with a spring in their step and a smile on their face.

"The squad needs positivity around it so I made the decision with the lads' full backing that they should stay at home.

"I told them that if they thought the best thing for them would be to come here and get away from it all, then they were more than welcome, but they agreed with me that the state they were in, that would be difficult."

"I told them during my chat that as a good professional, you need to learn to deal with disappointment.

"I can't imagine they will have any greater disappointment than getting relegated with Hibs because it is a big club. No-one would have seen it coming three months ago.

"It's a shock but they will recover and it will not stunt their development."

Scotland sit fourth in Group Three, six points behind leaders Slovakia.

Photo by John Preece

<http://www.photoboxgallery.com/jlp-photography>

Concern for missing Edinburgh teenager



Police in Edinburgh are appealing for information to help trace a boy reported missing from the Gracemount area.

Thomas Wilson, who is 15-years-old, was last seen at his home on Balmwell Terrace on 20th May.

It's believed he may be in the Craigmillar area of the city.

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

Inspector David Watt from Police Scotland: "We are increasingly concerned about Thomas as he has not been seen since 20th may, although we have reason to believe he is in Craigmillar.

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

Five things you need to know today



Early morning fire – Talking Whales in Portobello – Design Urban Outfitters window – Putting a stamp on Frederick Street – Favourite cafes

Two people were rescued from their flat after a fire in the kitchen of their home in Harrismith Place, Edinburgh early on Monday morning.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) crews responded after a 999 call was made at 1.51am and appliances were immediately sent from McDonald Road, Marionville and Tollcross fire stations.

Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus quickly extinguished a chip pan fire within the kitchen and requested an ambulance to attend so the occupants could be assessed by paramedics.

Two casualties, one female and one male, were rescued from the property and received treatment at the scene by the ambulance service. They did not require hospital treatment.

Group Commander Tam McGrath said: "More fires begin in the kitchen than in any other room of the house and traditional chip pans are a particularly high fire risk. We would urge everyone take a few simple steps to keep themselves and those around them safe.

"By never leaving pans unattended while in use and by keeping any flammable materials, such as kitchen towels, etc., away from sources of ignition, we can dramatically reduce the chance of fire starting.

"Chip pan fires very quickly spread flames, toxic smoke and heat so having early warning is vital to preventing serious injury or worse. There is much less chance of someone being seriously hurt or killed by fire if a house is protected by working smoke alarms.

"Smoke alarms prevent injuries and deaths caused by fire and they also limit the damage to property by allowing firefighters the chance to respond earlier to extinguish the fire. Working smoke alarms provide householders with a very early warning that will enable them to escape the property

during the early stages of a fire.

“Crews across Edinburgh and in every community throughout Scotland routinely visit members of the public in their own homes to offer advice and to fit smoke alarms to help them stay safe from fire.

“If you or someone you know could benefit from a visit, please join Scotland’s fight against fire and request a visit by calling the SFRS freephone number 0800 0731 999, by texting ‘check’ to 61611 or by contacting their local fire station.”

A wide range of tips on how to keep yourself and your home safe from fire are available on the SFRS website: www.firescotland.gov.uk

Councillor Maureen Child tells us about a talk taking place in Portobello :-“The stranding of a young adult sperm whale last year sparked widespread interest in these fantastic big mammals, which we very rarely see since they generally belong in the deep seas. The Scottish Marine Animals Stranding Scheme’s Director and whale expert Dr Andrew Brownlow will give an illustrated talk on the whales of the Firth of Forth at Portobello Amenity Society’s Annual General meeting on Wednesday 18 June in the Baptist Church Hall, 185 Portobello High Street at 7.30pm. All are welcome.”

Urban Outfitters and the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art have teamed up in the search for a young artist or designer to create a new piece of window art, to coincide with the Gallery’s major summer exhibition *GENERATION: 25 years of Contemporary Art in Scotland*. The winner of the Window Art Competition will have their design installed at the Urban Outfitters store on Edinburgh’s Princes St, where it will remain on show during August, at the height of Edinburgh’s

Festival period.

The competition was launched earlier this month, and the deadline for entries has been set for Thursday 29 May. The winning artist will collaborate with the store's display artist to bring their vision to life and create a unique and exciting display which both encapsulates the feel of Urban Outfitter's brand and *GENERATION: 25 Years of Contemporary Art in Scotland*.

The competition is open to 16-30-year-olds living in Scotland, offering a chance for budding and more established artists to see their work featured in a highly prominent location.

GENERATION: 25 Years of Contemporary Art in Scotland is a landmark series of exhibitions that celebrates some of the very best art to have emerged from Scotland in the last 25 years, and will be shown at more than 60 venues across the country from June to October 2014. This nationwide programme will be one of the most ambitious celebrations of contemporary art ever held by a single country, recognising the huge international acclaim that artists working with Scotland have achieved over the last generation.

As part of this the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art will mount a ground-breaking, three-part exhibition at Modern One, the Scottish National Gallery and Scottish National Portrait Gallery, offering an unprecedented view of the diverse ways contemporary art has developed in Scotland over the past 25 years.

More than 30 artists will be represented across the three sites, bringing together show-stopping, room-sized installations and iconic works made at pivotal moments. As well as looking back over the last 25 years, the exhibition shows the continuing dynamism of art in this country, with the inclusion of six newly commissioned installations and several new paintings, drawings and photographic works.

The winner of the Window Art Competition will receive £500 of Urban Outfitters gift vouchers, as well as invitations to the *GENERATION* opening events.

Closing date for entrants is 29 May 2014.

The Post Office on Frederick Street is to remove its external stamp machine, and make the shop counter smaller by forming a private room on the inside. Since this is one post office where queues are regularly made to wait for long periods will this only add to the woes of customers?

Got a favourite Edinburgh cafe? Like to share the news with us and our readers? [Then tell us about it here...](#)



A Nation of Mute Zombies



You may think this sounds like the beginning of a Tommy Cooper joke but I went to the doctor the other day and....nah, there's no punchline. The end of the sentence should read 'forgot to take my mobile phone with me.'

Shock and horror of horrors. It's the way of the world these days that mobile phones have been almost forced upon us and we all must have one. I discovered I had left mine at home whilst I was sitting in the doctor's surgery. An immediate feeling of discomfort enveloped me, almost as strong as the

discomfort which instigated the appointment with the doc in the first place.

What if someone was trying to contact me? What if I need to call someone? What if I get in an accident? What if Rod Petrie wants to offer me the Hibs job? (Mike you support Hearts....how ill are you? Ed.)

What if...well, just what if?

Before we had email, texting, Twitter, Facebook, or any other social/communication network on phones we could fit in our pocket and use anywhere we wanted, people either a) made contact if we had answered the phone at home or b) left a message on an answerphone (if there was one) Hell, they even did that almost unheard of action these days – call back. They didn't try every number, email address, or online account they had for us just to reach us for whatever reason – we simply weren't available. We either missed their call at home, arrived to find a voicemail waiting for us or answered their call when they tried again.

Now in this super-advanced, high-speed technical age, we are supposed to be contactable 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, whenever someone feels the need to be in touch.

It doesn't matter if you are at the supermarket, grabbing a bite to eat during your all too short lunch break at work or playing with your children or, in my case, grandchildren at the park – everyone knows you have a mobile phone and thinks you should be available to answer it. But what if you didn't?

With the mass production of mobile devices, it's a sad sign of the times that even eating out at a restaurant can see people sitting at a table together quietly, staring at their phones. Have you ever sat with someone while they texted, emailed, or talked on the phone with someone else for just a tad too long? Perhaps it's my age but this really irritates the hell out of me and makes me feel even less important than I normally feel.

The constant need for constant updates about everything under the sun (and it's usually of no importance at all) has created a nation of mute zombies, blindly walking with their head down engrossed in the latest update about...whatever. We used to be able to deal with not seeing the latest news until we got around to it; why the need now?

Don't get me wrong, I am not a tech-luddite. I have a Blackberry, laptop and tablet. And I do browse on the internet on my mobile while the bus driver has to negotiate his way through selfish and occasionally stupid motorists on Edinburgh's streets as well as dealing with the ned culture that seems an ever-increasing presence on our public transport (but that's for another rant).

I understand it's now become difficult to leave the house without the modern-day adult version of a security blanket. As the aforementioned trip to the doctor proved, I found it difficult too. However, this experience made me think about getting some 'me' time back – and going out more often without the demanding little piece of instant technology that common consensus says you can't do without. When I do go 'mobile free' I have been rather startled at just how often I reach for my phone in my pocket only to find it's not there – and I am forced to do something else. You may feel the same. What to do?

Try looking around. Try talking to a human being. Try paying attention. When you don't feel chased down by someone or aren't busy staring at that little 4.5 inch screen full of Facebook and Twitter updates, it's amazing what you can experience.

Try it out a few days a week or a few times a month. Leave your phone at home once in a while. It could change your life.

Got to go now. My phone has just bleeped to indicate there's a text message for me. And I simply *must* read it immediately...

Radio ENRG Charity Broadcast Bonanza – today!



Since its launch six months ago, [Radio ENRG](#) has become the platform for talk, tunes, tales and talent. Now home to over 20 unique shows, the station is winding down as the term comes to a close; what better way to start summer 2014 with a 36-hour [fundraiser](#)!

Radio ENRG (pronounced 'energy' – stands for 'Edinburgh Napier Radio Group') invites you to tune in to their first Charity Broadcast Bonanza which aims to raise £300 for two Scottish charities:- [Alzheimer Scotland](#) which provides a wide range of specialist services for people with dementia and their carers and [Edinburgh Young Carers Project](#) which is a voluntary organisation working with and on behalf of young carers throughout Edinburgh.

Station founder and presenter George Ward will be joined by host of 'Rock Block' Liam Hope alongside a host of Radio ENRG hosts throughout the 24-hours of live broadcasting on Monday 26 May and Tuesday 27 May, 8am-8pm. The 12-hour overnight pre-recorded segment will give listeners another chance to hear previous episodes of some of Radio ENRG's shows.

[Tune in](#) for part (or all!) of the 36-hours and spread the word by tweeting about the event with the hashtag #enrgcbb. You can [donate](#) and request a shout-out for a friend or loved one via radioenrg@gmail.com

Concern for missing East Lothian teenager



Police in East Lothian are appealing for information to help trace a girl reported missing in Tranent.

Billie Gannon, who is 14-years-old, was last seen at around 3pm on Saturday 24th May 2014 near Waverley train station in Edinburgh.

However, she has not been seen or heard from since and concern is now growing for her welfare.

Billie is described as white, 5ft 4in, of slim build, and with brown hair with extensions down to her chest. She was last seen wearing denim jeans, a black vest top, a grey All Stars hooded top and bright pink Puma suede trainers, and was carrying a grey handbag.

A police spokesman said: "There is concern for Billie, and members of the public are asked to get in touch if they can assist officers with their investigation to trace her. Anyone with any relevant information should contact Police Scotland on 101 immediately."

Hibs release FOURTEEN players



Terry Butcher's re-building programme for Hibs has started with fourteen players leaving the club immediately.

These include first choice goalkeeper Ben Williams, former skipper James McPake, veteran full back Alan Maybury, Paul Cairney, Tom Taiwo and Scotland international Kevin Thomson.

Rumours on social media suggest that several other players have been told to find a new club.

The club issued the following statement on the Official Website a few minutes ago.

"Hibernian FC can confirm that the following players who are out of contract have not been offered terms of re-engagement:

Ben Williams

Sean Murdoch

Paul Grant

James McPake

Alan Maybury

Bradley Donaldson

Paul Cairney

Tom Taiwo

David Gold

Dean Horribine

Kevin Thomson

Loan players Daniel Boateng, Danny Haynes and Duncan Watmore all return to their parent clubs.

The Club would like to thank the players for their service to the Club”

Help Barnardo's during Volunteers' Week

✘ Volunteer's Week runs from 1st- 7th June and Barnardo's Scotland is celebrating the 30th anniversary of Volunteers' Week by saying a huge 'thank you' to the army of volunteers across Edinburgh who give their support, daily, to their shops, services and fundraising events.

The charity hopes that this week of celebration will encourage people to find out more about volunteering and is keen to hear from anyone who would like to put their spare time to good use and become a volunteer with the charity.

The charity currently has volunteers nationwide from all walks of life, ages and abilities, but is keen to recruit more people willing to donate their time. Volunteers help Barnardo's Scotland in a variety of ways. These include volunteering directly with children and young people, in the charity's shops and offices or helping to raise vital funds.

Barnardo's Scotland also has special opportunities for employee volunteering, young volunteers and university students. Volunteers get involved for many reasons – to support Barnardo's Scotland's work and cause; to do something unusual and inspiring or to learn new skills and improve their CV. It is also an opportunity to meet new people.

Alison McLaughlin, Volunteering Manager at Barnardo's Scotland, said:- "Volunteering is fun and rewarding. It can also be a stepping stone to a new career and help you to gain the skills you need for a new role or job. Depending on a person's interests and skills, Barnardo's Scotland can find the right volunteering opportunity to suit you."

Deriel Loftus, Area Business Manager for Barnardo's Scotland, is keen to hear from people willing to volunteer in one of her 21 shops. She says: "Volunteers are crucial to us. They are vital to running our business. In fact, we simply couldn't exist without them. They are an important part of our success and are an integral part of Barnardo's Scotland."

"Our shops are very professionally run and volunteers can gain valuable experience and a lot of enjoyment out of joining their local store team."

All Barnardo's volunteers are given full training and support. If you're interested in volunteering with Barnardo's Scotland, please call 0131 446 7000 or [go to the website.](#)

If you are interested in volunteering in a shop, please ring 07810 152195 for details of your nearest store.

Braids Open Day to celebrate 125th anniversary



One of Scotland's most iconic golf courses, credited with inspiring the growth of urban golf since the nineteenth century and home to the Dispatch Trophy, is to celebrate its 125th anniversary.

Braid Hills Golf Course, beloved for its unique views of Arthur's Seat, Edinburgh Castle and the Firth of Forth, is marking the occasion by offering free golf at dedicated times on its birthday, Thursday May 29th.

As part of the celebrations, new members will be welcomed with a 25% discount on season tickets purchased on May 29 only.

Braid Hills, the testing ground for golfing greats James Braid and Tommy Armour, is predicting a bumper summer, building on the momentum of 2013, which proved its most successful year in a decade.

Established in 1889 to offer an alternative to golf enthusiasts after safety issues required the closure of Bruntsfield Links, the Braid Hills site was a marvel at the time, as a golf course situated in the centre of a capital city.

Golf, previously mostly associated with seaside sites, became urban. The success of 'The Braids' was credited with inspiring a wealth of new city golf courses which were established in the decades to follow.

The Braids has also been credited with boosting the fortunes of what came to be one of Edinburgh's most sought after districts, Morningside.

With a new setting for golf came a new style of golfer, and just a few years later the Dispatch Trophy was launched.

The site has continually evolved over 125 years, including parts being ploughed over for growing food during WW2. The 15th and 16th greens were also used during wartime for fire

pits designed to draw out bombers during blackouts.

The 14th hole was once a pond, popular for skating in the winter.



The Wee Braids, a nine hole course, was established in 2004 to introduce children and young people to golf.

The atmosphere surrounding the Dispatch Trophy coupled with the 125th anniversary celebrations is expected to entice a new batch of golfers.

David Atkinson, Golf and Grounds Maintenance Manager at Edinburgh Leisure, said: "The Braids has a unique topography which is ideal for golf. The gorse bushes, the highs and lows of the land, lends itself perfectly to the game and creates a challenging course which has always attracted enthusiasts, as well as tourists thanks to its beautiful views.

"We are looking forward to welcoming as many people as possible on Thursday to enjoy a free game at historic Braid Hills."

Free golf is offered to all on Thursday 29th May between 7am – 3pm and 6pm – 7.30pm, at Braid Hills Golf Course.

Tee off times are on a first come first served basis, and advance booking is advisable to avoid disappointment.

Annual season tickets purchased at the Braid Hills Golf Course on Thursday May 29th will benefit from a 25% discount. This offer is exclusive to new customers who pay upfront (direct debit not available). Not available to concessions, combined memberships or used in conjunction with any other offers.

For further information visit www.edinburghleisure.co.uk/venues/braid-hills-golf-course or call 0131 447 6666.

Rod Petrie apologises to Hibs' fans



Hibernian Football Club last night issued an apology to supporters via the club's official website. The statement reads:

"Chairman Rod Petrie, the Board, Manager Terry Butcher and the coaching and playing staff understand that supporters have suffered for most of the season.

Manager Terry Butcher, speaking on behalf of the coaching staff and players, said: "We are devastated that our season has ended in this way, and we can only apologise to supporters for letting them down.

"I knew when I took on this role that it would be a challenge, and I remain determined to work to rebuild a team to get this Club to where it belongs at the top of Scottish football. I can assure supporters they will see very different performances and results next season."

Chairman Rod Petrie, said: "Let me start by saying that I am sorry for a dismal season on the pitch. The season started badly last July against Malmo in the Europa League and has finished even worse with relegation to the Championship. The Manager and Players know that performances on the pitch have not been good enough. To lose the play off at Easter Road Stadium after extra time and penalties having put ourselves in

a great position after the away tie at Hamilton is a bitter pill for everyone to swallow.

“Supporters have turned up in numbers to support the team – 16,108 against Malmo and 18,031 here for the second leg of the play off match. Supporters are suffering. All we can do is apologise and thank them for backing the team. Supporters are also quite rightly asking what we are going to do about it?

“We recognise that change is needed. The Board and supporters agree that all of the work that has gone into creating an infrastructure unrivalled outside Glasgow needs to be matched by consistent sporting success.

“Some supporters have suggested that I should resign as Chairman. I take responsibility for the position that the Club finds itself in. However, it would be wrong for me to abdicate that responsibility at this time and walk away and it would be wrong for the Club. Having already announced a few weeks ago that I am handing over my executive responsibilities, it is in the best interests of the Club for me complete that transition to our new Chief Executive and to oversee the other far reaching changes at the Club as non-executive Chairman.

“Leeann Dempster has already been appointed as Chief Executive to lead the Club forward. She will join us in the next few days. Leeann achieved sporting success at Motherwell and will work closely with Terry Butcher as the Club begins the task of assembling a competitive squad for next season. Leeann’s arrival is the first of a number of planned changes in the coming weeks and months ahead at Hibernian.”

The Chairman added: “In essence, this summer will be a pivotal point in the long history of Hibernian, creating a new platform to take the Club forward in a positive, energetic and sustainable way.

“In the meantime I can only thank you for your unwavering support for the team and for your continued patience as we

work towards implementing change.

“Without its supporters, the Club is nothing. With its supporters, the Club can again achieve great things.”

Terry Butcher's darkest day in football



Hibs' manager Terry Butcher says that yesterday's defeat to Hamilton Academical which consigned the club to playing Championship football next season was his darkest day in football.

Supporters had answered the call and turned out in number expecting to see Hibs maintain their top flight status, but their 2-0 aggregate lead was erased and the play offs were decided on penalties.

After the game hundreds of supporters gathered at the rear of the West Stand demanding the resignations of Chairman Rod Petrie and Butcher, but the club later issued a statement to the effect that both would remain in post.

A dejected Terry Butcher told BBC Scotland: “It's the worst ever. I've been relegated before as a manager and a player, it's horrible.

“I must give Hamilton full credit, they can certainly play and they did today. It's my darkest day in football.”

“Whether I continue in the job is up to other people, but I want to continue,” said Butcher. “I'm extremely angry, but

I'll take the responsibility because we've had time to put it right.

"It was like watching a car crash today, to be honest. And it's been like that in the past few months.

"It's not just about today but the previous games and we haven't done enough to get ourselves out of trouble.

"We were talking about going for the top six a few months ago. Now we find ourselves relegated.

"I must give full credit to Hamilton. They came at us today and, for some reason, we sat off the game and allowed them to play and they can certainly play.

"We had it there with a minute and 15 seconds to go. We were fine, but we've conceded a goal and then extra-time is a bit of a lottery in many aspects because both sets of players were extremely tired.

"Then it gets to the penalties and, well, there you go. I can't point to bad luck because it's more than bad luck.

"When you're relegated, you deserve to get relegated and it's over the piece, it's over the whole season and not just the last game.

"You felt when it went to penalties that we've got a bit of a chance, but when you miss the first one then you're always up against it."

Photo by John Preece

<http://www.photoboxgallery.com/jlp-photography>

What's On In Edinburgh this week

✖ MONDAY 26 MAY 2014

Looking Glass Books – [First Time Solo; Iain Maloney](#) launches his debut novel, the story of four RAF men preparing for war 'in a world where moral absolutes are being discarded daily and the certainties of the old order are crumbling.' 6.30pm, [Looking Glass Books, 36 Simpson's Loan.](#) To book your free place RSVP to info@freightbooks.co.uk

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

✖ **Golden Hare Books** – monthly book group. This month's book is **Kirsty Logan's** *The Rental Heart & Other Stories*. Free wine and refreshments available. 6.30pm, 102 West Bow. Call 0131 629 1396 or see [website](#) for details.

Call for submissions: the **2014 Edinburgh Macmillan Art Exhibition, Inspired!**, will take place 14-17 August at [Bonhams](#), Queen Street. Artists receive a minimum of 50% from sales, with all profits going to help people affected by cancer in Scotland. Deadline for submissions is 20th June 2014. For details and application forms visit www.macmillanartshow.org. The organisers are especially keen to see the work of artists new to the show.

[Figuring Fergusson](#): Kerry Watson, Gallery of Modern Art Librarian, discusses responses to **John Duncan Fergusson's** life & work by current students from Glasgow School of Art's Department of Painting & Printmaking. 12.45-1.30pm, The Studio, [Modern Art One](#), free & unticketed.

TUESDAY 27 MAY 2014

Leith Folk Club: Mean Mary & Frank James. 7.30pm for 8pm, Victoria Park House Hotel, Ferry Rd. £7, tickets available on the door. Information on [website](#) or call booking line: 07502 024852

Collective Gallery, City Observatory: **Conversation of Monuments** – an installation and public research project to realise a new monument for the city. Artist Laura Yuile will be in the gallery every day 3-5pm to engage visitors in conversation and conduct focus groups and interviews with them. Today until 29th June 2014; gallery open Tuesday-Sunday 10am-5pm. More information on website or call 0131 556 1264.

National Library of Scotland Play-reading Group: who would you like to be? No performance, no public audience, no experience necessary. 6-8pm, NLS, George IV Bridge. Free, no need to book. Contact Reader in Residence Kate Hendry at k.hendry@nls.uk for further information.

Lunchtime Concert: Hallby Dane Choir from Eskilstuna, Sweden. 12.15pm , [St Giles Cathedral, Royal Mile](#).

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

Blackwell's Edinburgh presents **Richard Clubley: Scotland's Islands, a Special Kind of Freedom**. Richard Clubley shares the sense of freedom he finds in the Scottish islands as he discovers their individual character, beauty and diversity. 'A book for islanders to savour in sips.' 6.30-7.30pm, Blackwell's, South Bridge. Tickets are free and can be obtained from the shop's front desk or by calling 0131 622 8218.

Uncovering Fergusson: Senior Curator **Alice Strang** tells the stories involved in tracking down and installing the more than 100 paintings and sculptures in the Fergusson exhibition lent from private and public UK collections. 12.45-1.30pm, Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free but tickets must be obtained in advance from the information desk at the National Gallery.

Crystallography Matters! **Celebrating the 2014 International Year of Crystallography.** This week Dr Emrys Phillips from the British Geological Survey will talk about 'Nature's Stained Glass – Using Crystallography to reveal the processes which have shaped our planet.' 6.30pm, Cairns Lecture Theatre, [Summerhall](#). A University of Edinburgh event. Free tickets must be booked via [eventbrite](#).

Leith Interventions: students from the University of Edinburgh's MSc in Advanced Sustainable Design investigate the development of Leith into a more sustainable area, focusing on sites around Leith Links. Opening event 5.30-7.30pm, [Out of the Blue Drill Hall](#), 36 Dalmeny Street. Exhibition continues until Thursday 29th May 2014.

WEDNESDAY 28 MAY 2014

Lunchtime Concert: Piano Speak with Will Pickvance. Popular off -the-cuff concert of piano improvisation and repartee. 12.15pm, [St Giles Cathedral, Royal Mile](#)

The Great Tapestry of Scotland & Scottish Identity: a talk by **Alistair Moffat**. Part of the Soul of Scotland Lecture Series. 7.30-9pm [St Andrew's & St George's West Church, George Street](#). Free but please register via [eventbrite](#).

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

Powell & Mehrpouya: The Palace of Forgetting: new works – an exhibition encompassing new & traditional media, which focuses on the construction & manipulation of knowledge and its relation to questions of power & control. Opens today and continues to 21st June 2014, Weds-Sunday 10am-5.30pm at Warburton Gallery, 1 India Buildings: www.warburtongallery.com

THURSDAY 29 MAY 2014

Blackwell's Edinburgh presents **Head for the Edge, Keep Walking** – Kate Tough's much awaited new novel. 'What does it take to stay sane in this life? And why does it look easier for everyone else?' 6.30-7.30pm. Blackwell's South Bridge. Free tickets available from the shop's front desk or by calling 0131 622 8218.

An Evening with Tony Singh: the award-winning chef, who forms one half of the **Incredible Spice Men**, introduces his new book, **Tasty**, and offers some samples of the delicious recipes inside. 6pm, **Waterstones West End**, 128 Princes Street. Tickets £4 (£3 for Waterstones card holders), must be purchased from the shop, tel: 0131 226 2666.

Live Music Now: Wildings. A varied selection of original and traditional tunes and songs for fiddle, flute, whistles, voice & piano. Free and unticketed. 6-6.30pm, **Scottish National Portrait Gallery**, 1 Queen Street.

Edinburgh College of Art Postgraduate Research Festival – Digital Media Studio Project, Installation and Event.

Presented by students from MSc courses in Sound Design, Design & Digital Media, and Acoustics & Music Technology. Performances include 'Piece for Viola & Electronics', 'Brain Drain' & 'Exploring Sonic Structures.' 7-10pm, **Wee Red Bar**, ECA Lauriston Place.

Art Meets Medical Research: Launch of exhibition of works by three artists from the Art, Space & Nature Masters Programme at Edinburgh College of Art, following residencies at the

Queen's Medical Research Institute. 4pm, Mary Kinross Room, College of Medicine & Veterinary Science, 47 Little France Crescent.

FRIDAY 30 MAY 2014

Guid Crack: Think on Your Feet. Storyteller Lindsey Gibb leads an evening of improvised stories. 7.30-10pm, upstairs at the Waverley Bar, 3-5 St Mary's Street. Contact [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#) for more information.

Lunchtime Concert: Lynne Bulmer plays flute. 12.15pm [St Giles Cathedral, Royal Mile](#).

Informal Concert: Nokken Skolekor from Norway. 3pm, [St Giles Cathedral, Royal Mile](#).

✗ **Talbot Rice Gallery, University of Edinburgh, Old College, South Bridge.** Preview night for new exhibitions: **Jason Dee, Pursuit of a Shadow** 'a captivating expose of the underlying changes in our relationship to moving images' 'a fascinating a timely dialogue with the history of cinema.' and **Hand-made Cinema, the work of Norman McLaren** 'celebrating the fluid – almost alchemical – creative processes of this experimental filmmaker and musician.' 6-8pm, for more information contact the gallery on 0131 650 2210.

Edinburgh College of Art Postgraduate Research Festival: Designs for (the failure of) an Institution – PhD by Design Exhibition & Reception. An exhibition of work produced as part of a recently completed PhD in Architecture by Design. 6-8pm, Matthew Architecture Gallery, Minto House, 20-22 Chambers Street.

SATURDAY 31 MAY 2014

6@bonnington group exhibition: [Patriothall Gallery](#), off Henderson Place, Stockbridge. Today until 8th June, times vary – see [website](#) or call 0131 226 7126

[Talbot Rice Gallery](#), University of Edinburgh, Old College, South Bridge – new exhibitions: **Jason Dee, Pursuit of a Shadow** and **Norman McLaren, Hand-made cinema**. Today until 5th July 2014. See [website](#) or call 0131 650 2210 for further details. Free.

[Talbot Rice Gallery](#): artist's talk. Jason Dee discusses his new exhibition, [Pursuit of a Shadow](#) (see above), with John Calcutt. 11am, free, bookings must be made via [eventbrite](#).

Lunchtime Concert: St George's Singers from Poynton, Cheshire. 12.15pm, [St Giles Cathedral, Royal Mile](#).

[Doubtfire Gallery](#): new exhibition of paintings by [Linda Park](#). 10am-5pm, Monday to Saturday, 3 South East Circus Place, tel: 0131 225 6540

Informal Concert: Boler Mannskor from Norway. 3pm, [St Giles' Cathedral, Royal Mile](#).

The Hidden Library – special events for families, from babies to grandparents, at the [National Library of Scotland](#), George IV Bridge. Storytelling, tours, comic book workshop and lots more, some drop-in events, some bookable – all FREE. For programme, booking & contact details click [here](#).

Summer Fair & Teddy Toddle – The Sick Kids Friends Foundation. 12noon-4pm, Meadowbank Sports Centre, London Road. For more information and contact details, click [here](#).

3 Harbours Arts Festival starts today in Cockenzie, Port Seton & Prestonpans. Art, crafts, exhibitions, events, music & lots more. See www.3harbours.co.uk for details. Continues until 8th June 2014 (not all venues open midweek.)

East Neuk Open Studios continues this weekend in Cellardyke, Crail, St Monan's & Pittenweem. See www.eastneukopenstudios.org for details.

SUNDAY 1 JUNE 2014

[The Serenity Cafe](#), 8 Jackson's Entry, off Holyrood Rd, hosts the [Surgeons' Hall Museum](#)'s exhibition: [Words & Deeds, Weapons & Wounding](#). Today to 30th June 2014.

[Art Maker](#) – join the Art Maker Club and make your own masterpieces with artists Tessa Asquith-Lamb and Louise Fraser. Ages 4-12. 2-4pm, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free drop-in session.

[The Glasshouses at the Royal Botanic Garden](#), Inverleith Row are open today for the charity [Scotland's Gardens](#). 10am-5.30pm, £5, concessions £4, children under 16 free, no advanced booking needed. Proceeds are shared between various charities.



Five things you need to know today



European Elections – Cycling Hub – Free Wifi – Tonight at the Filmhouse – EdinburghReportage

The results of the European Parliamentary Election local counting area have been announced by The City of Edinburgh Council.

The local count was announced on Sunday 25 May 2014.

The number of votes cast for each party are:

BRITAIN FIRST, 1,035

BRITISH NATIONAL PARTY, 676

CONSERVATIVE PARTY, 27,554

LABOUR PARTY, 32,758

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS, 12,575

NO2EU, 548

SCOTTISH GREEN PARTY, 22,836

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY 32,721

UK INDEPENDENCE PARTY, 10,992

Valid votes 141,695

Rejected papers 271

Total votes cast 141,966

Turnout 41.6%

The full results detailing the six MEPs who have been elected for Scotland will be announced later today.

Almost a year ago the council decided to spend £1.215m on a cycling hub at the Jack Kane Centre. This might include a road loop, a regional track cycling facility and a bmx track. Some work has been done on master plan options and after a further period of consultation a decision will be made by the Culture and Sport Committee in August.

The Culture and Sport Committee meets on Tuesday of this week.

You can add your name to a petition to the Scottish Parliament if you are quick. Mr James Macfarlane has lodged the following petition at Holyrood: -“Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to issue a code of practice setting out a minimum standard for wifi connections provided by public authorities to members of the public; and to urge all Scottish public authorities to provide wifi connections that meet this standard in all their public buildings.”

There is a bit more background on this petition [here](#).

Two Faces of January just opened at the Filmhouse yesterday and shows there today at various times during the day. [Booking details here](#). Rotten Tomatoes gives it 82%. If you would like to write a short review for us then feel free!

Did you get any good photos of the weather yesterday? Then you could add them to our weather storyboard here! We are sure that some of you snapped a rainbow or the torrential rain!

Click [here](#) to take you to the weather storyboard.



John Lewis serving up Tom

Kitchin's heritage menu



Edinburgh chef Tom Kitchin teams up with John Lewis for their 150th anniversary celebrations.

To mark the important anniversary, John Lewis has unveiled an exclusive heritage menu designed by the top Michelin star chef.

John Lewis Edinburgh's The Place to Eat restaurant will serve the 150th Heritage Menu, from 26 May to 29 June, transporting diners back to 1864 – the year the retailer opened its doors as a humble draper's shop on London's Oxford Street. The menu includes three dishes inspired by the kitchens of the 1860s; *Sheep's Heid Scotch Broth*, *Stargazy Fish Pie* and *Scottish Strawberry Fool*.



Each of the dishes developed by Tom Kitchin have been inspired by the John Lewis archives, as well as Tom's research with the National Library of Scotland. Tom drew on old menus and recipes found in the archives giving them his own twist of Scottish flair. Tom has also been personally training the John Lewis chefs on how to perfect his inspirational recipes, which combine history and local heritage with a little Michelin star magic.

Tom Kitchin said: "In Scotland we are lucky to have such a rich culinary past. I'm incredibly passionate about discovering and recreating traditional, classic Scottish dishes so looking back in the archives and developing these recipes has been really interesting for me. Each of the dishes we've created are simple yet delicious and bring a little bit of history and fun to the John Lewis celebrations.

“I also had the opportunity to look through Beatrice Lewis’s recipe book. Beatrice was the wife of the founder of the John Lewis Partnership. Her recipes included gooseberry fool, roast mutton, pea soup and grouse served with bread sauce and game chips – all fantastic dishes that I in fact regularly cook myself today,”




Barry Blamire, head of branch at John Lewis Edinburgh, said: “At John Lewis Edinburgh, our 150th anniversary celebrations are in full swing. John Spedan Lewis, the founder of the John Lewis Partnership was a great food-lover and told his staff, ‘for most people eating is one of the chief pleasures of life, immensely important to good temper and liveliness of mind.’ Spedan Lewis recognised the importance of enjoying food and dining and our 150th Heritage Menu celebrates this whilst offering our customers a new unique and exciting dining experience.”

The limited edition menu will be available from 26 May to 29 June in The Place to Eat at John Lewis Edinburgh and includes the following dishes:

- Shiep’s Heid Scotch Broth (£6.25)
- Stargazy Fish Pie (£8.95)
- Scottish Strawberry Fool (£4.50)

Author Neil Broadfoot launches Falling Fast

 Twenty-five years ago, [Neil Broadfoot](#) made a promise to his Gran; that promise sustained him through all the trials and

tribulations of writing his first novel. On Wednesday night at [Looking Glass Books](#) Neil introduced [Falling Fast](#); his Gran, he says, would have needed a whisky and soda to cope with the body count in the book, but she would still have been very proud.

Neil, a former journalist, was in conversation with his agent **Bob McDevitt** of [Jenny Brown Associates](#); Bob opened the evening by reading the first few cracking paragraphs of the book to an appreciative audience. Neil has put his journalistic experience to good use; there is no faffing about in this story – within minutes a girl has fallen from the Scott Monument and crashed in graphic manner into Princes Street Gardens. Who she was and why she fell are questions by which we are instantly hooked, and the story moves on at a fast pace.

Inevitably there will be comparisons with that other Edinburgh author – no, not JK Rowling...but Neil says that although he was obviously conscious of [Ian Rankin](#)'s Rebus novels, every writer tells his own story in his own voice. He just set out to write a good book, but like everyone he's been influenced by what he's read over the years; Rankin, [Stuart MacBride](#), [Christopher Brookmyre](#) and [Iain Banks](#) are all great favourites. [Stephen King](#) novels borrowed from the school library were Neil's earliest influences; he especially admires the plot-drive structure of [Carrie](#), and used to write horror stories to keep his school friends awake at night. Eventually he decided to 'stop mucking about' and work on something that would grab readers from page one and keep them reading. He doesn't rule out a return to the horror genre though, and hopes that he's managed to emulate some of King's style in *Falling Fast*.

✖ Journalism taught Neil to look at the hard facts – the who? where? what? when? and why? – and although writing a novel reverses this order it is still the why? in particular that drives his work. Whilst Neil admits that he sometimes finds

it hard to build emotion back into his writing, his newspaper experience made the editing process much easier, saying 'You leave the ego at the door.' If a journalist can see the sense in an editorial suggestion, he'll do it; there is no point in being precious about a story. Bob explained, however, that agents can never be as dictatorial as press editors; it's a two-way conversation and agents are just readers who can suggest things that might improve a book, with the author generally still having the final say. Neil feels he's been exceptionally lucky to have both an agent and a publisher who understand his work. Bob advised him to enter *Falling Fast* for the [Dundee International Book Prize](#); it was longlisted and although it didn't win, it was spotted by Sara Hunt of [Saraband Books](#). Sara was looking to start Contraband, a new crime imprint and tweeted Neil to express interest; from then on the process has been painless. He's also had the good fortune to have great support from his wife Fiona and family – including the smallest member who came along on Wednesday night and had a great time exercising her lungs when all this book talk got a bit too much...

☒ Neil believes you should write about what you know; he now works as a Communications Officer for the Scottish Government, and politics soon rear their head in *Falling Fast*, when the remains splattered over the grass where office workers are eating their lunch turn out to belong to an MSP's daughter. He started with the bare bones of a 'twisty-turny' plot then fleshed it out to show that everyone has good and bad points, and as he did so he found that some characters became more complex and interesting. He calls the first draft the 'chaos version', in which the writer pours everything onto the page – but the writer knows what's going to happen, so needs to go back and hide a few things, to shape the story and make the reader's experience satisfying. The quality of the relationships in *Falling Fast* is, says Bob, one of its greatest strengths. Although Neil had a rough idea of the story's ending before he started to write, the motive for the

crime only came to him in the second draft; the characters informed it.

Neil's already nearly finished book two, in fact he's now working on how the plot of this second novel will fit in with books three and four. Being shortlisted at Dundee has given him much more confidence about his writing, although he still finds it 'surreal' to see his family and friends reading his book. His work colleagues say they're amazed that such a quiet person could produce such a thriller. A publishing deal has given him the space to expand his imaginary universe, and although the next four books are his main focus just now, he's open to any ideas that come along. He hasn't yet managed to give up the day job, but he's working on it; he tries to write something every day.

Neil Broadfoot used secretly to make spaces on bookshop shelves for the novels he hadn't quite written; now, after years of hard work, those spaces are filled by *Falling Fast*. As Neil says, 'it's surreal.'

[Falling Fast](#) by Neil Broadfoot is published by Contraband, an imprint of Saraband Books and is available from [Looking Glass Books](#), Simpson's Loan.

Looking Glass Books hosts a continuing programme of writers – see [website](#) for details of forthcoming events.

View from Oz on Scottish Independence

Scotland should be given the right to vote for Independence, we live in a democratic society, they should be supported, no-one, I mean no-one should deny a country Independence, or the opportunity to vote on it. It will be interesting to see who her friends are should they become successful.

My Glaswegian father youst ta say:-

"Proud Scotsmen without freedom hurt, Shameless Scotsman without money cry" Hoist your flag high and best wishes from Australia.

Submitted by [Robert Anderson](#)

Hibernian 0-2 Hamilton Academical – HIBS RELEGATED



Hibs have been relegated from the SPFL after losing a dramatic penalty shoot out to Hamilton Academical in front of a packed Easter Road stadium today.

The result sparked a demonstration from furious supporters outside the main stand at the end of the game, as fans demanded the resignations of both Chairman Rod Petrie and manager Terry Butcher.

Hibs went into the game with a 2-0 lead from the first leg and the manager made one change to the starting line up with Danny

Haynes replacing Alex Harris however the on-loan winger lasted only a few minutes before being forced to leave the field with an ankle injury.

Hamilton grabbed the lead in the 11th minute following a poor clearance from Ryan McGivern when Jason Scotland turned Michael Nelson and hammered the ball into the far corner of the net to the delight of the travelling support.

Hibs almost responded immediately when Jason Cummings released Paul Heffernan who rounded Kevin Cuthbert but the linesman's flag was raised.

Scott Robertson tested Cuthbert with a well struck shot, but Hamilton looked dangerous on the break and Hibs had Ben Williams to thank in the 21st minute when he blocked from Louis Longridge.

Hibs almost grabbed an equaliser just before half time when Liam Craig's corner kick found Cummings at the back post, but his goal bound header was hooked it clear from the line.

Accies' started the second half strongly and Williams once again did well to prevent Scotland doubling their lead.

Midweek hero Jason Cummings almost scored following a Lewis Stevenson cross then substitute Mickael Antoine-Curier saw his effort deflected over by McGivern as Hibs held on to their aggregate lead.

There was some confusion when the announcer reported four minutes of added time as the Easter Road scoreboard clock had stopped on 86 minutes, then with seconds remaining, Andreu swept in Scotland's cutback from close range to send the game to extra-time.

Neither side went close in the additional 30 minutes and the game was decided on penalties.

Kevin Thomson took the first and his effort was saved by Cuthbert. The Hamilton players all scored, as did Ryan McGivern, Liam Craig and Owain Tudur Jones. With the score standing at 4-3 to the visitors, Jason Cummings needed to score to keep Hibs hopes alive but the youngsters effort was well saved and Hamilton celebrated their promotion with their fans in the south stand.

After the game around 500 Hibs supporters vented their anger at Terry Butcher and Chairman Rod Petrie outside the West Stand.

Hibernian: Williams, McGivern, Nelson, Robertson, Craig, Stevenson, Maybury, Heffernan (Tudur Jones 82'), Stanton, Haynes (Harris 7', Thomson 64')), Cummings. Substitutes not used: Murdoch, Cairney, Collins, Forster.

Hamilton Academical: Cuthbert, Gordon, Canning, Gillespie, Routledge (Ryan 81'), Crawford (Neil 81'), Longridge (Antoine-Curier 67'), MacKinnon, Andreu, Garcia, Scotland. Substitutes not used: Currie, Devlin, Keatings, Kilday.

Referee: William Collum.

Attendance: 18,031