

# Young student saves the day for Sick Kids



An 18-year-old is wearing his favourite superhero costume for a whole month to raise money for the Sick Kids Friends Foundation (SKFF) after his brother received treatment at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children (RHSC), in Edinburgh.

Eddie Gomer-Fell, of Galashiels, has vowed to dress up as fantasy comic book star Green Arrow until 8th April to show his gratitude for the wealth of services provided by the charity outwith NHS provision.

The Edinburgh College student's younger brother Tom was admitted to the hospital aged ten, following serious problems with his legs and hip joints. Thankfully, Tom has fully recovered from his condition but still remembers the three consecutive years he spent in need of treatment.

Eddie said: "Tom's illness really made us all appreciate the services on offer at RHSC and the fundamental organisations, like SKFF, that are instrumental in making them happen.

"I'm so thankful of Tom's recovery that I decided to come up with a fun, unique and unusual fundraiser.

"I've worn my Green Arrow costume to college already, and will have to wear it on an aeroplane and at the pub over the next few weeks! Although I'm getting some pretty strange looks, I hope I will encourage more people to donate to the SKFF."

He continued: "It was a very difficult time for our family when Tom was admitted to hospital, however the accommodation provided by the Sick Kids Friends Foundation meant my mum could stay by his side at all times.

“I’m taking on this wacky challenge because I want to give something back to the charity that made life so much easier for our family at a time when we were all so worried about my brother’s health.”

The SKFF spends £30,000 each year to fund PJ’s Loft and other parent accommodation in the RHSC. This investment allows the charity to provide vital rooms, living areas and showers for parents whose children are admitted to hospital overnight.

Rachel McKenzie, head of community fundraising and events at SKFF, said: “At the Sick Kids Friends Foundation we encourage our supporters to ‘Be a Superhero for Sick Kids’ and Eddie is the perfect example of one of our ultimate fundraising champions.

“We’re delighted to hear that SKFF-funded services made such a positive difference to the Fell family’s experience in hospital and wish Eddie the best of luck in completing this fantastic challenge.”

To follow Eddie’s superhero journey visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=SI0rRT832JE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SI0rRT832JE) or sponsor Eddie at [www.justgiving.com/Superforsickkids](http://www.justgiving.com/Superforsickkids).

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## Teenager in court after fatal collision in East Lothian



A teenager is due to appear at Haddington Sheriff Court today in connection with a crash that killed three of his friends in November last year.

Jenna Barbour, 18, Josh Stewart, 16, and 15-year-old David Armstrong, all from Dunbar, died in the collision at Tynninghame, East Lothian, on November 25.

Josh and David were in their fifth year at Dunbar Grammar School, while Miss Barbour had left the school in the summer.

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# Programme of War and Peace for Edinburgh International Festival



Over 2,400 artists from 43 nations have been invited to Edinburgh to perform in the annual showcase of the world's great performing artists.

Jonathan Mills, Director of the Festival since 2007 steps down after this year's event, his 8th Festival.

Exploring the relationship between culture and conflict in the year of the centenary commemoration of the First World War, the Festival presents theatre, dance and music that looks at the work of artists who in difficult and uncertain circumstances can transcend their surroundings to create work of great beauty and optimism.

Artists and companies include Kronos Quartet, Mariinsky Opera, Stan Douglas, Luk Perceval, National Theatre of Scotland and National Theatre of Great Britain, Heiner Goebbels, Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch, Rambert, Nicola Benedetti, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Lemi Ponifasio, Tom Cairns, Chekov International Theatre Festival, Czech Philharmonic, Ute

Lemper, Handspring Puppet Company, Brett Bailey, Blythe Duff, Sofie Gråbøl, Paco Peña Flamenco Company, Mark Baldwin, Daniil Trifonov, Anne Sofie von Otter, Piotr Anderszewski, Oliver Knussen, Jordi Savall, Collegium Vocale Gent and many, many others.

Reflecting the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, the Edinburgh International Festival in 2014 has invited artists from Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa to make a significant contribution to the Festival.

A season of work celebrating the 20th anniversary of democracy in South Africa opens with the world premiere of a new ballet Inala. Composer Ella Spira has collaborated with Ladysmith Black Mambazo which performs live creating the soundscape for dancers from Rambert and The Royal Ballet choreographed by Mark Baldwin.

Handspring Puppet Company is remounting the work which made its name internationally, based on the text by Alfred Jarry and the transcriptions of the South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Committee, Ubu and the Truth Commission. The Festival is part of an international co-producing partnership bringing this seminal work back to the stage.

South African artist Brett Bailey brings to Edinburgh his provocative and widely acclaimed live installation Exhibit B which will be staged in the grand setting of the Playfair Library Hall.

The South African season is the Festival's official contribution to the Glasgow 2014 Cultural Programme and is supported by the Glasgow 2014 Organising Committee, Glasgow Life, and Creative Scotland through National Lottery funding. The South African season is also supported by City of Edinburgh Council and the Department of Arts and Culture, South Africa.

Epic centerpieces of the Festival in 2014 come in the form of

three plays on three kings of Scotland, The James Plays by Rona Munro, and Berlioz's masterpiece Les Troyens, staged in Scotland for the first time in over 40 years.

The James Plays starring James McArdle, Blythe Duff, Andrew Rothney, Jamie Sives and Sofie Gråbøl among a very strong ensemble cast directed by Laurie Sansom, mark the first co-production between the National Theatre of Scotland and the National Theatre of Great Britain, and the Edinburgh International Festival. The James Plays mark Laurie Sansom's artistic debut in his new role as artistic director of the National Theatre of Scotland. The trilogy is supported by The Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund.

Festival audiences can experience all three plays in one day or spread the works, each filled with vibrant and powerful storytelling, over three days at the Festival Theatre.

Valery Gergiev and the mass forces of the Mariinsky Opera and Orchestra gather to perform Greek director Yannis Kokkos's vast staging of Berlioz's The Trojans. This epic opera experience set the path for Wagner's subsequent Ring cycle and rich orchestration.

Also in the opera programme for Festival 2014 is Benjamin Britten's ground-breaking opera written for television, Owen Wingrave, a co-production between Aldeburgh Music and Edinburgh International Festival. A story of a young man's moral tussle with his family's military history and expectations in a production directed by Neil Bartlett and conducted by Mark Wigglesworth, this is the first time Owen Wingrave will be staged at the Festival.

The Festival's other co-productions this year include The War, the story of young artists in Paris from 1913 onwards directed by Vladimir Pankov and staged by the Chekhov International Theatre Festival; and I AM, a new production from choreographer Lemi Ponifasio and MAU, last at the Festival in

2010 with *Birds with Skymirrors* and *Tempest: Without a Body*.

Tom Cairns directs Peter Eyre in an Edinburgh International Festival production of *Minetti*, a Thomas Bernhard play, in association with Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London and The Julliard School in New York.

The Festival has also commissioned the revival of Akram Khan's *Gnosis* in which he dances alongside Fang-Yi Sheu.

Festival favourites Pina Bausch's *Tanztheater Wuppertal* returns with her distinct dance theatre *Sweet Mambo* and Heiner Goebbels returns directing Ensemble musicFabrik in the large scale music-theatre work *Delusion of the Fury* by American composer Harry Partch.

Kronos Quartet plays live for its new collaboration with composer Aleksandra Vrebalov and filmmaker Bill Morrison, *Beyond Zero: 1914 – 1918* using the cinema set-up at the Festival Theatre, alongside a concert in the Usher Hall featuring Glass's recent collaboration *String Quartet No 6* and music by Clint Mansell made famous through the films of Darren Aronofsky.

Flemish director Luk Perceval returns to the Festival after 10 years with his company Thalia Theater staging *FRONT*, bringing together actors and texts from countries on all sides of the First World War including Remarque's famous novel *All Quiet on the Western Front*.

Canadian Stage brings together visual artist Stan Douglas and screen writer Chris Haddock in *Helen Lawrence*, bringing seduction to the stage with this film noir styled thriller of the 1940s is a ground breaking multimedia production.

*Ganesh Versus the Third Reich* is a provocative and funny story of the elephant god's attempt to reclaim the swastika from Nazi Germany, conceived and performed by a unique ensemble of actors with disabilities, which gives voice to social and political issues relevant to everyone.

Greyfriars early evening concert series returns, opening with Messiaen's sublime Quartet for the End of Time played by a wonderful ensemble of Steven Osborne, Alban Gerhardt, Antje Weithaas and Jörg Widmann.

The world premiere of Patria brings Paco Peña Flamenco Company back to the Festival with a personal new work in music and song by Peña inspired by the poet, artist, playwright and musician Federico García Lorca.

BBC Radio 3 broadcast 14 concerts live from The Queen's Hall including Ian Bostridge, Simon Keenlyside, Anna Prohaska, Trio Verlaine and Artemis Quartet and record four in the Usher Hall for future broadcast including the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra conducted by Maris Jansons, and Philippe Herreweghe and the Collegium Vocale Gent singing Bach's Mass in B minor.

The Opening Concert brings together three works written in the years preceding the First World War by Schoenberg, Scriabin and Debussy conducted by conductor and composer Oliver Knussen and performed by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Kirill Gerstein and Claire Booth.

The Usher Hall's 23 concert season includes Holst's The Planets, Britten's War Requiem, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra with Ute Lemper, the first performance of Shostakovich's Leningrad Symphony at the Festival, the Festival debut of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra with Erin Wall and the Czech Philharmonic in two concerts the first of which stars Nicola Benedetti and the second mezzo soprano Bernarda Fink. Teatro Regio Torino, making its UK debut, performs William Tell in concert with conductor Gianandrea Noseda. Bernstein's Kaddish Symphony, dedicated to the memory of President John F Kennedy, is performed by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and narrated by holocaust survivor and UN Special Envoy Samuel Pisar. The Usher Hall closes with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra playing Janáček's Glagolitic Mass and Sandakan Threnody by outgoing Festival director and composer Jonathan

Mills.

The Festival's musical ambassadors the Edinburgh Festival Chorus, a 130-strong choir drawn from Edinburgh and elsewhere in Scotland and now in its 49th year, play a central role in The Opening Concert, The Planets, Britten's War Requiem, the Kaddish Symphony and the closing concert in the Usher Hall.

The Festival's substantial series of talks Culture and Conflict delivered by leading thinkers and commentators including Sir Adam Roberts, Professor Margaret MacMillan and Sir Hew Strachan among many others is complemented by a series of films based on stories from times of war including The Burmese Harp, The Tin Drum and Darfur. After the success of last year's inaugural schools lecture with Jean Kilbourne, this year the event is open to all young people. This year's speaker at the Festival's Young People's Lecture is Sudanese rapper Emmanuel Jal reflecting on his life from child soldier to political activist.

Australian artist Danie Mellor presents Primordial: SuperNaturalBayiMinyjirral at the National Museum of Scotland, drawing on its World Cultures Collection as well as his own indigenous and European heritage.

Participatory dance experts Bal Moderne will immerse audiences in the songs and dances of wartime Europe encouraging everyone to dress up in period clothing and dance in Escaping War.

The Virgin Money Fireworks Concert is the spectacular and popular conclusion to the Festival with a particularly rousing programme of orchestral works this year including Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture performed live by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra to a display launching more than 400,000 fireworks above Edinburgh's stunning castle.

The Festival's Young Musician Passport in association with the City of Edinburgh Council gave almost 700 pupils learning an instrument or singing in choirs free tickets to Festival



concerts last year. This scheme will be developed in 2014 to offer students of music in the Lothians access to free tickets as well.

The Festival is rolling out a series of 60 podcasts from launch day through to the Festival on its website which offers interviews with artists, musical extracts and insights into all the music events in a new partnership with online music site [sinfinimusic.com](http://sinfinimusic.com), Festival SoundBites from Sinfini Music.

The Festival's commitment to making its performances as accessible as possible by ensuring tickets remain affordable means ticket sales account for approximately one quarter of the organisation's annual turnover. Presenting a Festival of the scale, ambition and quality of the Edinburgh International Festival costs around £10.5m making the £2.67million it fundraises as a not-for-profit charity from sponsors, trusts, foundations international partners and individuals in 2014 crucial to its success.

With fundraising accounting for more than 25% of its total budget annually Edinburgh International Festival is consistently one of the most successful fundraising arts companies in the UK.

The Festival's ability to generate such commitment and ongoing support from its range of donors is made possible by the sustained core support of its public funders Creative Scotland and the City of Edinburgh Council.

The Festival's year round programme of community engagement activities continues to grow and is expected to reach around 8,500 people in 2014. Love in a... the Festival's pop-up performance series is set to perform in 13 venues across the city including galleries, museums, bookshops, libraries, gardens and even palaces.

Tickets go on sale for the Festival to Friends and Patrons of the Festival on Wednesday 19 March. Tickets go on sale to the

general public from Saturday 29 March. Visit [eif.co.uk](http://eif.co.uk) to explore the programme in more detail and book tickets.

Students and young people are able to buy tickets for half price from the opening of booking, and those 26 and under can still access £8 on-the-day tickets for the best available seats during the Festival.

Festival Director Jonathan Mills said: 'In Festival 2014 we bring together cultures from around the world to present an intense three weeks of intimate and epic theatre, dance, music and opera.

'We are working with a number of international co-producing partners to bring performances to the UK from around the world, from New Zealand to South Africa, ensuring the Festival retains its unique mix of artists and work which makes it an unmissable date in the global cultural calendar.

'We are delighted to be working with a range of funders and partners to share with you what we believe is a fantastic Festival programme. From our core public funders, Creative Scotland and City of Edinburgh Council, to the many trusts, foundations, international partners and individuals who generously donate sums large and small, the commitment and passion of so many for this Festival remains truly inspiring.

'I look forward to welcoming audiences from Scotland and around the world to Edinburgh this August to share in compelling stories from artists who are exploring and transcending conflict to create the most sublime and optimistic work.'

Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs Fiona Hyslop said: 'The Edinburgh International Festival is a wonderful platform for showcasing Scotland's amazing culture, exceptional talent and our reputation as a creative nation to audiences from around the globe. The exciting and vibrant Festival projects that our Expo Fund is supporting this year

offer huge potential to celebrate and promote Scotland's creative strengths to the world as global attention focuses on us in this landmark Year of Homecoming.'

Edinburgh's Festivals and Events Champion Cllr Steve Cardownie said: 'Every year, the Festival continues to bring the very best in the arts from across the world to Edinburgh, greatly enhancing this city's reputation as the World's Festival City. 'The City of Edinburgh Council is proud to continue its support of the programme and the Festival's contribution to the reputation of Edinburgh's arts scene. It is fantastic to welcome in such a diverse programme for 2014 that will span a concert season at the Usher Hall, the official contribution to Culture 2014 in the shape of the South African season, and works that explore Edinburgh's celebration of the Commonwealth and centenary remembrance of WW1.'

Chief Executive of Creative Scotland Janet Archer said; 'Jonathan Mills' final programme for the Edinburgh International Festival inspires and challenges. It offers moments for contemplation, moments that will take your breath away. It promises a soaring conclusion to a hugely successful tenure as Artistic Director of the Edinburgh International Festival. I would like to say thank you to Sir Jonathan for his contribution to the arts as part of Scotland's heartbeat and this country's place on the global stage.'

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## **Eddi Reader to play the Queen's Hall next month**



Eddi Reader is returning to the capital next month, playing

the Queen's Hall on 25 April as part of her 'Vagabond' tour.

Vagabond was released by Reveal Records last month and was recorded by Mark Freegard in Eddi's hometown of Glasgow with a cast of well chosen musicians and friends eager to play their part in this, most captivating, deeply personal yet universal sounding album.

The album was produced by Eddi and features many of her long-term musical collaborators including: John Douglas (Trashcan Sinatras), Alan Kelly, Ian Carr, Ewen Vernal, Roy Dodds (Fairground Attraction), John McCusker and Boo Hewerdine.

Eddi said: "I have been on a journey with this set of recordings. Two years ago, I began writing and playing with ideas on John's new piano. Well, I say "new" – it's a second-hand, small Zender piano. I'd never heard of that make, but when we got it tuned, the fella said that they use this kind of piano to train the piano tuning students.

"Often, if they got bad marks, the saying goes that they had to 'return to Zender'. After I kicked him out of my house for that terrible joke, I sat down and began falling for its sweet tone and I attempted to learn my way around it.

"The guys in the Edinburgh music shop who sold it to me told me that Tom Waits had been in the shop earlier and sat playing on it for a half hour then bought another one. Mr Waits was playing Edinburgh that night, so it seemed plausible. It's a lovely piano nonetheless. It took me all the winter of that year to become acquainted with the idea that I was writing and that I should start recording. I did, but only the odd day here and there. 2012 was a wonderful and weird one. John and I got married on 8 June. With that we are both blissful, but in other things we were challenged.

"John developed an incurable illness and we were distracted by health issues and family troubles. I took a while to steady my feet about all of that. Then by the end of the year, I knew I

needed to pull the fellas together and try recording live – if only to bring myself back to land.

“The good news is John is walking the road to recovery and will get better. No fear or doubt! Buíochas le Dia! The recording sessions progressed throughout January 2013, (it’s the best time to grab everyone as most are at Glasgow’s Celtic Connections festival) and they were amazing. We all squeezed into Mark Freegard’s Kyoti studio with Roy Dodds (drums) and Ewen Vernal (double bass) creating an engine for Boo Hewerdine’s steady rhythms (guitar) to steer through the songs with me (singing) sometimes playing guitar or piano, Ian Carr (guitar) soloing and Alan Kelly (accordion) floating in and out of everything.

“I recorded around 26 songs and had to choose 12 as 26 won’t fit on a CD. This new album was supposed to be 12 songs that flowed well together but I couldn’t bear to leave some off. So I got John to choose. When I protested he would say, “Those songs are on the next record”. We compromised on 14.”

Tracklisting:

1. I’ll Never Be The Same
2. Back The Dogs (Dancing Down Rock)
3. Vagabond
4. Married To The Sea
5. Edinah
6. Snowflakes In The Sun
7. Baby’s Boat
8. Macushla (My Darling)
9. Midnight In Paris 1979

10. Buain Ná Rainich (Fairy Love Song)
  11. In Ma Country
  12. Pray The Devil Back To Hell
  13. Here Comes The Bells
  14. It's A Beautiful Night
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## Copies of WWI literary magazine donated to Edinburgh Napier University



Original copies of a magazine edited by poet Wilfred Owen while he recovered from shell shock in Scotland have been found after a near decade-long search.

Three copies of 'The Hydra: the magazine of Craiglockhart War Hospital' have been donated to Edinburgh Napier University.

Owen contributed to and edited the publication, which also printed new work by fellow patient, and war poet, Siegfried Sassoon.

The University's Craiglockhart Campus, a hydrotherapy centre in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, was requisitioned by the War Office as a hospital for WWI officers suffering from neurasthenia, or shell-shock.

Circumstances brought together the two great poets in the

leafy Edinburgh suburb in the summer of 1917.

The University established a War Poets Collection in 1988 in memory of that heritage, but until now the permanent exhibition has relied on photocopied Hydras kindly supplied from the University of Oxford.

Now, nearly 10 years on from a public appeal for the originals, the 'lost' copies have been found – generously donated to Edinburgh Napier by the relative of another former patient who succeeded Owen as Hydra editor following the latter's return to duty.

The University believes no other collection in Scotland, including the National Library of Scotland, hold copies of two of the three donated Hydras – numbers 4 and 5 of the New Series.

"This is most welcome news and means so much for the Collection," said librarian Catherine Walker who had devoted much of her career to curating and maintaining the exhibition.

"Having original copies back in the building where the magazines were written is a thrill and very fitting as we approach August and the centenary of Britain going to war."

The meeting of Sassoon and Owen at Craiglockhart led to a friendship and literary partnership that critics say was responsible for some of the finest war poetry ever written.



Historian Dr Janet Morgan, Lady Balfour of Burleigh, said: "'Meeting Sassoon and working together on The Hydra was a turning point in Owen's development as a poet. Horror brought these men to Craiglockhart; their meeting gave us a handful of fragile but resilient poems that have for a near hundred years evoked the terror and pity of the Great War.

"These original copies of The Hydra commemorate that

encounter; they are also a reminder of the generous and cultivated approach to medicine practised by the doctors at Craiglockhart and the atmosphere of imaginative sympathy in which art was created and minds began to be healed.

"This gift to Edinburgh Napier, a delicate and eloquent commemoration, honours all those who were at the Craiglockhart Hospital."

The Hydras will go on display in the War Poets Collection exhibition later on this year.

Ms Walker added: "The Hydras are fascinating documents and allow us glimpses of the daily lives of the men who found themselves sent to Craiglockhart.

"We already have photocopies of Wilfred Owen's editorials on display, including the September 1st issue from 1917, where he comments, 'Many of us who came to the Hydro slightly ill are getting dangerously well,' as, of course, the men would indeed be sent straight back to the Front when they were deemed to have recovered.

"They are fascinating primary sources, and so it is a real pleasure to be able to house original copies in the Collection. We are truly surprised and delighted that they have been donated to us, particularly at this important time."

A degree of mystery remains, however: the No.6 edition of The Hydra, New Series remains missing, north and south of the border.

James Boyle, one of the leading public figures in the British Arts world, and the current chairman of the National Library of Scotland, said: "It's thrilling to hear of the return of the three copies of The Hydra to Edinburgh after almost 100 years. However, the search for a copy of edition number 6 dated 7 July, 1917 goes on.



“Come to think of it, Indiana Jones and the Lost Hydra would make a great movie.”

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## **TERLive! Launch of Edinburgh International Festival**



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## **Roll a giant tennis ball for Sport Relief**



You might be forgiven for thinking you are seeing things this morning anywhere between Princes Street Gardens and the Meadows.

David Lloyd Leisure has sponsored a giant tennis ball which will be rolled along between the two parks.

The fluorescent tennis ball is four meters in diameter and has been created by David Lloyd Leisure, the tennis group, to mark their role as official fitness partner for Sport Relief. When we saw it first thing this morning it was being held down by ropes and two burly chaps hanging on to it for dear life. After today it goes to Liverpool and Birmingham.

You are invited to have fun and help roll the ball over a Sport Relief mile while donating any change to the charity.

As part of their involvement in Sport Relief, David Lloyd Leisure's 78 clubs across the country will be hosting a series of fundraising initiatives.

Hugh Cameron, General Manager at Edinburgh David Lloyd Leisure, said: "Sport Relief is one of those great occasions when the UK comes together for a good cause. Our Clubs around the country are very excited about being part of this fantastic initiative, which raises money to give extremely vulnerable and disadvantaged people in the UK and throughout the world a helping hand to turn their lives around.

"David Lloyd Leisure is passionate about helping families lead healthy, active lives and, of course, we have an incredibly strong tennis heritage, so we thought the giant tennis ball was a great way to involve our members, team members and the public in Sport Relief. We hope that it helps raise a lot of money – and also raises many smiles along the way."

The giant tennis ball will make its way back to London at the end of this week.

To follow the giant tennis ball around the country visit [www.facebook.com/davidlloydleisure](http://www.facebook.com/davidlloydleisure)

or follow @DavidLloydUK on Twitter. For more information on how to get involved in Sport Relief visit [www.sportrelief.com](http://www.sportrelief.com).



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# The Edinburgh Reporter chats with Councillor Adam McVey

✖ Councillor Adam McVey is the SNP representative for the Leith Ward. He has just been appointed Vice-Convener of Transport and Environment. He will be taking up his new position today at the Transport and Environment Committee which begins at 10 am at the City Chambers.

**Who are you, and where did you come from in a couple of sentences?**

I'm the newly elected Vice Convenor for Transport and Environment on Edinburgh Council. I arrived in Edinburgh from Paisley via Dundee University and settled here after doing a masters' in Law at Edinburgh University.

**What is the business book you recommend that everyone should read?**

The only book I'm recommending right now is the Scotland's future white paper. Regardless if you're a shop owner, a shop steward, a grandmother or an apprentice EVERYONE should read it.

**What do you think are your business strengths and weaknesses?**

For a long and probably inexhaustible list of my weaknesses you'd probably be better asking some opposition Councillors...

For an even longer list of my strengths you'd be better asking my mother...

**What was the defining moment on your career path that has got you where you are now?**

I'm incredibly grateful to be a Councillor, but it's fair to say I got elected by mistake. What started as a blunder has ended up being a fantastic two years representing Leith and led to an exciting new challenge in being part of improving Edinburgh's transport networks and environment.

**How do you spend your spare time?**

I'm trying to learn German and to play the piano. Neither is going fantastically well but they do take up quite a bit of any spare time I have.

**Do you think you achieve a good work/life balance?**

It's hard to keep a strong work/life balance when you're out of the house most evenings and up early most weekends to campaign but I'm managing to keep my close friends and family which is important.

**What makes Edinburgh the best location for you to live and/or work?**

The best thing about Edinburgh is the port town that makes up a big chunk of North Edinburgh. \*Jokes\* The skyline is second to none but the real selling point of Edinburgh is the feel. It's a melting pot of people from all over the world and it makes this one of the most interesting and diverse cities in the world.

**What is your special area of Edinburgh, or special place in Edinburgh and why?**

The place I most enjoy going is definitely Newhaven, fantastic food with a view of the water. What more could you want?

**What would you consider the pinnacle of your career?**

I think if you see politics as a career then you shouldn't stand for election. If you've got something to say and want to make an impact then brilliant! As soon as you start putting

your own progression before principles it's probably time to do something else.

### **What are your goals for the next year?**

I'd like to make inroads in the city's recycling rate. At 39.5% it's not as high as it should be and I'll be focusing a lot of attention on achieving even more progress.

I'm also keen to keep pushing towards the goal of every area of the City reaching our target in terms of street cleanliness. There's been a lot of progress made in both areas in the last 7 years but still a lot of work to do.

### **Describe your typical day for us.**

During the week I'm usually in City Chambers attending meetings and answering constituents' emails and letters. In the evening I have meetings of local groups in my ward. Luckily, I only have a few meetings most weekends which means I can campaign for a YES vote in September!

### **Your plan of attack for the next 12 months?**

I'm going to be working very closely with my coalition colleagues to deliver our agreed pledges and try and resolve some long running big issues too like the air quality around the city's vital access roads.

You can contact Councillor McVey at

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Email [adam.mcvey@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:adam.mcvey@edinburgh.gov.uk)

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# Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



**Six months to the referendum – Budget Day – Transport Committee meeting – Ecurie Ecosse cars – Free workshops on grant funding**

Six months today the country will vote on its future. The Edinburgh Reporter has no political agenda on the referendum or any other matter but is happy to share your views or those of the two main players in the independence debate the Yes Campaign and the Better Together Campaign.

Please use our [Submit your Story](#) feature to tell us what you think.

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As Chancellor George Osborne prepares to present his Budget later today, the SNP claim that the UK Treasury is coming under increased demands to scrap plans to increase whisky duty.

Angus Robertson SNP Westminster leader commented : -“We know that an extraordinary 80% of the price of a bottle of whisky in the UK goes in tax to the Treasury. This week the Chancellor has a chance to do something to stop this unfair and discriminatory tax regime. The ‘tax and grab’ mentality at

the Treasury is nothing new for the Whisky industry. Since 1999 alone Westminster taxes on whisky have increased by a whopping 39%. It is now quite simply time to end the spirits duty escalator in the budget.

“The Scottish Council Development and Industry (SCDI) recently called on George Osborne to drop any plans for a further rise in duty on Scotch whisky, which unfairly penalises the industry compared with other forms of alcohol.

“The SCDI has pointed out that scrapping the alcohol duty escalator for whisky, which was scrapped for beer in 2013, would support business investment and exports, and could increase the drinks industry’s contribution to the economy by £230m in 2014.

“The No campaign trot out all the scare stories and myths about how Scotland would face an exodus of companies following a Yes vote. The truth is that whisky producers are investing in Scotland now even with all the punitive Westminster tax regime . But that investment could be higher – we are missing opportunities because Westminster is working against our interests. Only with a Yes vote this September can we promote – protect and grow Scottish industries away from Westminster’s control and create the fairer and more prosperous society we want to see.”

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The council’s Transport Committee meets this morning at 10am. Today there is a new Vice Convener following Councillor Jim Orr’s resignation last month. Councillor Adam McVey was appointed at last week’s full council meeting to the post. 27 year-old McVey was elected as a brand new councillor at the 2012 elections and represents the Leith Ward.

He has a Masters in International Law and is hoping to put his stamp on the sustainability aspects of council business.

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A petition was lodged with the Scottish Parliament in December 2013 to try and save the collection of Ecurie Ecosse cars for the nation.

The petition reads:-“This petition has come about due to the totally unique character of this collection but primarily because of their origins and the tremendous success that they had representing there country. These cars and transporter are the crown jewels of Scottish motor sport and as such should have a place in our national museum in Edinburgh, the birthplace of Ecurie Ecosse. Not just a collection of cars but a truely unreplaceable part of our heritage of which we as a nation should be justly proud and as such should be prepared to offer them a place where they can be viewed and appreciated by all. Driven by legends such as Sir Jackie Stewart, these cars cannot be allowed to be dispersed far and wide never to be seen in there homeland again. The significance of this collection cannot be underestimated and with this in mind it is essential that the national museum make an attempt to aquire one of these vehicles for the nation.

The collection of Ecurie Ecosse race cars will be offered for sale at auction in December. As to the worth of this collection, it is an unknown quantity but due to the provinance of these cars and the present rise in classic car values, I do not see the whole collection being sold for less than £10 million. Individually the values vary but again as always with auctions it is what someone is willing to pay

The NMS collection policy is I believe “where individual items of outstanding significance in the history and technology of Scottish transport become available we will seek to acquire these”

At this present time the museum has one of Sir Jackie Stewarts F1 cars on loan for three years and this would be a fine



addition to this collection or part of.”

At present there are 184 signatures to the petition.

If you wish to draw something to the attention of the Scottish Parliament you can lodge a petition. Find out how to do it [here](#).

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A series of free workshops are being held across the city for community groups to apply for grant funding to deliver local projects in their neighbourhood.

Delivered by Edinburgh’s Neighbourhood Partnerships, the workshops provide practical advice and guidance to applicants to improve their skills in the application process. Activities include drafting and assessing mock applications, and exercises that promote the range of funding opportunities that are available to them.

The workshops support the delivery of the Council’s Community Funding Support Programme and were introduced in response to community feedback. The workshops have been met with positive comments from participants. They have found them to be a “great wealth of information” and the exercises are “useful to increase confidence in the application process”. It was also said that they help to “break down the jargon” in the application forms.

Upcoming workshops will take place in East and West Neighbourhood as follows:

- Craigentinny/Duddingston and Portobello/Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnerships -Wednesday 26 March 2014, Northfield/Willowbrae Community Centre, 2.30-4pm
- Almond Neighbourhood Partnership – Monday 31 March 2014, Rosebery Hall, South Queensferry, 5-6.30pm

- Western Neighbourhood Partnership – Thursday 10 April 2014, Drumbrae Library Hub, 5-6.30pm

Places must be booked in advance. For more details and to reserve your place please email [neighbourhood.partnerships@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhood.partnerships@edinburgh.gov.uk)

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## Hibs' Under 20s in action tonight



Hibs Under 20s face St Johnstone at McDiarmid Park tonight and Head of Academy Coaching James McDonaugh believes tonight's SPFL U20 League match could be the youngsters' with their toughest test of the season so far.

Heading into the fixture, the players are in a buoyant mood after securing a 1-0 win over Celtic last week thanks to a goal from top scorer Jason Cummings (pictured), and then EoS team managed to clinch promotion on Saturday. but McDonaugh insists that tonight's game will be particularly difficult, especially after St Johnstone under-20s won the previous meeting 2-1 at Livingston in early November.

McDonaugh said: "We believe this will be one of our hardest games of the season, but we are looking forward to the challenge.

"St Johnstone were very good when we played them earlier on in

the season and deservedly beat us.

“So we know we will need to produce an excellent performance in order to earn a positive result at McDiarmid Park – that’s the challenge that awaits the team.”

Jordan Sinclair is now back fully fit after his injury lay-off and Cody Mulhall (knee) is the only other member of the under-20 squad unavailable for selection.

#### SPFL Table

Celtic 20 14 2 4 43 19 24 44

Rangers 20 13 5 2 42 20 22 44

Hibernian 21 13 3 5 53 28 25 42

Motherwell 23 12 2 9 45 41 4 38

Hamilton 24 11 5 8 42 38 4 38

Aberdeen 23 11 4 8 45 37 8 37

Inverness CT 22 10 4 8 46 37 9 34

St Johnstone 24 8 6 10 41 44 -3 30

Kilmarnock 23 9 3 11 35 39 -4 30

Partick Th 25 8 5 12 35 49 -14 29

Dunfermline 23 8 3 12 40 42 -2 27

Falkirk 23 6 9 8 37 49 -12 27

Dundee Utd 24 7 4 13 32 35 -3 25

Hearts 23 6 5 12 34 53 -19 23

St Mirren 22 6 4 12 21 33 -12 22

Ross County 22 6 2 14 29 56 -27 20

Photo by John Preece

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

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## Tales of three expats

A recent report carried out Oxford University's Migration Observatory has shown that the number of immigrants living in Scotland has doubled in the last decade. This research has also demonstrated an important fact; Scotland is the most popular host countries within the UK with a 93% rise in its foreign-born population between 2001 and 2011 (followed by Wales with 82%, Northern Ireland with 72% and England with 61%).

For its part, Edinburgh, Scotland's capital, is home to the highest number of expatriates within the country.

Scotland may be uncomfortable with the current UK immigration system but the aim of this article is to tell the stories of three expats living in Edinburgh.

Concentrating on the visa requirements that we have had to meet I will relate the point of view of a 'visa national', Khandro Lhazin from Bhutan; a 'non-visa national', Phillipa Simmons from Australia; and an 'EEA citizen', myself, Silvia Montes from Spain.

I arrived in Edinburgh in 2008 with no more needed other than having my passport or my ID in order. My main goals were to improve my English and to enjoy the experience of living abroad. Coming from an EEA country allowed me to enter, live in and work in the UK as if I were already from here! However, this was not the same either for Khandro or Phillipa.

Khandro came to Edinburgh in September 2010 thanks to a study visa that was quite difficult to get: "I studied hotel management in Kolkata, India, before I came here. The college I studied in had an affiliation with Edinburgh Napier University so I had the choice of completing my final year here. I made the decision to come here because I thought it was a great opportunity to travel and experience another country firsthand. I was also curious to know what was happening in the west.

"To acquire the study visa I needed to show only the course fee, living expenses and a University sponsor letter. It was made difficult though because we needed to evidence a huge amount of money and we had to go through a lot of paper work to finally get the visa."

Phillipa came from Australia to Edinburgh with a working visa. "I decided to come here for the experience of living in the UK, in a city that it is totally beautiful and has everything you need without being as big as London. I wanted to be close to Europe to travel and I had to get the visa before I was 30. It cost approximately \$200, it was quite easy to apply and it was approved within 4 weeks. The most annoying part was having to travel to Sydney (6 hour drive) for the bio-metrics testing where they scan your finger prints. Then, when my 2 year visa ends, it is my understanding that I must leave the country. The only way I can stay longer is if I get married or if an employee sponsors me."

We have all felt very welcome in this city. According to Phillipa this is because Edinburgh is such a multicultural city. She added:- "I love living in Edinburgh much more than I ever thought I would. I love the lifestyle, the convenience of being able to walk most places, the culture, the friendly people, the architecture and history of the city.

"I was disappointed with the job market, and the low (compared to Australia) minimum wage. I receive a far lower wage here,

then back at home and work in a totally different industry, but it is a sacrifice I am willing to make for the experience.”

Khandro recognises that it was not easy at the beginning but she has managed to live fairly comfortably in Edinburgh:- “When I came here I felt very different and it took me a while to adjust, but it slowly changed as I learned about Scottish culture. When I was studying I got part time work. Then, after completing my studies I applied for a post study working visa and I got a permit to live and work in the UK for another two years. I feel my life in Edinburgh has been very simple. I share a flat with another immigrant like me from Bhutan. We both work in a hotel and we earn enough to pay all our bills and save a little too. Our life is not too bad as we are financially independent.”

However, Khandro also criticised the wages and her own prospects in this city:- “I sometimes feel very discouraged as we get paid very low wages for the hard work we do; we earn the minimum wage. Edinburgh is a wonderful city but, as an immigrant, I feel that my chances of getting promoted or getting more responsibility at work are limited as I do not have a permit to live and work in the UK for a long period of time. I understand the situation but the rules are strict and it is expensive. The legal system must do things to protect the culture and the country, but innocent people are affected in the process.”

From my point of view as an EEA citizen, Edinburgh is a wonderful city to live in. I came here for a year and I have been living here more than five years. Edinburgh has me spellbound for several reasons: its stunning beauty (it was deservedly declared a World Heritage city), its culture and history (these two go hand in hand) and its friendly people. The fact that it is an easy city to walk around that offers everything you may need, including social benefits and services.

When I arrived in Edinburgh, my English was very poor and even then there were some job opportunities available for me. Moreover, I have completed different studies here taking advantage of the wide range of academic offers (mainly hosted in colleges and Universities) and the different funding options available to make them affordable.

I would say that I have gradually grown here, not just as a person but also professionally and academically, as my English has improved and new challenges have presented themselves.

For all these reasons, the experience that I sought when I came here has far exceeded all my expectations.

Submitted by [Silvia Montes](#)

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## **Witness appeal following racist attack in capital**



Police are appealing for witnesses following a racist attack in the Capital over the weekend.

The incident happened sometime between 3pm and 3.30pm yesterday in Niddrie House Square.

A 41-year-old Polish man was walking home when a group of male youths began to shout racist remarks at him.

The group then threw stones towards the victim before punching him to the face and making off.

He was taken to hospital after sustaining a number of cuts and

grazes to his face and upper body but was later released.

Officers are now conducting local enquiries to trace the suspects and anyone who can assist with this investigation is asked to come forward.

The youths are described only as being white and between 16 and 18-years-old. One of them had fair blond hair and was wearing a grey tracksuit.

Sergeant Kevin Smith said: "This was an unprovoked attack, which seems motivated only by the victim's nationality.

"Fortunately the man was not seriously injured as a result of this incident but was left understandably shaken and we are keen to hear from anyone who was in the area on Sunday afternoon and remembers seeing anything suspicious.

"In addition, anyone who can help us identify the suspects is also asked to contact police immediately.

"We will not tolerate any form of hate crime and anyone found to be involved in crimes of this nature can expect to be dealt with by Police Scotland."

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

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## **National Museum of Scotland shows Wildlife Photographer**



# of the Year Exhibition 2014



The world-renowned *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* exhibition opens today at the National Museum of Scotland, the only Scottish venue at which it will appear. On loan from the Natural History Museum in London, the exhibition features 100 awe-inspiring images, from fascinating animal behaviour to breathtaking wild landscapes.

The Edinburgh Reporter interviewed Dr Nick Fraser, Keeper of Natural Sciences, and Alison Cromarty, Exhibitions Manager about the fabulous array of photographs on show.

Now in its 49<sup>th</sup> year, the internationally-recognised annual competition drew around 43,000 entries from 96 countries, from amateur and professional photographers alike. The rigorous selection process brought together judges from across the globe, to choose the best entries based on creativity, artistry and technical complexity.



Through the lens of wildlife photography, the exhibition captures the intrigue and beauty of our planet, giving us a glimpse of the natural world as it has never been seen before.

The exhibition at the National Museum of Scotland will be the only showing in Scotland and forms part of a tour to ten venues across the UK, as well as internationally.

**Wildlife Photographer of the Year**

Monday 17 March to Sunday 1 June 2014

National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh



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# Edinburgh film-makers win award at National Gaelic Film Ceremony



**BUDDING FILM-MAKERS FROM EDINBURGH SCOOP A TOP AWARD AT  
NATIONAL GAELIC FILM CEREMONY**

*STARS OF THE BIG SCREEN PRESENT AWARDS INCLUDING GREG HEMPHILL  
AND GARY LEWIS*

(Photo shows Alison Lang who helped the Edinburgh College of Art students with their Gaelic film picked up the award on their behalf)

Budding film-makers from Edinburgh have won a top award at FilmG, the National Gaelic Film Awards, which is in its sixth year running and was held at The Old Fruitmarket, Glasgow on Friday evening.

Stars of the big screen turned out to present a number of awards at MG ALBA's prestigious Gaelic screen talent ceremony which was hosted by Fiona MacKenzie, face of BBC ALBA, and Niall Iain Macdonald, TV & radio presenter.

Guest presenters at the event included renowned Scottish actor and comedian Greg Hemphill best known as Victor in the much loved *Still Game* sitcom and Glasgow born actor Gary Lewis who has starred on the big screen in films such as *Billy Elliot* and *Gangs of New York* as well as TV programmes including *Silent Witness* and the forthcoming HBO series, *Outlander*.



This year's competition theme was 'Rùn' (Love/Secret/Intention) which inspired an array of ideas for filmmakers in both the 12-17 age-group and the adult category, with a total of 76 films being submitted.

The FilmG Theme Award in the adult category went to Alberto Londonov, Laura Shand and Michael McIlroy, all students at Edinburgh College of Art for this short film '[Chaidh mo Bhràthair airson Suiteis](#)' (My Brother Went for Sweets). The film tells the story of a girl's childhood memory of her brother surviving a horrible accident as a boy. Illustrated with abstract images and a rhythmic soundtrack the film playfully uses sound and image to consider the space between living and dying.

All 2014 winners are listed below, with every film entered in this year's FilmG competition available to view online at [www.filmg.co.uk](http://www.filmg.co.uk).

Actor, Greg Hemphill, said: "I had a fantastic evening at the FilmG awards ceremony. I attended back in 2009 when it was held in Inverness and amazed to see how it has gone from strength to strength in this time. I'd like to congratulate all the prize winners and I hope that they are able to use FilmG as a springboard into a career in the media."

FilmG judge, Calum Angus MacKay, said: "FilmG provides aspiring film-makers with a fantastic platform for showcasing their talents and I thoroughly enjoyed judging what was on offer this year. The variety of films that were produced was great and I'd encourage as many people as possible to watch these films."

Maggie Cunningham, chair of MG ALBA, said: "We are delighted that FilmG's success has continued to grow from strength to strength since the inaugural awards in 2009. The competition received 76 films this year and we have been greatly impressed once again by the level of film-making from grassroots level with many repeat entries having greatly improved on previous years as a result of the workshop training and resources provided by industry professionals as part of the FilmG competition. In addition, some hopeful newcomers were encouraged to take part this year.

"The FilmG project helps build confidence in both media and language skills and supports the Curriculum for Excellence. The Scottish Government continues to recognise the good work of FilmG and has once again offered us their support for which everyone involved with the project is extremely grateful.

"This year's winners were all of a very high standard and we'd like to congratulate those who took home a top award, as well as praise everyone for taking part and encourage those who may be interested in participating to have fun with Gaelic and make a short film for next year's FilmG."

Also presenting awards were much loved Scottish broadcaster Cathy MacDonald, BBC Scotland news reporter, Catriona Shearer, 'Dè a-nis?' presenters Derek MacIntosh and Megan McLellan, director Michael Hines, producer and director Don Coutts, Debbie MacKay star of BBC ALBA's new drama *Bannan*, award

winning Gaelic band *Mànran* and Dr Alasdair Allan who presented the People's Choice award.

FilmG has unearthed a wealth of creative talent within the Gaelic community since it was established six years ago, and was named Best Cultural Event at the 2012 Scottish Event Awards.

Providing entertainment on the night was up-and-coming Irish band 'Seo Linn' who became an internet sensation last year when they collaborated with Irish summer school 'Coláiste Lurgan' to produce a Gaelic music video of Avicci's 'Wake Me Up'.

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## Memory Café for dementia sufferers and carers in Queensferry



Queensferry Care has officially opened a new service "The Memory Café", at The Haven 25b Burgess Road, its base in South Queensferry. Developed through a partnership with NHS Lothian, Alzheimer's Scotland and Queensferry Care, the Café will open from 13:00hr to 15:00hr on the third Thursday of each month and will provide support, information and advice to people who have a diagnosis of dementia and to carers.

Sharon Hampson-Bahia, manager at Queensferry Care said: "We were delighted with the response at the opening of the café

and it was clear that people attending valued the opportunity to meet and chat with the professional team in a relaxed setting while enjoying a coffee and some delicious cakes.

“Queensferry Care have been providing a range of services to older people and carers for over twenty years across rural west Edinburgh and it is has been exciting for us to be able to extend our work in partnership with Alzheimer’s Scotland and NHS Lothian in such an innovative way.”

Teresa Straczynska, Dementia Advisor at Alzheimer’s Scotland, said: “Alzheimer’s Scotland is delighted to have helped in the setting up of the Memory Café. It will welcome people with dementia and their carers where they can get advice from professionals and peer support over a cup of tea and a blether. The Café represents another step forward in the development of a network of community based support services”

Dr Robert Cafferty, NHS Lothian community Mental Health Consultant who worked closely with Queensferry Care and Alzheimer’s Scotland to establish the Memory Café, said “This new development represents an important milestone in the development of collaborative community based services and will enable us to extend a range of consultation, support and advice services right into the heart of the Queensferry community.”

Photo: Anne Murray, Carer; Sharon Hampson-Bahia, Queensferry Care Manager; Dr. Robert Clafferty, Consultant Psychiatrist; Teresa Straczynska, Dementia Advisor; Christine McDonald, Carer; Kate Joester, Alzheimer Scotland Link Worker.

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# Hibs' Community Foundation donate strips to deaf youngsters' team



Hibernian Community Foundation have kindly donated football strips to an Edinburgh deaf children's football team to allow them to take part on a national tournament which will take place on Sunday at Goals Soccer Centre – Liverpool.

The 7th National Deaf Youth Football Tournament (Northern Area) is open to all deaf football teams, all deaf youth groups and any mixed deaf and hearing teams\* who want to play!

The emphasis is on fun, raising awareness of deaf football and celebrating the Deaf Friendly FC project. The winning teams will be crowned the National Deaf Youth Football Champions and will take the coveted NDYFT Trophy home with them!

The Edinburgh youngsters are all part of the National Deaf Children's Society and will be the first Scottish group represented in this 5-a-side competition for under 12's.

The group received a supply of new 'old-stock' kit for their matches against teams from Leeds, Cardiff, Derby, Bolton and Morecombe.

The National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) is the leading charity dedicated to creating a world without barriers for deaf children and young people.

The Hibernian Community Foundation works in close partnership with Hibernian Football Club to harness the power and passion of football to make a real difference in people's lives and within local communities. It adds value and creates positive impact in the local community through our focus on health,

fitness and wellbeing; community football and learning and education.

Volunteer Glenn Milne said: “We were delighted to support the youngsters who will be taking part in the National Deaf Youth Football Tournament in Liverpool later this month. Good luck lads!”

Seen collecting the strips from Glenn is Coach Simon Spence, who contacted the Foundation after they were offered complimentary match tickets for one of Hibs 'remaining home fixtures.

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## **Roller disco comes to Craiglockhart Tennis and Leisure Centre**



Feeling nostalgic for the roller discos of the 1980's? Well why not enjoy a Friday night with a difference when a hit adults-only roller disco comes to the capital this month.

Coaster Nights, the over 16's roller disco with a retro vibe, will debut at Craiglockhart Tennis and Leisure Centre on Friday March 21st, from 8.20 – 10pm.

The event, presented by Roller Beats, evokes the spirit of the original roller disco with a mix of modern pop and classic hits and shiny bright lights – although legwarmers are optional.



Don't worry if you haven't owned a pair of skates since High School – they can be hired up to size 11 for £2.

Ally Flannigan, Supervisor at Craiglockhart Tennis & Leisure Centre, said it's not just about posing and having a great night – roller skating can be a fantastic workout.

He said: "Edinburgh Leisure is always looking to offer new, fun ways for people to get fit and active.

"Our roller skating sessions for families and kids at Craiglockhart and Meadowbank are already a hit.

"Now we are really looking forward to welcoming Roller Beats to our venue for their first Coaster Nights event for over 16's in Edinburgh.

"Held in our huge hall in virtual darkness with disco lights and pop music, it promises to be a real old school experience that also happens to be great exercise.

"Roller skating is a workout that works the joints and can burn as much as 500 calories an hour, so it's definitely a fitter, more fun way to start the weekend than the average Friday night – even if you end up in the pub later to talk about it!"

Coaster Nights will be held at Craiglockhart Tennis & Leisure Centre, Colinton Road, on Friday March 21st at 8.20pm. Entrance is £10 on the door.

There is also a general roller skating session for all age groups, popular with families, on Sunday April 6th from 1.30 – 3.30pm.

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# Five things you need to know today Edinburgh



**St Patrick's Day – Wildlife Photographer of the Year – Commonwealth Games Baton Relay – Polwarth Nearly New Sales – Part time jobs**

It's 17 March, so let us wish all the Irish people in Edinburgh a Happy St Patrick's Day. There are festivities across the city including those we told you about last week which will be taking place at the Three Sisters.

Pat Bourne is Ireland's General Consul to Ireland, and he will be throwing a party this evening to celebrate. The new Consul's last overseas posting was in India.

How are you celebrating today? Tell us about it! [Tweet us your photos....](#)

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We are off to the Museum this morning to talk to the Museum staff about their latest exhibition which opens today. The **Wildlife Photographer of the Year** *is co-owned by the Natural History Museum and BBC Worldwide*, and the 100 award-winning images from the Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2013 competition are displayed with each image accompanied by its photographer's story and technical details. We will be able to show you more later, but can only say any time we have tried to take a photo of a garden bird it has been a disaster so we are already in awe!

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The route for the Scottish part of the Commonwealth Games Baton Relay has been announced this morning. The baton set off at the beginning of October 2013 on an international journey of all 70 nations and territories of the Commonwealth. By the time the baton comes back to Scotland to start its journey here it will have travelled more than 190,000 kilometres.

On 14 June 2014 the baton will start off in Edinburgh and the relay will then involved 4000 baton bearers who will carry the baton 4000 kilometres around 400 villages towns and cities in 40 days until the opening ceremony in Glasgow on 23 July.

The Edinburgh leg will start from Riccarton and will then proceed to Edinburgh City Centre, Meadowbank, Leith, Portobello, Duddingston and Newington before passing to South Queensferry on 15 June 2014.

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The next date for the Polwarth Nearly New Sales is 26 April 2014. More information on what actually happens on the day [here](#).

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Firth of Froth have [job opportunities](#). They are a coffee shop in Broughton Street and insist that the persons applying for the part time jobs must have an interest in people and good communication skills.

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# Age Scotland helping you to grow old gracefully



## Time to rethink our perception of later life

More than four out of five Scots want to see society adjust its perception of later life, moving away from negative stereotypes of ageing.

New research from Age Scotland, commissioned to understand more about people's attitudes towards ageing and living longer, shows that more than three-quarters of adults in Scotland are looking forward to living longer, peaking at more than eight in 10 for the 65-74 age group.

When asked about the things that would help them live longer, nearly three-quarters of people prioritised diet, while high numbers also pointed to exercise and not-smoking. However those aged 55 to 64 rated 'having a positive attitude to ageing' very highly – 53 per cent compared with 31 per cent for all ages.

Scotland's population is ageing. Between 2010 and 2035 the percentage of the population aged 65 or over is projected to increase from 17 per cent to 25 per cent .

Brian Sloan, Chief Executive of Age Scotland, said:- "The fact that the our population is ageing is something to be celebrated, and I'm delighted that more than four out of five people agree with Age Scotland that we need to change how we all think about later life

"Every day I see and hear about fantastic examples of older people taking advantage of their later years, whether as active volunteers in their community, taking up new hobbies or

travelling. However, we recognise that many older people aren't in a position whether they can enjoy later life and that's exactly why we exist. Via our helpline, information services, campaigning and the community support we provide to more than 900 member groups working with and for older people, we want to create a Scotland where everyone can make the most of their later life."

Age Scotland believes the growth of an older population needs commitment from policy makers in terms of investment in the sorts of services an ageing society will rely on. In particular there needs to be sustained preventative spending that enables older people to enjoy a high quality life in their own communities for as long as possible.

Almost nine out of 10 respondents of all ages felt changes were needed to help us all lead a better later life. 53 per cent of those surveyed wanted older people to be treated with more dignity in hospitals and care homes, while almost half wanted to ensure that older people had enough money so as not to worry.

More than one in four people aged 65 and over associated later life with serenity and being a wonderful and exciting time to embrace. One in four aged 65 and over looked forward to it as a time of personal growth and development. However almost one in three of over 65s surveyed associated later life with health concerns, and 18 per cent with worries about paying bills.

As part of a drive to demonstrate what later life means to people in all communities across the country, Age Scotland is asking individuals to get in touch and share their stories – with via social media or by contacting Age Scotland's communications team at [communications@agescotland.org.uk](mailto:communications@agescotland.org.uk)

To find out more about Age Scotland visit [www.agescotland.org.uk](http://www.agescotland.org.uk) .

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# Queen's Baton Relay – UK route to start in Edinburgh

Hundreds of villages, towns and cities are named on the Queen's Baton Relay route through Scotland and of course the route includes Edinburgh where the Baton will start off on 14 June. On 15 June the baton will go through South Queensferry before heading for Midlothian on 16 June before finally ending up in Glasgow for the opening ceremony on 23 July.

✘ Cllr Steve Cardownie, Edinburgh's Festivals and Events Champion, welcomes the announcement:

"Naturally, I am delighted that the baton's first port of call should be here in Edinburgh and you can be sure that it will receive a fitting welcome from Scotland's Capital City. We have a fantastic programme of events planned for the day, running from morning till night, giving Edinburgh residents of all ages the opportunity to show their support for Glasgow 2014.

"We know already from the response to events running in our schools that there is a real appetite to embrace the Games and get involved. As an example, close to 2,000 children have already signed up for a Triathlon event taking place in May, and we have much more to announce in the coming weeks and months.

"Edinburgh has such a rich Commonwealth Games heritage, having hosted the Games twice before, and are thoroughly looking forward to playing our part this year when we welcome the diving competitions to the Royal Commonwealth Pool. With Glasgow being only 40 miles away and I'm quite sure people will jump at chance to extend their trip to include our world

famous summer festivals.

“We believe Glasgow 2014 represents a unique opportunity for Scotland – and, of course, Edinburgh – and we will continue to work closely with the organising committee to ensure the success of the Games and to maximise the benefits for the people of this city.”

Glasgow 2014 today revealed the list of Scotland’s villages, towns and cities which will welcome the Queen’s Baton Relay.

The baton will visit over 400 communities, offering people across the nation a chance to be a part of the excitement, celebrations and countdown to Scotland’s biggest-ever sporting and cultural festival, the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, and show their support for the home team.

The relay will reflect the important role of sport by visiting schools, sporting facilities and leisure centres, encouraging communities to get behind Team Scotland, get involved with the Games and using its profile to get more people participating in sport.

From the spires of the capital to the peaks of the Highlands, from Scottish Borders’ woodlands to island beaches, the baton will travel across all 32 Local Authorities in the nation before it reaches Glasgow, its final destination.

Brae, in the Shetland Islands, is the farthest northern village on the baton’s journey, and Kirkcudbright, in Dumfries and Galloway, the southernmost point on the relay’s route.

Communities will be celebrating in extraordinary and unique ways. More than 60 schoolchildren will travel from the Island of Unst, a two-ferry journey to the Shetland mainland, to join the relay in the village of Brae. For the first time in the history of a relay, people across the length of the Outer Hebrides, from Castlebay in Barra to the most northerly point at Butt of Lewis lighthouse, will be able to join celebrations

across five different events along the route.

The 40-day journey of the baton will cover 8,000 kilometres, showcasing the nation's most-iconic landmarks and culture.

World-famous sights such as the Forth Bridge and Loch Ness feature on the baton's journey, as well as The Kelpies, Falkirk's 30 metre-high dazzling horse head sculptures.

Scotland's rich heritage takes centre stage when the baton visits Skara Brae in the Orkney Isles and travels along the Glenfinnan Viaduct in the Highlands.

Sporting highlights on the route include visits to Melrose, the home of Rugby Sevens, Knockhill's Racing Circuit, a visit to Team Scotland's training camp at the University of Stirling and a stop at St Andrew's Old Course, the home of golf.

The baton will take part in one of Scotland's favourite festivities, as it steps forward for a Ceilidh in Dundee.

Further highlights on the baton's journey through Scotland, as well as street level details and full programme of events, will be announced nearer the time.

On 31 March thousands of people will find out whether their nominations to become batonbearers have been successful.

When it arrives in Scotland on 14 June, the baton will have been on 248-day global epic journey through all other 69 nations and territories of the Commonwealth.

On 23 July, the message Her Majesty placed in the baton will be read at the Opening Ceremony.

The Queen's Baton Relay is the world's most engaging relay, a unique tradition of the Games that unites the two billion citizens of the Commonwealth in a celebration of sport, diversity and peace. It will travel over 190,000 kilometres through 70 nations and territories of the Commonwealth.



**Announcing the full list of communities on the baton's journey, Commonwealth Games Scotland Chairman Michael Cavanagh said:**

"The Queen's Baton Relay is the ultimate symbol of the Commonwealth Games and its arrival in Scotland will be an important signal to both the athletes and the public that the Games are just around the corner.

The baton's journey through the country is the ideal opportunity for people to celebrate community sport and show support for their local athletes selected to represent Team Scotland at Glasgow 2014. We hope everyone the length and breadth of the country will get behind the team and play their part in what is going to be an amazing home Games!"

**David Grevenberg, Chief Executive of Glasgow 2014, said:**

"The Queen's Baton Relay is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for people across Scotland to celebrate what's extraordinary and unique about their communities, and honour those locals who make a difference to others. The baton is visiting hundreds of villages, towns and cities, with thousands taking part in the relay, and many more attending the vast programme of sports and cultural events along the route. With less than three months to go until the baton comes home to Scotland, the momentum is building up for the biggest festival of sport and culture this nation has ever hosted".

**Shona Robison, Minister for Commonwealth Games and Sport, said:**

"The Queen's Baton Relay is a unique element of the Commonwealth Games which unites the two billion citizens of the Commonwealth in a celebration of sport, diversity and peace. Since its launch last October, the Queen's Baton has already received a warm welcome across Asia, Oceania, Africa, the South Americas and the Caribbean as it visits all 70 nations and territories of the Commonwealth on its journey to

the Opening Ceremony of the Games on 23 July.

It has provided a unique opportunity not only to showcase what Scotland and Glasgow have to offer the world, but has also been particularly successful in engaging children and young people in the Games.

I look forward to its return to Scotland on the 14 June when I am confident it will receive an equally enthusiastic welcome as it visits villages, towns and cities across all 32 Local Authorities. Whilst it will be an exciting and dramatic countdown to the Games, I also expect it to celebrate the range of legacy activity already happening across our communities and the local heroes within them who will carry the baton”.

**Councilor Gordon Matheson, Leader of Glasgow City Council, said:**

“The Queen’s Baton has been sharing the warmth and friendship of Glasgow and Scotland throughout the Commonwealth. When the Queen’s Baton Relay reaches its final destination, it will signify the last lap in our preparations for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. Glasgow knows how to put on a party, and across every corner of the city communities will celebrate the Games finally being here”.

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# The Edinburgh Reporter’s Weekly Sports Roundup



**Rugby by John Preece**

## Internationals

The last weekend of the 2014 6 Nations saw Scottish representative teams

The U20s were first on the cards against Wales at Parc Eirias in Colwyn Bay, and, in spite of book-ending the match with two tries, the Scots had no answer to a rampant Welsh side.

Scoring their first try after five minutes the Scots support then had to endure the sight of Welshmen breaking through tackles and getting over the gain line, seemingly at will. The managed to run in three tries by half time, with the Scots only other contribution to the 19-10 score line, a penalty after 31 minutes.

Another four second half tries for the home side put the match beyond any doubt and it was only a 28-phase drive, awarded by a second try, which gave a bit of credibility to the Scots' effort with a dogged refusal to lie down, but the final score of 48-15 put that last few minutes into perspective.

Again, the penalty count told, and two yellow cards for the Scots did nothing to help the situation. And with the Junior World Cup in New Zealand on the horizon, it doesn't get any easier for Sean Lineen.

Final U20 6 Nations 'score' – Scotland U20 – 0, The Rest U20 – 5. Points for – 63, Against – 175.

The Senior side were at the Millennium Stadium for their match where Scott Johnson presided over his last match as Scotland's head coach. Sadly, he presided over a record 51-3 hammering by a Welsh side still smarting from the previous week's defeat by England. Losing Stuart Hogg to a red card for a late tackle on Dan Biggar's chin halfway through the first half made the task even more difficult for the Scots, but Wales were always the better team. 27-3 down at half time, Scotland battled away, but the man short – leaving new man, Dougie Fife marking 2-3

players – meant that the home side were able to get easily round the outside of the defence. A period of dominance by Scotland half way through the second period, which resulted in several penalties within a few metres of the Welsh line, went unrewarded and, disappointingly, unpunished by the referee. The Welsh rounded off a bad day for Scotland with a 73rd minute try to take the final score to that 51-3.

Final 6 Nations 'score' – Scotland – 1, The Rest – 4. Points for – 47, Against – 138.

The third and final encounter over the weekend involved Scotland's Women who were playing their Welsh counterparts in Aberavon. By half time the Welsh were four tries and a penalty to the good to give them a 25-0 lead. The second half was a wholly different affair, however. Scotland defended well and managed to prevent the superior Welsh side from adding to their points tally, but didn't manage to add any of their own in the process so the match ended with the same score as at half time, 25-0 to Wales.

Final Women's 6 Nations 'score' 0 Scotland 0, The Rest – 5. Points for – 5. Against – 261

So another poor year for the National sides with just one win from a possible 15. There are suggestions aplenty as to where the U20s can go (see 'Comments' on the full match report), and, with Vern Cotter – a man of great reputation – arriving at the end of the season to take over from Johnson, then maybe there is a way forward for the Senior team. The women, however, may well be a permanent fixture at the foot of their table until something is done attract more women into the sport. The ones who are already 'in' could also do with more support and a healthy increase in their current, fairly paltry, budget. When it's said they play for the shirt, they do. It's just that they have to hand it in at the end of each match so it can be laundered for next time....

## Club Rugby

Only one match was played in the Premiership on Saturday and that was the rescheduled due to waterlogged pitch/Cup tie/Club International match between Edinburgh Accies and Heriots at Raeburn Place. With Accies in seventh place in the table and only two points above the relegation zone, it was an important match for the Stockbridge team. However, Heriots proved to be too strong and their 26-14 win leaves Accies in seventh and in potential trouble. The result means that Heriots have all but secured a place in the British and Irish Cup for next season as they are currently in third, two points above Ayr – who have a game in hand – but, crucially, are 24 points ahead of fifth place Currie. And who would have thought they'd be there halfway through the season.

Next week the focus swings to the National League as Watsonians and Stewarts-Melville battle it out for the play-off place. Watsonians need to win and prevent Stew-Mel from gaining a bonus point as they have a superior point difference, but Stew-Mel just need one point from the match for them to play-off ninth place from the Premiership.

## Football SPFL

Congratulations to Sam Stanton who was voted SPFL Young Player of the Month for February.

On Saturday, Hibs lost 3-1 to Partick Thistle at Firhill, leaving them 4 points behind St Johnstone having played a game more in the race for the final top six spot.

Chris Erskine gave Thistle a half time lead then Lee Mair added a second before on loan winger Duncan Watmore pulled one back for the Easter Road side.

Man of the Match Kallum Higginbotham wrapped things up in time added on to secure the 3-1 win.

Elsewhere, the Hibs EOS won promotion to the Central Taxi's East of Scotland Premier League after beating Ormiston 4-2.

Hearts had no game this weekend but play Dundee United at Tynecastle on Friday night.



### **South Challenge Cup, First Round (all in)**

Keith McLeod's fourth hat-trick of the season helped send Spartans progress into the South Challenge Cup semi-finals, with a 1-7 win against Nithsdale Wanderers.

The opening goal came in the 11th minute from a superb Jack Beesley free-kick from 25 yards before McLeod added a second with a header from a Brown cross.

McLeod claimed his second just after the break before Wanderers pulled one back from the penalty spot.

Bremner made it 1-4 then set up McLeod who grabbed his fourth hat-trick of the season.

Sean Muhsin, added a sixth and Beesley made it 1-7 just on the full time whistle.

The victory pleased Manager Dougie Samuel who told the club website: "We produced a professional performance today that I'm delighted with. At times our ball retention and link-up play was excellent. I also thought some of our goals were top drawer as was the support play, in particular I felt Mark Whatley produced a complete central midfield performance and was back to his very best."

Spartans: Bennett, Grant, Cennerazzo, Sivewright, O'Donnell, Motion, Brown, Whatley, Anderson, McLeod, Beesley. Subs: Bremner, Muhsin, Blaikie, MacCuish, Gilpin.

Malt and Hops Man of the Match: Keith McLeod

## **Elsewhere**

Lothian Thistle Hutchison Vale 2-1 Threave Rovers

Preston Athletic (LL) 0-5 Dalbeattie Star

East Kilbride (LL) 2-1 University of Stirling

## **Central Taxis First Division**

Ormiston 2-4 Hibernian EOS

Berwick Rangers Reserves 2-0 Easthouses Lily MW

Hawick Royal Albert 4-0 Burntisland Shipyard

Peebles Rovers 4-0 Kelso United

## **Qualifying League, Section A**

Tynecastle 2-0 Eyemouth United

## **Qualifying League, Section C**

Leith Athletic 1-2 Craigroyston

## **King Cup, Second Round**

Whitehill Welfare 5-2 Gala Fairydean Rovers

Vale of Leithen 0-2 Edinburgh University

Gretna 2008 3-3 Coldstream (Gretna won 5-4 on penalties)



## **Ice Hockey by John Preece**

Edinburgh Capitals 1 Sheffield Steelers 3

Steelers all but ensured runners up spot in the league standings with a road win in Edinburgh, with Capitals putting up stiff resistance but always looking that bit short of

really testing a strong looking visitors.

It was the visitors very much in the ascendancy in the opening period but some fine goaltending by Tomas Hladovsky allowed only a goal scored by Stefan Meyer at 16.29 to split the sides.

In the middle session Steelers missed an opportunity when Robert Dowd failed on a penalty shot at 26.14 but shortly afterwards it was 2-0 to the visitors with Max Lacroix firing past Hladovsky timed at 28.21.

Steelers looked to be well in control in period three but when Capitals pulled one back at 51.33 thanks to a strike by Curtis Leinweber it ensured an exciting finish and only when Meyer fired into the empty net with 8 seconds of regulation remaining were the points assured for Steelers.

On Sunday, the Capitals travelled to Cardiff and lost 7-2 to the Devils.

Ice hockey reports courtesy of EIHL's R&J Stats

## **Basketball**

Clark Eriksson Fury retained their league title having gone all season unbeaten to be crowned Senior Men League winners for two years running on the back of lifting the Scottish Cup at the Finals in February, showcasing the team's power repeatedly throughout the season.

Clark Eriksson Fury U18 Men team didn't want to be eclipsed by their Senior team mates and took the U18 Men league title, cementing their position for the upcoming Play Offs.

City of Edinburgh Kools Kats lead the chase on the women's side, with their Senior Women and U18 women rising to the top in their respective leagues, the Seniors took their title in a winner takes all league decider at Portobello against their old rival Lady Rocks while the U18's secured their title with



games to spare.

St Mirren West College Scotland came up trumps again collecting their 3rd consecutive U16 women league after a very consistent season.

Dunfermline Reign took the U16 Men's league, making history for the club which hadn't won a 1st Division title since Former GB International and NBA star Robert Archibald led them to an U18s title in 1998!

Glasgow University SM    86-76    Glasgow Rocks SM

Boroughmuir Blaze SM    87-63    Glasgow Storm

Lady Rocks SW    66-45    Tayside Musketeers SW

## **University Basketball**

Edinburgh University men are through to the final of the British Universities Basketball Trophy after an 89-84 victory over Derby in their semi-final.

Edinburgh now play Northampton in the final at Surrey Sports Park on Tuesday, March 25.

## **Speedway**

The Scotwaste Monarchs' History Night at Meggetland was a remarkable success and a big boost to the Air Fence Fund as some 250 fans gathered in two halls to listen to the story of the Monarchs and their pre-war predecessors over 85 years.

Photos by John Preece

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

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# Glam Rock, Flares and Saturday Afternoons

Given Scotland haven't qualified for the finals of a major tournament since the World Cup in France in 1998, there was inevitable excitement when the draw for the qualifying stages of the 2016 European Championships was made in Paris the other week. After what seems like a life-long struggle to make any kind of progress, there seems genuine hope that Scotland, under the tutelage of the ebullient Gordon Strachan, might actually qualify for the finals in France two years from now. Of course, Germany are rightly the favourites but there's no reason to suggest Scotland can't get the better of the Republic of Ireland, Poland – who the Scots defeated in Warsaw a few days ago – Georgia and Gibraltar, particularly when those countries visit Glasgow. And there would be a certain symmetry if Scotland's first appearance at the finals of a major tournament for the best part of two decades were in the same country of their last appearance in 1998.

Much as the draw was the cause of some excitement, my enthusiasm was dampened somewhat when I saw the dates and kick-off times for the fixtures. Not one of the scheduled games involving Scotland will kick-off at 3.00pm on a Saturday. The Scots' opening game in Germany will kick-off at hardly the most traditional of times – 7.45pm on the evening of Sunday 7 September. Scotland will play their next game on a Saturday – against Georgia in Glasgow on 11 October – but it will start at 6.00pm. The following fixture in Poland will be on a Tuesday evening before the Republic of Ireland visit Glasgow – on a Friday six weeks before Christmas.

Those of you who regularly read my ramblings on this website – and I thank both of you – may realise I'm something of a

traditionalist. Yes, looking back at years gone by can sometimes give a false impression, with fifty-something supporters like me tending to view things through maroon-tinted spectacles. I try not to hark on to youngsters about how things were when I were a lad because it can be very irritating. However, (here we go – Ed) when I were a lad, for the most part, there were two days when games were played and two kick-off times. Hearts and Scotland, for that matter, would either play at 3.00pm on a Saturday or 7.30pm on a Wednesday.

Of course there are two main reasons why football in 2014 can be played at any time, no matter how inconvenient to the fans. Television and money – and one follows the other. Some of my childhood in the 1970s was spent watching a struggling Hearts team and a Scotland team who, on their day, could just about beat anyone (the Scots returned home from the World Cup in Germany in 1974 as the only unbeaten team in the tournament) Back then, we didn't need to check the fixtures to see if Hearts were playing on a Friday night, Saturday lunch time, Sunday or Monday evening. When Scotland played it was usually a Wednesday with the home internationals occurring at the end of the season, for example, Wales on a Saturday, Northern Ireland midweek and the auld enemy of England on the following Saturday with the bi-annual weekend trip to Wembley being the highlight of many Scots supporters lives.

Of course, back in the decade of glam rock, flares and long hair – and I recall fondly the days when I actually had hair – there was no satellite or cable television in this country. We had the BBC and ITV and that was it. The attitude from the powers-that-be who ran Scottish football was that televising an entire 90 minutes of football live would drive fans away from the game. Therefore, only the Scotland-England international and perhaps the odd World Cup qualifier were shown live on the wee box. Even the Scottish Cup final wasn't shown live on television until 1977. There were the odd game or two, such as Celtic or Rangers in big European games which

were shown live but these were few and far between.

Now, television dictates when football will be played. Hearts game with Dundee United this coming Friday is a case in point although, in fairness, there's something appealing about Friday evening football as the increase in attendances at these games has shown. However, there's something which strikes at the heart when looking at Scotland's fixtures for the Euro 2016 qualifiers. The big kick-off in Germany will be eagerly anticipated but a Sunday evening, when many people are contemplating another fraught working week, may douse the fervour somewhat. And it will mean another Saturday afternoon kicking our heels or being dragged through DIY stores having to answer the perennial question 'why haven't you fixed that shelf in the kitchen yet?'

The huge sums of money involved in club football these days has led many people to question if international football has quite the same appeal as it did in the days of the dodgy perm and the dulcet tones of commentators Archie MacPherson and Arthur Montford. Having obscure kick-off times will only add fuel to the fire of those who feel it doesn't.

And those who feel a sadness that a Saturday afternoon at 3.00pm is fast becoming become eerily quiet...

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## **F1 – Rosberg wins, Ricciardo disqualified in Australian Grand Prix**

Nico Rosberg cruised to victory in the opening race of the season, but the main talking point in Melbourne was the

disqualification of Australian driver Daniel Ricciardo, who saw his 2nd place stripped from him after the race.

Mercedes were widely touted as favourites going into the race, and it was Lewis Hamilton who started the race on pole position after a tense and thrilling qualifying session the day before. Unfortunately for the British driver, an engine problem saw him retire early in the race while his team mate Rosberg, who started in 3rd, shot ahead to take the lead and dominate the rest of the race.

Even with a brief appearance from the safety car, Rosberg's lead was never under threat and 2nd placed Ricciardo was unable to find himself in a position to put the German under pressure. Nevertheless, Ricciardo was able to put in an impressive performance of his own, and bring his car home for what seemed to be his first ever podium. The Aussie was ecstatic to be celebrating in front of his home fans, marking what appeared to be the first time an Australian driver had been on the podium at the Australian Grand Prix, but the joy was short-lived when the FIA called him in for investigation regarding a fuel flow issue.

The new 2014 regulations state that the fuel flow cannot exceed 100kg/h, a limit which the Red Bull was judged to have exceeded. Ricciardo's 2nd place, and the 18 championship points that came with it, was taken away – a crushing disappointment to the new Red Bull driver at his home race.

The ruling, which Red Bull are appealing, means that rookie driver Kevin Magnussen now provisionally takes 2nd place, ahead of world-champion team mate Jenson Button. The 21-year-old Dane put in a composed and mature performance, driving the car with a determined aggression and giving his more experienced team mate a thing or two to consider for the long season ahead.

The opening few laps of the race saw a number of retirements –

something which was not unexpected given the reliability issues of the new 2014 cars. Kamui Kobayashi suffered a brake failure at the first corner, taking out Felipe Massa and ending both their races, while four-time reigning world champion Sebastian Vettel was plagued the engine problems and had to retire.

It was a good race for Toro Rosso's new driver Daniil Kvyat, who at 19 years of age became the youngest driver to score points in Formula 1 thanks to his 10th place finish. Valtteri Bottas was another GP3 graduate who showed his stock in the race with a solid 5th place finish, though he perhaps could have been in contention for a podium had he not suffered a puncture after brushing the wall halfway through the race.

The Ferraris of Fernando Alonso and Kimi Raikkonen finished in 5th and 7th respectively after suffering electrical problems, neither driver being particularly pleased with the cars' lack of competitiveness.

With only 14 of the 22 cars finishing the race, reliability seems to be a significant factor for many of the teams. Mercedes, who are the favourites at this early stage, had mixed fortunes themselves with a win from one driver and a retirement from the other. The next race in Malaysia is two weeks away, and all the teams will be working hard to make sure the cars are as ready as possible as the 2014 season continues.

### **Australian Grand Prix Full Results**

- 1 ROSBERG
- 2 MAGNUSSEN
- 3 BUTTON
- 4 ALONSO
- 5 BOTTAS
- 6 HULKENBERG
- 7 RAIKKONEN

8 VERGNE  
9 KVIAT  
10 PEREZ  
11 SUTIL  
12 GUTIERREZ  
13 CHILTON  
RICCIARDO (DQ)  
HAMILTON (DNF)  
VETTEL (DNF)  
GROSJEAN (DNF)  
ERICSSON (DNF)  
KOBAYASHI (DNF)  
MALDONADO (DNF)  
MASSA (DNF)  
BIANCHI (DNF)

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## Football – Spartans SWPL opening day success



A second half penalty by Sarah Ewens earned Spartans an opening day win against Hamilton at Ainslie Park in what Manager Debby McCulloch described as “a comfortable performance” that delivered “an important three points the girls worked very hard for.”

A route one attempt by Stephanie Briggs almost resulted in an opening goal for Katie Reilly however the wind took the ball off the Captain’s shoelaces before she could pull the trigger.

Sarah Ewens forced a free-kick 20 yards out as she weaved her way through the Hamilton defence before being brought to the ground. Montgomery's free-kick was well saved by the impressive Cunningham.

The game, watched by National Team Head Coach Anna Signeul, came to life on the half hour mark with two goals in as many minutes.

Kerry Montgomery capitalised on a defensive blunder by Donnelly to round the keeper to put Spartans in the lead however immediately from the restart, Gemmell unleashed a strike from just outside the box that flew into the back of Rachel Harrison's net.

Ewens had an opportunity to regain the lead however Cunningham was equal to the task as she got down low to smother the ball at her near post.

Half Time Spartans 1-1 Hamilton Academicals

A speculative shot by Hogg saw Harrison watch the ball come back off her crossbar as the visitors looked to take advantage of the wind at the start of the second half.

At the other end, a Ewens free-kick brought out an acrobatic save from the Hamilton keeper who tipped the ball over the bar.

It was an SWPL debut for Ronaigh Douglas as the Youth player came on for Tracy Donachie on the hour mark.

The game took its most defining turn on in the 70<sup>th</sup> minute when Spartans were awarded a penalty kick.

Ashley Nicolson's long ball saw Ewens dash into the box only for Donnelly to elbow the Spartans player to the ground. The Hamilton defender paid the ultimate penalty as she was shown a red card for her transgression.



Ewens dusted herself down and calmly drilled the ball hard into the back of the net to score her side's 500<sup>th</sup> competitive goal since the Club formed in 2008. 2-1.

Ciara Barnes replaced McLaughlin shortly after as Spartans looked to protect their lead against the 10-man Academicals.

Harrison almost handed Hamilton a lifeline when a wayward throw-out caught the wind and almost fell into the path of Richardson however the ball got caught up under the visiting striker's feet and the danger was cleared.

Final Score: Spartans 2-1 Hamilton Academicals

Penalty hero Sarah Ewens said, "It was good to get the win today. It's always a battle against Hamilton as they are a good team. On the whole I think we deserved the win and could've scored more, but at the end of the day, its 3 points and that's what we set out to achieve."

Manager Debbi McCulloch commented, "With us having seven players out then Lana Clelland picking up an injury whilst away with the National Team, it was important to get the season off to a positive start and we've done that by picking up three points today. I thought the Hamilton keeper performed extremely well to keep us at bay however in the end I felt that it was a comfortable win for us."

Second half sub Ronaigh Douglas impressed when she replaced Donachie and the youngster is a player that excites the Spartans Manager. "Ronaigh didn't look out of place today and I thought she played fantastically well, especially with Anna (Signeul) watching. Hopefully by placing her on this platform it will show others that she has the ability to go very, very far."

Despite a double from Laura McRitchie, the Reserves went down 6-2 in their SWFL 2nd Division opener at Meadowbank against Hutchison Vale Reserves.

# Police appeal after prescription medication lost in Cowgate area



Police are appealing for assistance from the public after prescription medication was lost in the Capital.

A woman contacted police earlier today to report mis-placing a black toiletry bag containing quantities of high-strength painkillers and sleeping pills.

The medication was lost somewhere between the Cowgate and Waverly station sometime from 1pm to 7pm yesterday.

Anyone who comes across the bag or the tablets is asked to hand it in to the nearest police station.

A Police Scotland spokesman said: "The medication should not be consumed by anyone other than the prescribed user.

"Anyone who finds these items should contact police immediately on 101."

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# Edinburgh researchers showcase work at UK Parliament



Edinburgh scientists and engineers are presenting their work to politicians and experts in a competition at the Houses of Parliament in London tomorrow.

The entrants will present posters explaining their research. These will be judged against entries from dozens of other scientists, who were shortlisted from hundreds of applicants to take part.

The event, SET for Britain, aims to showcase Britain's best early career researchers in science, engineering and technology.

Taking part from the University of Edinburgh are engineers Siraj Sabihuddin and Dr Timm Krueger, together with scientist Dr Erin Greaves.

Mr Sabihuddin's work looks at a new way of storing energy mechanically – a method that may make renewable energy a much more viable contender to coal, oil and gas.

Dr Krueger's research involves detection of malaria-infected red blood cells, while Dr Greaves is researching how to treat pain associated with the reproductive disorder endometriosis.

Each entry will compete in one of five categories to win a gold, silver or bronze prize, worth £3,000, £2,000 and £1,000 respectively. There will also be an overall winner who will receive the Westminster Wharton Medal.

Andrew Miller MP, Chairman of the Parliamentary and Scientific

Committee, said, “This annual competition is an important date in the parliamentary calendar because it gives MPs an opportunity to speak to a wide range of the country’s best young researchers.

“These early career engineers, mathematicians and scientists are the architects of our future and SET for Britain is politicians’ best opportunity to meet them and understand their work.”

Mr Philip Greenish CBE, Chief Executive of the Royal Academy of Engineering, said: “SET for Britain is a unique occasion for young researchers to showcase the best of their work directly to MPs.

“It gathers some of Britain’s best early-stage researchers and politicians in the same room, this helps to create familiarity and a dialogue between two worlds that have very few occasions to touch.”

The Parliamentary and Scientific Committee run the event in collaboration with the Council for Mathematical Sciences, the Institute of Physics, The Physiological Society, the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Society of Biology and the Society of Chemical Industry, with financial support from BP, the Clay Mathematics Institute, Essar, INEOS, Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG), Germaines Seed Technology, Boeing, the Bank of England and the Institute of Biomedical Science.

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## **Hibs’ EOS clinch promotion to**

# Central Division

# Taxis

# Premier



Hibs' EOS clinched promotion into the Central Taxis Premier Division after beating Ormiston 4-2 at Recreation Park thanks to goals from Lewis Allan (two), Gareth McCaffrey and Jamie Beaton.

Head of Academy Coaching James McDonaugh told Hibernian TV: "It was another very difficult away game with the wind playing a big part in the game.

"We started poorly and conceded early in the game then went 2-0 down. However this second goal seemed to waken us up and the sense of injustice – there appeared to be a double hand-ball – spurred the players on.

"We pulled one back when Allan made a good run and shot, this time we were fortunate as the deflection helped us.

"Black then drove into the box and squared for Allan to score again and this was a big goal to level us at the break.

"We played with the wind in the second half and a quick McCaffrey strike allowed us to control the game. I was happy with the overall character we showed and in particular the way we managed the game.

"Jamie Beaton ended the game in the dying minutes with a fantastic free-kick into the top corner to seal our win.

"I'd like to congratulate my players for showing great character and spirit having lost to Kelso, beaten Celtic and now returned to the top of the First Division."

Hibs' EOS: Kleton Perntreou, Aaron Dunsmore, Jamie Beaton,

Andrew Black, Bob Wilson, Neil Martyniuk, Dean Horribine, Callum Crane, Lewis Allan, Taylor Hendry, Gareth McCaffrey. Subs: Euan Smith on for McCaffrey, Scott Martin on for Taylor Hendry.

Hibs'under-20s are back in action on Tuesday evening (18 March, kick off 6pm) against St Johnstone at McDiarmid Park.

Photo by John Preece

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

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## **Midlothian care home deemed 'unsatisfactory' by inspectors**

The Care Inspectorate who are responsible for registering and inspecting care homes in Scotland have given a Midlothian care home notice that it must make urgent changes following an unannounced visit.

An inspection at Drummond Grange Nursing Home in Lasswade, carried out in December last year and published now, found several concerns remained after they were initially raised in August.

The Care Inspectorate has informed the service of six immediate requirements for improvement in its most recent [report](#).

A spokesman for the watchdog said: -"We raised serious concerns about the quality of care being provided at this service in August last year.

“At the time we graded the quality of care as ‘weak’. Our most recent follow-up inspection found that the quality of care provided has deteriorated to ‘unsatisfactory,’ the lowest grade we can give.

“We have informed the service of what it needs to do to ensure that immediate improvements are made.

“Everyone in Scotland has the right to safe, compassionate care which meets their needs and respects their rights.

“We continue to work with the service to ensure they improve, but if we do not see evidence of urgent improvements we will not hesitate to take further action.”

The service has been told it must improve staffing; the management of epilepsy; ensuring equipment is checked and faults reported with remedial action taken; ensuring residents’ physical, social and emotional needs are met; ensuring staff are competent in communicating with residents; and that staff are aware of and adhere to professional codes.

In the past year, the Care Inspectorate received 3,172 complaints about care, a rise of 28.2% compared to the 2,475 received by its predecessor body in 2008/9.

The Care Inspectorate says the rise in complaints shows more people are able to raise concerns and know how to do so.

The watchdog stressed that while complaints have risen, the number of services found to be performing well was also on the rise.

In February the Inspectorate issued its report on Pentland Hill Nursing Home in Edinburgh.

The Care Inspectorate uncovered serious concerns about the home during a routine, unannounced inspection last year, and warned the home that it faced imminent closure unless standards were improved.

The latest report relates to an unannounced inspection undertaken on 20 December 2013 by a team of eight specialists, including care inspectors and professional advisers in nutrition, tissue viability and pharmacy.

The [latest report](#) notes that, while the team found some improvements, more work is needed to make them consistent and sustained and ensure residents enjoy a good quality of life.

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## Partick Thistle 3-1 Hibernian



With three games to go before the split, Hibs' hopes of securing a top six finish hang by a thread after losing 3-1 to Partick Thistle at Firhill yesterday.

Terry Butcher made one change to the Hibs' line-up following their midweek draw with Inverness with Jason Cummings replacing Danny Haynes in attack.

Ryan McGivern tripped Lyle Taylor on the edge of the penalty area in the first minute and Ben Williams easily saved Kallum Higginbotham's free kick.

At the other end Paul Gallacher did well to prevent Cummings turning in a dangerous cross from former Thistle man Paul Cairney.

Cummings then had the chance to release the unmarked James Collins but Conrad Balatoni managed to block his pass before Duncan Watmore managed to get behind the Thistle defence on the left but no-one was able to capitalise on his cutback.



Hibs dominated possession and won a series of corner kicks without looking dangerous whilst Thistle and in particular Higginbotham were causing problems on the break and Ben Williams did well to push his effort over the crossbar.

Higginbotham then missed an opportunity before setting up Erskine but Williams stood tall and easily saved his shot.

The Hibs' number one then had to react quickly to smoother at the feet of Kris Doolan before Thistle's pressure paid off just before the break when Erskine blasted high into the net after good work from Taylor and Doolan.

Hibs started the second half brightly with Cummings forcing Gallacher into an early save and then from Sam Stanton's corner kick Michael Nelson rose above the defence but his header slew just over the bar.

Williams produced another fine save to deny Higginbotham before the Jags added a second when Mair headed in Higginbotham's inch perfect free kick at the back post.

Hibs responded immediately as Stanton surged forward finding Watmore who curled a terrific finish low into the bottom left hand corner of the net.

Taylor was then denied by Williams at his near post then before narrowly missing Higginbotham's low cross after sliding in as Thistle looked to wrap the game up.

Hibs put the home defence under pressure late on with Hanlon, Haynes and Forster all going close then with eight minutes remaining a driven cross from substitute Heffernan was almost turned into his own net by O'Donnell but an instinctive stop from Gallacher prevented an equaliser.

In time added on, and with Hibs pushing bodies forward Higginbotham secured the points with a breakaway goal.

Afterwards Terry Butcher told Sky Sports: "I think Hibs fans

have seen this performance so many times. Performances like that have happened all too often for Hibs in the past.

“It will be an interesting team selection next week. I’d rather go with kids and lose if we’re going to lose, but let’s go with kids, at least they’re honest.

“Today Watmore and Sam Stanton were excellent for us and they tried their socks off, and they are being let down by other players.

“We pushed Sam out wide left to have a go at the full-back and he got into a good position for the goal, but I need three or four Sam Stantons in the team and I haven’t got that.

“I need three or four Duncan Watmores in the team and I haven’t got that.

“They’re game boys and if you look for any comfort from the game – and there’s not much – those two would provide it between themselves, so it will be interesting next week.

“We’ll certainly have a look at team selection because we’ve got eight battles now. I don’t like being let down. I do not like being let down.”

St Johnstone list to Ross County in the tea time fixture at Perth, but still remain four points clear with a game in hand and a vastly superior goal difference.

Partick Thistle: Gallacher, O’Donnell, Taylor-Sinclair, Balatoni, Doolan, Buaben, Mair, Taylor (Elliott 78’), Fraser, Higginbotham, Erskine (Lawless 84).Substitutes not used: Fox, Craigen, Piccolo, McMillan, Moncur.

Hibs: Williams, McGivern, Hanlon, Nelson, Cairney (Craig 65’), Collins (Haynes 76’), Taiwo, Watmore, Forster, Stanton, Cummings (Heffernan 61’).Substitutes not used: Murdoch, Stevenson, Maybury, Handling.

Referee: Brian Colvin.

Attendance: 4,414

Photograph by John Preece

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

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# Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



**Vintage Nation – Edinburgh International Festival – Red Bull Hill Chasers – Edinburgh International Science Festival – Dumbiedykes bus a no go**

If vintage is your thing whether it is fashion or furniture then you should head for The Corn Exchange today between 12 noon and 6pm. [More details here.](#) There will also be music from The Blitz Sisters. We met the duo in a queue at a Fringe event.....

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The Festival programme will be launched this week complete with the usual bacon rolls. But this will be the last Festival that is coordinated by Jonathan Mills before Irishman takes over as Festival Director.

One of the big names this year is bound to be the star of The Killing Sofie Gråbøl who is appearing in the James Plays this summer.



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A date for next month's diary. The Red Bull Hill Chasers are coming to town.

*"The UK's only multi-discipline, uphill bike sprint race is returning to Scotland. Red Bull Hill Chasers is a night time uphill eliminator race for all bike disciplines, BMX, Mountain Bike, Road Cycling and Fixed Gear. Taking place on The Mound, featuring 10 of the top bike athletes across the UK against 30 top local hero's from Edinburgh. Any Rider. Any Bike. One Hill. #rbhillchasers"*

Are you taking part? Fancy talking to us about your preparations for the event? Get in touch then!

[theedinburghreporter@gmail.com](mailto:theedinburghreporter@gmail.com)

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Also next month the Edinburgh International Science Festival runs from 5 – 20 April 2014.

The programme is [here](#) to help you know what to book!

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One of the innovations set up by the present council administration when first elected two years ago was the Petitions Committee. The committee was viewed as a way of engaging with the public by allowing them to set the agenda.

Some residents in Dumbiedykes go together and signed a [petition](#) to have their bus service enhanced. Now one year later it seems that the proposal has simply been deemed unaffordable by the council, and although they undertake to continue to look at the possibility of altering the bus service to the area, it has all the outward signs of a project being placed on a high shelf.

The petition was supported by 454 signatories who want the Number 36 bus to be diverted to connect them to the south side of the city. The idea of a rerouted service was referred to the Transport Committee and this week will be the third time that committee have discussed the possibility, though without any positive recommendations.