

Register now for University of Edinburgh's knowledge exchange project

SCOTTISH COMPANIES INVITED TO TAKE PART IN GLOBAL FIRST FOR UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

- Registration now open for unique 18th June business – academic event

The University of Edinburgh has become the first higher academic institute in the world outside Scandinavia to be approved as hosts for AIMday® – a collaborative knowledge exchange initiative which began life at Uppsala University in Sweden – giving companies access to academic specialists capable of identifying solutions to specific issues they are facing.

Organised by Edinburgh Research and Innovation, the commercialisation arm of the University of Edinburgh, AIMday's objective is to give academics valuable insights into what kind of issues companies are having difficulties with and how these might relate to their own research. By working collaboratively on real life industry challenges, fresh understanding and perspectives can be brought to company strategic objectives.

Registration is now open for the inaugural event which takes place on 18th June at the University of Edinburgh's Kings Buildings Campus where the focus will spotlight **Modelling and Simulation**.

The use of Modelling and Simulation is becoming increasingly important across all industries due to the need to reduce costs, minimise waste, etc. Modelling is a tool used when a system is too complex, too costly or too vast to measure.

Equally, Simulation technology has long been included in the body of knowledge of engineering management. Modelling and Simulation has already helped to reduce costs and increased the quality of products and systems.

AIMday Modelling and Simulation will help to identify ways of examining and testing various scenarios by translating a myriad of business problems which academic scientists can relate to, therefore pinpointing where improvements can be made using M&S techniques.

Ian Sharp, Commercial Relations Manager at Edinburgh Research and Innovation (ERI), University of Edinburgh commented:-

“Businesses can often face what they might perceive as insurmountable challenges to get a product or service to the next stage of its evolution. AIMday, with its focus of Modelling and Simulation, will be ideally suited for many businesses hoping to seek an academic partner with the pedigree to work through a range of options for testing and experimenting with potential improvements.

“Through our science and engineering disciplines, we cover a broad range of current modelling and simulation research including product life cycle modelling and designing model organisms for biological tests and access to a range of simulation software for physics and engineering applications.

“We’re thrilled the University of Edinburgh has been chosen as the first outside the Nordic countries to host an AIMday and we’re hoping for a good level of engagement from the Scottish industrial and business communities.”

AIMday has its origins within the Ångström Materials Academy at Uppsala University, which arranged its first Materials Day in 2008.

The success was immediate. Industrial companies got expert feedback on issues of importance to them and the academic scientists gained valuable insights into the types of issues

that are important to industry. In addition, ideas for further research were generated and various forms of collaborations started.

Since its inception, the AIMday concept has been extended to other disciplinary areas, like life science, humanities and social sciences where the concept has continued to flourish.

University of Edinburgh's AIMday Modelling & Simulation will be held within the Swann Building on Kings Building Campus. Further details and registration can be found at <http://aimday.se/modelling-simulation/>

Dalkeith man wins a car at Murrayfield!



Scott scores a brand new Vauxhall Cascada for a year in Peter Vardy sponsored half-time kicking competition at Murrayfield

Scott Carruthers, an Insurance Agent for NFU Mutual, from Dalkeith, and a dedicated Scotland rugby fan, imitated the actions of his heroes on Saturday by winning the Peter Vardy half-time kicking competition during the interval of Saturday's dramatic RBS 6 Nations Scotland v France game at Murrayfield.

By converting his kick from the 22 metre spot in front of thousands of fellow fans and answering the *killer*

question correctly, Scott won the right to drive Vauxhall's exciting new convertible, the Cascada, for a year.

The competition, in which three rugby fans competed to convert the place-kick, was sponsored by Peter Vardy, the rapidly-expanding Scotland-based car dealer, to celebrate its recently announced three year partnership deal with Scottish Rugby.

Scott said: "It's nerve-wracking to run up for the kick in front of so many thousands of people but I was able to focus my concentration solely on getting the ball between the sticks and was delighted to win this fantastic car for a year."

Peter Vardy, the company's CEO, said: "Many congratulations go to Scott. He was under huge pressure to score, but he kept his head and succeeded when it counted.

"We are very pleased to reward him with twelve months' access to the fantastic new Vauxhall Cascada which has already been causing a stir amongst customers in our five Vauxhall dealership across Scotland.

"The competition was held to celebrate our newly-established relationship with Scottish Rugby which we are providing with a fleet of Vauxhall vehicles to be used predominantly by its coaching staff to assist in the development and growth of the game at club and school level across Scotland".

Hibs announce money-can't-buy experience incentives



A unique money-can't-buy experience is being offered to all Hibs' supporters, who sign up for a 14/15 Season Ticket Membership – with more unique incentives and offers being announced every day of this week!

Yesterday the club launched the 1 in 100 scheme. For every 100 supporters, who enlist in Terry Bucher's Green and White Army, a prize draw will identify one lucky recruit, who will spend a day at the Club's Training Centre as a guest of Terry and the squad;.

The first winner will be announced the in the next 24 hours.

That means if 10,000 fans sign up to back the Manager, 100 fans will enjoy an amazing pre-season day with Terry and the squad as they prepare for next season, including a tour of the centre, taking in training, and lunch with the players.

In addition, for Season Ticket Memberships there is a price freeze plus an 11-month interest-free payment plan available.

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



Theresa Riggi – Culture & Sport committee meeting today – Spokes Meeting – Chatterbooks at Sighthill Library – Councillor Walker

The news broke last night that convicted murderer Theresa Riggi had apparently taken her own life in a secure prison in Nottinghamshire.

[Read more here.](#)

The Culture & Sport Committee will approve the addition of a new inscription at Makars' Court when they meet this morning.

The latest addition proposed is a quotation from Elizabeth Melville, Lady Culross who lived in the 16th and 17th centuries. Here is what the report recommends:-

The Council of the Saltire Society now recommends that a further application be approved, to commemorate Elizabeth Melville, Lady Culross (c1578-c1640)

Elizabeth Melville, Lady Culross, was the first Scotswoman to see her work in print. Her mini-epic "Ane Godlie Dreame", was first printed in 1603; it was a best-seller, reissued at least twelve times up to 1737. A daughter of the well-known courtier, diplomat and memoirist Sir James Melville of Halhill (d.1617), Elizabeth also left a very substantial body of manuscript verse, which is only now beginning to be explored by admiring critics. The melodies to which five of her poems were designed to be sung are known, while other poems reflect her major involvement in the struggle to defend religious freedom against the policies of James VI and his son Charles I, which led to the National Covenant of 1638. Thanks to the extent of her work which has survived, she is undoubtedly Scotland's most significant early modern woman writer.

The proposed inscription, and source of the quotation, are as follows:

Elizabeth Melville, Lady Culross (c.1578-c.1640)

*Though tyrants threat, though Lyons rage and rore Defy them
all, and feare not to win out.*


(from "Ane Godlie Dream" (1604 edition), lines 386-87)

A stone inscribed in memory of John Muir will be unveiled later this spring.

The Culture and Sport committee convene in the Dean of Guild Court Room at 10am and all members of the public are welcome. The papers can be found online [here](#).

Council Leader Andrew Burns who is a keen cyclist is to speak at the meeting of the local cycling group, Spokes on Monday 24 March 2014.



 Sighthill Library run this group each month for children with dyslexia, but you don't have to live in the area to go along and join in. Contact Hannah for more details.

You can read more about [Sighthill Library at Gate 55 here](#).



Councillor David Walker who represents the Portobello/Craigmillar Ward told The Edinburgh Reporter yesterday that he had shot a hole in one during a friendly golf match with friends just recently, but failed to have a photo taken to commemorate the event!

Have you been out on the golf course already this year? Any memorable moments captured in photos? Then send them to us! We would love to know about them and share your story.

theedinburghreporter@gmail.com

Tonight: Alchemy Film Festival Preview at Summerhall



Film lovers suffering from post-Oscar depression need not fret, as the film year starts once again with this year's preview of the Alchemy Film Festival taking place in Edinburgh tonight. Famous for embracing experimental film, the festival will announce its program for the fourth consecutive year.

Welcome to everyone who loves cinema, the programme is officially launched tonight at Summerhall, with promises of a glimpse at the 100 films set to show at the festival, which takes place in the Borders town of Hawick, between the 3rd-6th April.

Adopting the ethereal theme of 'DreamLand', the festival will delve into the world as a place of dreams, and the utopian dreams of a homeland. The festival's Creative Director Richard

Ashrowan says the festival will “retain its focus on the natural world but in 2014 will move beyond into the broader realm of dreams.”

Tonight’s event runs from 7 till 9pm at Summerhall. Anyone who wishes to attend must confirm their attendance before 5pm tonight, via [this link](#).

For more information on the festival, visit the [Alchemy Film Festival website](#).

Photo Credit: Un Rêve, Patrick Bokanowski

Theresa Riggi found dead at Rampton Secure Hospital



A mother who stabbed her three children to death in their Edinburgh home has been found dead at Rampton Secure Hospital in Nottinghamshire.

Theresa Riggi, 49 killed her eight-year-old twins Augustino and Gianluca and five-year-old daughter Cecilia at a flat in Edinburgh’s Slateford Road in August 2010.

She was originally charged with murder but the Crown accepted a plea of culpable homicide due to diminished responsibility.

At the trial, Lord Bracadale said that the killings were a “devastating family tragedy” and sentenced the American to 16 years imprisonment.

The trial heard that Riggi suffered from narcissistic, paranoid and hysterical personality disorders.

After a number of alleged attacks she was moved to Rampton from the all-female Cornton Vale Prison, near Stirling.

Council urges tenants to take action on rent arrears



RENT ISSUES – DON'T BURY YOUR HEAD IN THE SAND

Council tenants in Edinburgh falling behind with their rent were today urged not to bury their heads in the sand and ignore the consequences of not paying their rent.

Rent arrears for Council housing in Edinburgh have historically been low compared to other local authorities but the number of tenants getting into difficulties with their rent has been on the increase over the last 12 months. While there are a range of services in place to help tenants get back on track there are concerns that many tenants are failing to respond to offers of help and assistance when they get into arrears.

Help and advice is available from Council housing staff, who can help tenants to draw up payment plans for to repay the rent due, apply for Housing Benefit and future housing options if tenants are looking to move home. There is also an income maximisation service that helps ensure that tenants are getting all the financial help available to them and they can

also be referred on to other specialist advice agencies to deal with wider debt or support issues.

Over the next few weeks radio adverts and posters urging tenants not to ignore rent arrears problems will be aimed at those in arrears.

Councillor Cammy Day, Housing Convener, said: "We want to support tenants so that they can stay in their homes and understand that some households may face difficulties from time to time. But it's important that tenants don't bury their heads in the sand and ignore the help and support available to them and ultimately risk losing their home as a result.

"We have a responsibility to ensure people pay their rent but also get the help they need. Tenants are facing increased financial pressure as a result of benefit reforms, sanctions and suspensions. Household energy bills are placing further pressure on tenants. Increasing rent arrears means less investment in making homes more energy efficient and cheaper to heat."

Warriston tenant Lynn Derighetti, who has received advice from the Council about rent issues, was very impressed with the service. She said: "I haven't been keeping in great health and had to stop work, and had to apply for housing benefit. The north office were so helpful and took time out to go through application forms for discretionary payments, and getting the money back has helped a lot, as it eased some of the pressure.

"I would encourage anyone who is worried about rent payments to contact their local office, as they have helped me so much. I get the same person every time I phone. The first thing that you do is panic, and if it hadn't have been for the contact I've had, I would have worried myself sick. The staff are there to help you sort things out and to advise you."

Betty Stevenson, Convener of the Edinburgh Tenant's Federation, added: "Edinburgh Tenants Federation welcomes the

opportunity to be part of the Council's Rent Communication Strategy launch. It's very important that tenants get in touch with the Council if they are experiencing any problems with rent arrears."

Contact rentfirst@edinburgh.gov.uk or 0800 028 2786 for advice.

Edinburgh flies the flag for Commonwealth Day



The Lord Provost the Rt Hon Donald Wilson conveyed a message from Her Majesty The Queen and raised the Commonwealth Flag above the City Chambers this morning to mark Commonwealth Day on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council.



It is expected that 500 flags will be raised across the UK on Monday to mark the family of 53 Commonwealth countries.

The Lord Provost advised the following message sent from Her Majesty, The Queen:-

"I am pleased to learn that so many people will be taking part in the 'Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth' initiative on Monday 10th March, which will see a record number of Commonwealth flags being raised on one day. I send my good wishes to all who are taking part."



Space Solutions shortlisted for a hat trick of awards



Workplace design experts Space Solutions is celebrating after receiving a hat-trick of nominations for this year's prestigious British Council for Offices (BCO) Awards.

The commercial property experts have been shortlisted in all three of their award submissions, including two nominations for the interior fit out category for separate projects.

Now in its sixth year, the BCO Scotland Awards are held to celebrate excellence in office space across the country. Space Solutions has been recognised for its innovative interior design services for the new UK headquarters in Aberdeen for Teekay Petrojarl, the largest Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) operator in the North Sea. Set over three floors, the design reflects the organisation's core values ethos through a vibrant and dynamic office space which fits the varied needs of the work teams as well as providing a flexible space for future expansion.

The second nomination for the same award is for a project closer to home, the design and fit-out of Space Solutions' new Edinburgh office at Lochrin Square. The new office promotes collaborative working through an open plan design, which features a selection of formal and informal settings,

including a café lounge area to promote staff wellbeing. Space Solution's designers and architects worked closely to create a space which works for both clients and staff, presenting a functional and comfortable experience.

Space Solutions, which helps businesses get the most from their workspaces, has also been shortlisted in the Exterior Build category for the base build and fit out works for Bibby Offshore's new headquarters in Aberdeenshire. The design makes clever use of curtain wall and rain-screen cladding components to provide a striking horizontal silver feature to the central main entrance elevation. Silver 'bullet' profiles of the curtain wall slice across the mirrored glass before cutting through the ceramic rain-screen feature, which returns on either side.

Steve Judge, managing director of Space Solutions, said: -"To have been shortlisted for all three of our award submission is a great honour and is a real testament to the talent and hard work of our team. It is especially rewarding to have been shortlisted for the design and fit-out of our new Edinburgh office and I would like to say a big thank you to everyone involved.

"Last year marked a busy period for Space Solutions as the business continued to grow. In addition to a 20% increase in staff members, we also expanded our core services with the addition of hospitality design specialists, Purpose Design and a specialist FF&E division. We also delivered an increased number of UK and international projects, expanding our services in the Middle East, which we hope to build on significantly this year. We have had a terrific start to 2014 and we are looking forward to building on the success of 2013."

Space Solutions, which has offices throughout Scotland, London and Oman, is currently working on projects for Edinburgh Napier University, First State Investments in Edinburgh, and has recently been appointed as part of the consortium for the new Ayrshire College in Kilmarnock.

The winners of the awards will be announced at a ceremony in Glasgow on 4 April, 2014.

Submitted by [Grant Thomson](#)



Irvine Welsh announced as Patron of Screen Education Edinburgh



Irvine Welsh, the Edinburgh born novelist, playwright, storyteller and screenwriter has today been announced as the Patron of Screen Education Edinburgh.

Screen Education Edinburgh support young people and emerging talent in developing and expressing themselves through the medium of film, developing them as people and improving their life chances.

Irvine Welsh commented: “As a local who grew up in Pilton and Muirhouse, I’m delighted and honoured to be patron of Screen Education Edinburgh. If you come from a disadvantaged area, the world can often seem to conspire against you, constraining your vision to the streets around you and the urgent here and now of simply getting by. Cinema is a wonderful tool in combating that horrible malaise, opening up windows into

different worlds, and helping us to understand our own ones better through the broadening our horizons. The skills you learn through being part of a committed team, working on a task that can create a little bit of magic are transferable to other areas of our life.”

Graham Fitzpatrick, Creative Manager at Screen Education Edinburgh, said: “We are delighted to welcome Irvine as our patron. His endorsement for our work is invaluable in further establishing our position as supporters of emerging filmmakers within the Scottish film industry.

“We approached Irvine because of his connection to Edinburgh and our roots, his association with great British films such as ‘Trainspotting’ and ‘Filth’ and because of his position as one of the most important and imaginative writers of your generation.”

Janet Archer, CEO at Creative Scotland said: “The fact that Irvine Welsh has agreed to be SEE’s patron is great news – a local writer of international repute lending his support will help SEE to build upon the vital work that they do in Edinburgh and the Lothians.”

Submitted by [Neil Rolland](#)



Traverse Theatre Company heads for Broadway



Traverse Theatre Company will be in New York this April,

taking Fringe 2013 hits *A Respectable Widow Takes to Vulgarities* and *Clean* for a month-long run at 59E59 Theaters, marking New York's Scotland Week (3 – 10 April) as part of 59E59 Theaters' Brits Off Broadway season.

In advance of their transfer to New York in April, the 5* review-winning pair will be presented as a double bill from 26 – 29 March on the Traverse stage.

As a double bill, *A Respectable Widow Takes to Vulgarities* and *Clean* will be the Traverse Theatre Company's third transfer to New York in recent years, following David Harrower's *Good With People*, which debuted at 59E59 Theaters as part of Brits Off Broadway season and Scotland Week in March 2013, and David Greig's *Midsummer* (a play with songs) which kicked off Traverse Theatre Company's 50th year by playing at the Clurman Theatre in January 2013.

Linda Crooks, Executive Producer of Traverse Theatre Company commented: "Our invitation to 59E59 Theaters for the second year running is a testament to the quality of work Traverse Theatre Company produces year on year. With an international reputation for discovering and producing high calibre new writing talent, it is an honour to present our work to the New York audience."

Evolving from their breakfast beginnings as part of the popular Dream Play series in 2012 and the Breakfast Plays series in 2013, both plays were further developed and have received an outstanding response from audiences and critics.

On news of the transfer, Douglas Maxwell commented: "Ever since it was part of Dream Plays, *A Respectable Widow Takes to Vulgarities* has surprised me constantly in the way it's been so well received. After proving so successful with Scottish audiences, it's a real joy to see it head to New York. It'll be a wee joy to see how Joanna Tope delivering brilliantly strong language goes down with an American audience!"

Sabrina Mahfouz commented: "The cast of Clean have a wonderful way of delivering the words that originated as a 48-hour challenge back in 2012 – I can't wait to see them in action again. Clean going to New York is such a dream, I love the energy of the city and I certainly plan to see as many plays as I can whilst I'm there."

Linda Crooks continued: "Working with the brilliant new writing talents of Douglas Maxwell and Sabrina Mahfouz is at the very heart of the Traverse Theatre. Respectable Widow and Clean have an incredibly strong team behind each production, including our award-winning artistic director, Orla O'Loughlin, and assistant directors Bella Loudon in Scotland and Emily Reutlinger in New York City."

Firefighters and school pupils promote No Smoking Day



With National no smoking day approaching, Livingston and Whitburn fire stations have teamed up with Falla Hill Primary School P6 pupils to help stub out the habit.

Taking part in a very exciting Tobacco Education Project, which will form part of a West Lothian Wide Tobacco Education Primary Schools Resource, P6 pupils of Falla Hill Primary have received tobacco education workshops and want to share the effects of smoking.

The P6 pupils are putting together an exhibition in the 'Centre' Livingston (beside West Lothian Connected) on Tuesday 11th March and again repeated at the Fauldhouse Partnership

Centre on the Wednesday 12th March 10am – 12 noon + 1:30pm – 2:30pm coinciding with No Smoking Day.

They will be sharing what they have learnt about the effects of smoking and passing on information to help smokers who would like to quit.

Pupils will be explaining about the history of Tobacco, components of a Cigarette/addiction, health and the environment, financial choices/political Legislation/Government and convincing other people NOT to smoke including Peer Pressure and Peer Bonding.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service have a vested interest in helping to promote No Smoking Day and encouraging people to give up smoking.

West Lothian Local Area Liaison Officer Stuart Watson said: "Most people know the long term damage smoking can do to their health and why it makes sense to give up. What a lot of people don't know is that more fires in which people are killed are as a result of carelessness with smoking materials than any other single cause.

"It only takes a moment of carelessness to cause a fire that could cost someone their home, their possessions, or even their life.

"It is vital that smokers make sure they have fully extinguished cigarettes and matches immediately after use and, once lit, they should never be left unattended.

"Having a working smoke alarm gives that vital early warning should a fire start. We provide free home fire safety visits and fit smoke alarms where required.

"We need you to join Scotland's fight against fire. If you or someone you know may be at risk from fire please get in touch and arrange a FREE home fire safety visit with local

firefighters by calling 0800 0731 999 or visit www.firescotland.gov.uk .

“If you plan to give up smoking on 12th March we wish you every success”.

Louise Storrar, Principal Teacher at Falla Hill Primary School said: “The pupils in primary 6 have been working extremely hard on the tobacco education project. Their enthusiasm and commitment to this project is very impressive. We are thoroughly looking forward to the No Smoking Day events and encourage members of the public to come along to hear our pupils share their knowledge about the negative effects of smoking.”

If you want to give up smoking call: Scotland Smokeline 0800 848484 <http://www.canstopsmoking.com/>

Craigmillar pharmacy celebrates 30 years of healthcare provision



An Edinburgh pharmacy is celebrating 30 years of healthcare provision in a city community.

Pharmacist Alan Glauch bought the John A Smith Pharmacy business in Craigmillar in 1984 and has been a crucial part of health provision in the area ever since.

Alan said: “We are very proud of what we’ve achieved here and how the pharmacy has achieved a growing significance in the

healthcare and welfare picture.

“We think that three decades as part of life on Niddrie Mains Road is worth celebrating. Over that time, health provision has changed enormously and the community pharmacy has assumed increasing importance within the NHS... and in people’s lives.

As well as the more obvious prescribing and advising services, pharmacist Alan and his team deliver a range of crucial services to the people of Criagmillar, Niddrie and beyond.

The forward-thinking team at John A Smith has embraced the shifts in the role of community pharmacy within the NHS and risen to the challenge and continues to do so.

Alan added: “There’s no doubt a pharmacy is often the first place someone will access healthcare. At John A Smith the team’s training and experience reflect that. We are delighted to meet the needs of our community with first-class professional healthcare.”

“We would like to thank all our customers and patients over the years and look forward to helping take care of them in the future.”

Police seek help to trace missing Wallyford teenager



Police in East Lothian are appealing for information to help trace a teenager reported missing in Wallyford.

Nicole Saxby was last seen around 6.40pm yesterday (Sunday)

near to Wallyford Railway station lines.

However, the 13-year-old has not been seen or heard from since and concern is now growing for her welfare.

Nicole previously lived in the East Craigs area of Edinburgh and officers are investigating whether she may have travelled to the Capital over the weekend.

Anyone who can assist police with their enquiries is asked to come forward.

She is described as white, 5ft 4ins tall with a slim build and dark brown shoulder-length hair. She was last seen wearing a black leather jacket, grey top and blue Nike Trainers.

Inspector Dougie Kirkham said: "Nicole is a confident young woman who knows the Wallyford and Edinburgh areas well and we are carrying out enquiries in both these areas to trace her.

"Anyone with information that can help us in finding and bringing Nicole home is asked to contact police immediately.

"In addition I would ask that Nicole get in touch with family, friends, or police as soon as possible to let us know that she is safe and well."

Those with information can contact Police Scotland on 101.

Edinburgh's Chop Chop restaurants two of UK's best



Edinburgh's Chop Chop restaurants in Haymarket and Leith are

two of only 32 Chinese restaurants in the UK to be awarded a Pagoda and be listed in The Legacy of Taste Eating Out Guide.

Organised by Legacy of Taste, the organisation responsible for heralding Chinese restaurants in the UK, the Pagoda is a new restaurant accolade only given to the best Chinese restaurants. The Legacy of Taste judging panel, which consists of Michelin starred Chinese chefs, Chinese TV chefs and experts on Chinese food and drink in the UK, rates the restaurants on authenticity of cooking methods and ingredients as well as service, general ambience and attention to detail.

The restaurant's Pagoda awards mean people can now search for the restaurants by location in the Legacy of Taste Eating Out Guide.

James Wright, founder, Legacy of Taste, says: "The UK has some of the best Chinese culinary talent outside of China and The Legacy of Taste Pagodas herald the best of the best establishments. "Chop Chop has demonstrated exceptional standards to have been awarded a Pagoda." For further information about Legacy of Taste and the Pagoda Awards please visit www.legacyoftaste.co.uk.

Marks & Spencer urges people to join the Big Beach Clean-up



Marks & Spencer (M&S) is urging the Edinburgh community to descend on Fisherrow Sands, Hopetoun House and Cramond beaches

to free them from litter as part of this year's Big Beach Clean-up.

Taking place across Edinburgh between 26th-30th April, the Big Beach Clean-up is hosted in partnership with the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) and invites local residents, businesses, universities and societies to join employees from M&S to scoop up unwanted rubbish. The events will take place at:

- Hopetoun House – Saturday 26th April at 10am
- Cramond – Sunday 27th April at 10am
- Fisherrow Sands, Musselburgh – Wednesday 30th April at 10am

Customers that register for the event in advance at www.mcsuk.org/foreverfish will also receive a money-off M&S voucher on the day of their beach clean.

Volunteers taking part in the beach clean at Fisherrow Sands in Musselburgh on Wednesday 30th April will also be treated to a beach-side BBQ and live entertainment. Elaine Anderson, Store Manager at M&S Kinnaird, said: "We're calling upon as many local people as possible to help us rid Fisherrow Sands of litter. This is a fun initiative that will bring the Edinburgh community together to help our local environment and protect our precious marine life. Plus, after all the hard work is done everyone will be rewarded with a delicious BBQ and live music"

Volunteers across 95 beaches and 45 canals in the UK will this year join forces with the aim of clearing more than last year's massive haul of 30 tonnes of litter – the equivalent weight of two double decker buses. Most of the litter collected will be common waste items such as fishing nets, ropes and bottles tops. However last year M&S beach and canal cleaners found an array of unusual items including a bath,

coffee maker, HM Prison Service toothbrush and a Freeview box.

Additionally, MCS will take the opportunity to assess the impact this year's storms have had on beach litter and debris at locations across the country.

Last year over 9,000 people (4,000 M&S employees and 5,000 M&S customers) volunteered and collected 4,000 bin bags full of litter after cleaning over 300km of beaches and canals.

Samantha Fanshawe, MCS Chief Executive, said: "This week of action is a great opportunity to clean up some of our best loved beaches and remove litter that has built up following recent storms. Rubbish washed up or left on beaches not only harms wildlife but spoils our enjoyment of the coast too, so the more people that take part the more litter we can remove from harm's way. Throughout the year, there will be activities and resources for schoolchildren to learn more about our seas and the fascinating marine life they support."

The M&S Big Beach Clean-up is part of M&S' Forever Fish campaign which is funded by the profits from the 5p carrier bag charge in M&S foodhalls. Since its introduction in 2008, the charge has reduced carrier bag use by 75 per cent and raised over £6 million for good causes.

Customers can find out more www.marksandspencer.com/plana and follow the event on twitter (@marksandspencer or search #beachclean) and facebook (www.facebook.com/marksandspencer).

Hibs' coach Morgan Lynn dies after falling from balcony



Hibs' ladies football coach Morgan Lynn has died after falling from the balcony of her fifth-floor hotel room in Spain.

The 25 year old was on holiday in Benidorm with two female friends when the tragedy occurred.

Local police and the Foreign Office said Ms Lynn, left, who lives in Edinburgh, fell from a balcony at around 3am on Thursday 27 February after she and her companions returned to the Hotel Gala Placidia where they were staying.

Ms Lynn graduated from Queen Margaret University in 2009 with an HND in Business Management. Last year, she played for Women's Division Two football team Musselburgh Windsor.

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We are providing consular assistance to the family at this sad time."

The Edinburgh Reporter sends out condolences to Morgan's friends and family.

Aikido Returns to Nicolson Square



Edinburgh Aikido, the club specialising in the promotion and teaching of the Japanese martial art, has returned the Epworth

Halls, Nicolson Square, which is owned by The City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, after the church completed its two million-pound renovation of its buildings last month. Aikido is a physical discipline and martial art that stresses the re-directing of an attacker's force to create a throw or pin them down. These concepts may also be extended as a philosophy.

For Scott Reed, who is the instructor at Edinburgh Aikido, it is satisfying return to where he first learned the martial art in Edinburgh. Scott is now an aikido expert – a 4th Dan Black Belt. He attended aikido classes at Nicolson Square from 2000-2004 while he was a student at Edinburgh University studying Astrophysics. He quickly moved on to be an instructor after studying aikido full-time in Paris.

Scott says, "It's great that the club is back at the venue where we trained for so many years." Of the new classes he says, "The first class in any evening is an all-levels one where we cover most of the techniques of aikido. Later on Mondays, we have the weapons class. Aikido incorporates the study of some classic Japanese weapons, mainly the sword and staff. But don't worry – there's also a dedicated beginners class as well."

Scott is Head of Engineering at an Edinburgh-based robotics firm but is committed to the teaching of aikido in his spare time, passing on his own martial art skills.

Edinburgh Aikido club is running a special free 'Come and Try' and demo session on Wednesday 12 March at 7.30pm to mark the start of its new classes at Nicolson Square.

An official opening celebration for the Methodist Church's newly-refurbished buildings at Nicolson Square will take place later in the year.

Schools celebrate Chinese language and culture at St George's



St George's School for Girls recently jointly hosted, with the City of Edinburgh Confucius Hub, the first collaborative event celebrating the learning of Chinese Language and Culture among the City of Edinburgh Schools.

Approximately fifty school children of S2-S6 age attended the event from local authority and private schools. The contributing schools were Firhill, St Thomas of Aquin's, Tynecastle, Royal High, Leith Academy, Craigmount, Fettes College and St George's.

With the teaching of Chinese firmly embedded in the curriculum of participating schools the event provided an opportunity to share ideas and resources to stimulate the learning and teaching of Chinese language and culture. A series of practical workshops run by Chinese teachers was staged throughout the afternoon with pupils taking part in informal Mandarin sessions, Tai Chi, and the Chinese Tea Ceremony. Students were also introduced to Chinese Calligraphy, Chinese Etiquette, and Chinese Music.

'There is a real enthusiasm for this initiative and I am delighted that by joining forces with Leith Academy's Confucius Hub we were able to spread the net and have a good cross section of Edinburgh schools attending,' says Anne

Everest, head of St George's. 'In order to be successful, today's students need to be learning in a global context. St George's International Education programme takes a variety of forms through which we seek to broaden students' cultural awareness, develop their linguistic proficiency and promote greater self-awareness and independence in order that our girls can take their place in the world as global citizens. This sort of event helps to develop our students' ability to work collaboratively and deepens cultural awareness; and, from the student's point of view, learning thus becomes more meaningful.'

St George's has had a Confucius Classroom since 2008 and all S1 girls have a block of Chinese as part of their carousel of Languages. Chinese is a subject option right through to Advanced Higher level.

The school is recognised with an International School Award for its international perspective and for its outstanding achievement in developing international activities with schools worldwide. This global outlook seeks to benefit the whole school community.

The next collaborative event between St George's and the City of Edinburgh Confucius Classrooms will be 'The next step on the Mandarin journey' on 20 June 2014, aimed at pupils who are thinking about taking Chinese on to further education.

Two women sought after pensioner robbed in Whitburn



Police in West Lothian are appealing for witnesses after a pensioner was assaulted and robbed by two women who grabbed her from behind as she walked along Jubilee Road in Whitburn at 7pm on Saturday.

They struggled with the woman and she fell to the ground when the robbers ran off with her handbag.

The women were both white, slim, between the ages of 25 and 30 and were wearing dark quilted jackets with fur, dark trousers and dark trainers.

Officers are carrying out door to door inquiries in the area and looking for CCTV.

DC Richard Thompson said: "We are keen to speak to anyone who may have been in the area or who may have seen the suspects. As a result of the attack the woman sustained an injury to her hand and has been left badly shaken by the incident".

"This has been a terrible experience for the woman involved and we are appealing to members of the public for any information they may have as to who might have been responsible."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101 or through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

David Murphy chats to the Edinburgh Reporter



Last week former Hibs' favourite David Murphy formally

announced his premature retirement from the beautiful game due to injury. The sad news sparked hundreds of messages of support on social media sites on both sides of the border and David kindly chatted to the Edinburgh Reporter about his time in the capital.

The popular defender said: "I had three and a half fantastic years with Hibs and still watch their games on TV when they are on, and follow their results every week. I actually watched the last derby and was delighted to see Hibs win 2-1 with a late penalty.

"I have many friends in Edinburgh and still visit the city when I get the chance. I have driven past the new East Stand which looks great but I have not seen it from the inside yet although I am hoping to get up and take in a game.

"We had a great team and I honestly think we could have challenged for the league if we had been able to stay together even for one more season, but it was not to be. We were a young and vibrant team that played an exciting brand of football which was started by Tony Mowbray and continued by John Collins and the CIS Cup was one of the main highlights of my career."

The highlight of David's time at Hibs was obviously the CIS Cup win in 2007 and he remembers the cup run well. He continued: "We seemed to have a momentum, beating Hearts at Easter Road in the quarter final then St Johnstone in the semi. I remember that game well as there was a fantastic Hibs' support on three sides of Tynecastle. The game went into extra time and we got a free-kick which I took and thankfully went in although to be honest I thought their keeper should have saved it.

"That of course led to the final against Kilmarnock and over 35,000 Hibs fans took over Hampden. I can honestly say that the support that day was up there with the best I have ever

seen and it helped to inspire us to produce a great performance.

“I was lucky enough to play a part in the opening goal as I took the corner and bug Jonah (Rob Jones) got his noggin onto it and the ball flew into the net. The rest is history and the scenes at the end were unbelievable. That was one of the proudest days of my career.

“The shirt I wore that day is hanging on my mother’s wall alongside my Birmingham one from the Wembley final where we beat Arsenal. She also has both medals.

“I left Hibs for Birmingham the following season but it was nice to leave with so many memories. In fact had I still been fit, I would have loved to have returned to Easter Road to play for the club that really kick started my career.

“Unfortunately that wasn’t to be and I have known for a few months that my injury wasn’t going to allow me to continue playing but now I just have to get over the disappointment.

“I have business interests outside football, but I still believe that I have much to offer the game.”

David made his Hibs’ debut on 7th August 2004 against Kilmarnock at Easter Road in a back four that included Steven Whittaker, Gary Caldwell and Colin Murdoch.

He quickly became a favourite of the Easter Road faithful with his skilful touch and ability to kill a ball arriving from any angle, coupled with his attacking runs down the left wing. He was also a stout defender and few wingers ever managed to get the better of him.

In all, David played 134 times for Hibs, scoring eight goals including a memorable free kick in the CIS League Cup semi-final at Tynecastle to send Hibs on their way to Hampden. He also scored against both halves of the Old Firm in Glasgow and

played in two 3-0 wins at Ibrox, setting up Ivan Sproule for the first goal of his memorable hat-trick.

In the CIS Cup Final, it was David's inch perfect cross to the edge of the six yard box that allowed Rob Jones to score the opening goal sparking amazing scenes at the National Stadium.

On 17 January 2008, former Hibs' boss Alex McLeish parted with £1.5m to take David to Birmingham City where he won a League Cup winners medal in the Blues' famous win over Arsenal at Wembley.

Witness appeal following Broomhall robbery



Police are appealing for witnesses following a robbery in the west of the city over the weekend.

The incident happened around 7.50pm yesterday in the Broomhall area.

A 36-year-old man had just withdrawn a two-figure sum of cash from the ATM outside the CC Express store on Broomhall Drive and walked onto Broomhall Road when a male approached and threatened him before demanding he hand over the money.

At this time the victim noticed another male standing close by watching what was happening. He surrendered the money and returned to the cash machine where he withdrew the same sum and also handed this over.

Both suspects then made off towards the Tesco supermarket and

police were contacted.

The first male is described as white, around 30-years-old, 5ft 10ins tall with a slim build and thin face. He was wearing a black woolly hat, dark jacket, dark trousers and a dark scarf covering the lower half of his face.

The second male is described only as wearing dark clothing and a chunky black woollen hat.

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

Detective Sergeant Alan O'Brien said: "The victim was not assaulted or harmed during this incident but was left understandably shaken following the theft of his money.

"Anyone who remembers seeing any suspicious activity in Broomhall Drive or Broomhall Road on Sunday evening is asked to contact police immediately.

"In addition, anyone who recognises the description of the suspects and can help us to trace them is also asked to get in touch."

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

Brain Awareness Week **10th-14th March.**



In Scotland one million people live with a neurological

condition that affects their daily life. Neurological conditions account for one in five emergency hospital admissions and one in eight GP consultations. A quarter of all disabled adults of working age have a neurological condition and the numbers of people with neurological conditions will grow sharply in the next two decades.

Being told you have a neurological condition is life changing, not just for the individual but for their friends and family too. Unfortunately, all too often people struggle to access the support they need at the beginning of their journey with a neurological condition.

On Wednesday 12th March, during Brain Awareness Week 2014, the Neurological Alliance of Scotland will hold their reception in the Scottish Parliament to raise awareness of neurological conditions. MSP Christina McKelvie will be hosting the reception and both a patient and health care professional will share their experiences of 'breaking the news'. The Minister for Health MSP Michael Matheson will also be speaking at the event. There will be an exhibition of art work, quotes and stories displayed, created by people with different neurological conditions to creatively express their experiences.

WHEC part of Commonwealth Class



Today Wester Hailes Education Centre are taking part in

Commonwealth Class's World's Biggest Assembly, to celebrate Commonwealth Day and mark the run up to the 2014 Commonwealth Games

Commonwealth Class is a collaboration between the BBC, the British Council and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The assembly will focus on the schools award winning links with South Africa. [It will include Tswana dancing performed by students who have just returned for the Northern Cape, South Africa.](#) Students were able to learn a number of local dances and will preview them at the assembly and share their experiences of life in Barkly West High School.

Schools worldwide are trying to make the World's Biggest Assembly happen by starting their school days across the time zones with assemblies. Each school will be celebrating the values and connections of the Commonwealth's diverse global family.

Headteacher, Ms Sheila Paton said:- "Three of our 4th year girls recently spent a week in South Africa being taught local dances. Commonwealth day gives us the focus to celebrate our partnership with Barkly West high school in South Africa. The partnership supports our global citizenship work which was recognised earlier in the year by the British Council who awarded the school the International school award"

Commonwealth Class enables schools to take part in online debates, competitions and work on projects with the aim of giving young people a unique and hands-on international learning experience of the Commonwealth family.

4th year student, Katie Ritchie, said "We had an amazing time in South Africa learning various dances and making new friends. Following the assembly, we plan to lead dance workshops and organise a whole school Commonwealth Games celebration in May when we will host 3 students who will travel from South Africa "

Ms Sheila Paton continued: “The whole school is gearing up to celebrate the Commonwealth games and Game On Scotland recently recognised excellent Games-related learning by awarding a plaque to our school. We plan to hold a big celebration in May that will feature the South African dances that were showcased at the assembly today. We are committed to making the most of the learning opportunities on offer around the Games to enrich our students learning and to enable them to be global citizens”

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



Commonwealth Day – Buzz at Holyrood – Rent arrears – Trams – Edinburgh Bach Choir

Today is Commonwealth Day and the Lord Provost will raise the Commonwealth flag above the City Chambers this morning. We hope to bring you photos later.

Soon there will be a real buzz about Holyrood, and we don't just mean the MSPs chat. Holyrood is to get a colony of bees, and will be the first UK legislature to do so. On 5 March 2014, the Presiding Officer oversaw the arrival of the latest feature in the Scottish Parliament gardens – two beehives – to help support the honey bee population. The beehives will be home to Scottish honey bees which will arrive later in the year.

The council meet this week and in advance of that the Council Leader, Andrew Burns has issued his monthly leader's report. In it he emphasises the council's plea to those in rent arrears to get in touch with the council to discuss their problems.

The Council Leader said:- "You may see some high profile adverts and messages around the city over the next few weeks encouraging council tenants in rent arrears to contact us before they get any deeper into debt. The Council can help and does have some funding available, particularly for those adversely affected by the recent welfare reforms. As long as people are making arrangements to pay their rent, we can help.

The last thing we want is for people to lose their homes but, at the same time, we rely on rental income to invest in providing cheap-to-heat, modern and comfortable homes fit for the 21st Century.

If you know of someone who is in arrears with their rent, please encourage them to contact us to get help. They can email rentfirst@edinburgh.gov.uk or phone 0800 028 2786."

The council have a policy of non-eviction for rent arrears if the difficulties relate to the 'bedroom tax' but only if the tenant is in active conversation with the council.

Have you seen a tram on the street yet? If you have and you had time to take a photo then please add them to [our collection on EdinburghReportage](#). We would love to see where the tram was when you spotted it. Most of our own photos centre around Princes Street and Haymarket.

✖ The Edinburgh Bach Choir sings at St Cuthberts on 29 March 2014 at 19.30. Tickets available from [the Usher Hall box office here.](#) If Bach is your thing then you can also follow the choir on [Facebook](#).

The Edinburgh Reporter's Weekly Sports Roundup



Rugby by John Preece

All three of Scotland's International matches ended in defeat to their corresponding French sides at the weekend.

The U20 were, perhaps the most surprising result with a narrow defeat to France in spite of a late comeback in the second half, outscoring the visitors by two tries to one and generally putting the French side under a great deal of pressure at the scrum. But, once again, the theme of the night was the error and penalty count.

(Full match report in the Sports section)

Second up was the Senior match and this was the most disappointing of the three. Dominating the scrum, the Scots had France on the back foot for long periods of the match, but, again, the penalty count against them was crippling,

rounded off by Weir's long intercepted pass, five metres out from the French line. A final penalty, two minutes from time when Scotland was ahead 17-16, gave the visitors the chance to win the match. Job done. 19-17 France.

(Full match report in the Sports section)

The most expected result of the weekend was the Women's defeat to a much stronger French side – which beat England 18-6 earlier in the tournament – who ran riot and put 69 points without reply on to a battling, but ultimately, much weaker Scottish team.

(Full match report in the Sports section)

With no club rugby or ice hockey this weekend a wee look forward to next week sees Watsonians playing Stewarts-Melville at home for the right to a play-off place in the National League. A win for 'Sonians, and lack of a bonus point for the Inverleith side, will see them through on points difference. Anything else will result in Stew-Mel playing off with the second bottom side in the Premiership – currently Hawick – for a place at the top table.

Football

An injury hit Hibs team took on Motherwell at a windy Easter Road on Saturday and after 30 minutes found themselves two goals down thanks to former Jambo John Sutton and Lionel Ainsworth. Jordon Forster kept up his goal scoring form to pull one back just before the break then Michael Nelson equalised with a strong header from a Paul Cairney corner.

Substitute Paul Heffernan looked to have secured the three points however Sutton equalised in time added on.

Hearts travelled to Rugby Park hoping for a win over Kilmarnock to keep their slim hopes of avoiding relegation alive but soon found themselves behind through an own goal

from Danny Wilson. Dale Carrick equalised before Kris Boyd restored Killie's lead just after the break.

Boyd made it 3-1 before Sam Nicholson pulled one back but Michael Gardyne secured the three points for the Ayrshire team.



Scottish Sun Lowland League

University of Stirling P Edinburgh City

Scottish Sun Lowland League Cup, Groupstage, Section A

Selkirk 5-1 Gala Fairydean Rovers

Vale of Leithen 2-3 Preston Athletic

Scottish Sun Lowland League Cup, Groupstage, Section B

Spartans hopes of securing a semi-final spot in the Lowland League Cup disappeared after losing 1-3 at Whitehill Welfare.

The Spartans players were wearing black armbands as they took to the heavy Ferguson Park surface and both teams and the match officials lined-up ahead of kick-off to respectfully observe a minute silence for Spartans Honorary President Ronnie Swan who sadly passed away earlier this week.

Welfare took the lead in the 28th minute through Sproule than added a second from Macintosh five minutes after the break.

Danny Noon's wind assisted long range effort made it 3-0 before Mark Whatley a consolation goal with seven minutes left as Spartans bowed out of the League Cup.

Scottish Sun Lowland League Cup, Groupstage, Section C

Dalbeattie Star 1-1 East Kilbride

Threave Rovers 3-3 Gretna 2008

Central Taxis East of Scotland Premier Division

Heriot-Watt University P-P Leith Athletic

Spartans EOS 0-0 Craigroyston

Central Taxis East of Scotland First Division

Easthouses Lily 2-0 Burntisland Shipyard

Hawick Royal Albert 3-3 Duns

Kelso United 3-2 Hibernian EOS

Ormiston 1-3 Peebles Rovers

East of Scotland Qualifying League, Section A

Lothian Thistle HV 2-0 Civil Service Strollers

Tynecastle P-P Eyemouth United

East of Scotland Qualifying League, Section B

Stirling University EOS 1-2 Edinburgh University (venue changed to Peffermill, Edinburgh due to waterlogged pitch at Gannochy Sports Centre)

East of Scotland Qualifying League, Section D

Coldstream 0-3 Berwick Rangers EOS

Speedway courtesy of Monarchs website

With the opening of the season less than three weeks away the Scotwaste Monarchs have put out a call for additional sponsorship and advertising for the forthcoming season.

Mike Hunter, the club director who co-ordinates this part of the Club's operation said, "We have had a good response from last year's advertisers and sponsors and I hope that we are

going to add one or two significant new advertisers for this season. However, we always have space for more, in the programme, on advertising displays throughout the stadium and in our hospitality suites."

One new addition to our advertising possibilities is a banner on our air fence. We hope to have the fence completely covered with banners this season and at the moment slightly more than 50% will carry advertising so there is still plenty of room for more.

There are also dates available within our hospitality areas for the season. It is interesting to note that in our survey conducted earlier in the winter 40% of those who had not been to our hospitality said that they did not think it was good value for money but 100% of those who had tried hospitality felt that it was excellent value for money and enhanced their enjoyment of the night.

Space within our match magazine is also available in all shapes and size for your company's advert.

If you are interested in any form of advertising or sponsorship please contact the Club immediately.

Judo

Edinburgh's Sally Conway remains at number nine in the latest world rankings at Under-70kg despite winning a silver medal at last month's Dusseldorf Grand Prix.

Basketball

Troon Tornadoes SM 64-52 Glasgow Storm

Glasgow University SM 101-69 Stirling Knights SM

St Mirren West College Scotland SM 112-60 Dunfermline
Reign SM

City of Edinburgh Kings SM 81-69 Glasgow Rocks SM

City of Edinburgh Kool Kats SW 75-56 Lady Rocks SW

Volleyball

Division One Men

City of Edinburgh 3 0 Bon Accord 25 – 14 25 – 23 27 – 25

City of Glasgow Ragazzi 3 0 Beacon Fire 25 – 19 25 – 14 25 – 15

Dundee 1 3 South Ayrshire 18 – 25 25 – 20 21 – 25 25 – 27

Glasgow Mets 3 1 Edinburgh Jets 22 – 25 25 – 17 25 – 15 25 – 23

Division One Women

QTS Kyle TA 1 3 North Lanarkshire 15 – 25 25 – 22 15 – 25 20 – 25

City of Edinburgh 3 0 Aberdonia 25 – 14 25 – 11 25 – 9

QTS Troon Team Ayrshire 2 3 Edinburgh Jets 27 – 25 21 – 25 23 – 25 26 – 24 12 – 15

Su Ragazzi 3 0 Edinburgh Jets II 25 – 9 25 – 12 25 – 12

Division Two East Men

Edinburgh Jets II 3 0 NUVOC 25 – 20 25 – 17 25 – 21

City of Edinburgh II 3 0 Beacon Flame 25 – 19 25 – 15 25 – 12

Su Ragazzi II 3 0 Bellshill Cardinals 25 – 19 25 – 21 25 – 23

Photos by John Preece

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

Brewing Success at the Heart of Meggetland



On Monday 10 March 2014 Meggetland, Edinburgh will have a new Café Venue, The Canalside. The café project, a result of collaboration between Boroughmuir Rugby and Community Sports Club (BR&CSC) Social Investment Scotland, will open the doors to Sporting and Community clubs in the South West of Edinburgh to have a venue to call their home.

Boroughmuir Rugby, who were the main users of the venue took the unique step of becoming a charity, which aims to drive sporting success and participation across all ages and genders. Their social and community objectives was also support a sporting hub where sporting clubs, who were without a clubhouse, could share in the same venue.

Chairperson of BR&CSC, Bill Watson commented: -“Two years ago, our new Board was appointed to build a more self-sustainable club and to provide a home for all community sports in the southwest of Edinburgh. The completion of this café is a result of months of hard work and shows our commitment to the sporting success in our community.”

Bill went on to say: “These are exciting times for sporting clubs in Edinburgh leading up to the Commonwealth Game this year, we are confident we can support the legacy programme of a new generation of sporting heroes to come as a result.”

Elizabeth Brough Community Development Manager who works closely with the clubs in the South West said: “What BR&CSC have been able to do here, is help protect the future development of our sporting programmes around Meggetland and provide an attractive café for all visitors to come

and enjoy, regardless if they are there to watch sport or just enjoy the coffee.”

Community consultation has been instrumental in transforming the venue from a traditional rugby club, to an attractive environment for everyone wishing to take advantage of the unique café culture with good coffee and wholesome food.

Submitted by [Justin Tito](#)



Women's Rugby – Scotland v France



France score eleven tries to beat Scotland's women at Lasswade.

Six first half tries and another five in the second from a very strong French team left Scotland's women with only the match against Wales to salvage anything from their Six nations Tournament.

With the French on the score board from virtually the first minute of the match, it was clearly going to be a difficult day for the home side. And so it proved. With scores raining in from all over, the French backs and forwards were having a field day and there was nothing much that Scotland could do to stem the flow. They barely got out of their own half in the first period, and when they did, everything was snuffed out by the visitors. The first half ended with the sixth try scored and the

scoreboard looking bleak at 38-0 to France.

The Scots started much brighter in the second half and kept the French at bay for the best part of 15 minutes, but once the French women scored their first try of the second half, the floodgates opened again and it was back to the script. The final score was a heady 69-0 to France and yet another huge tally of points against for Scotland to reflect on.

There were a few good points, however. The scrum had the visitors creaking a few times as they were pushed about and a bit of grit and determination in the tackle area helped stop a couple of scores, but, at the end of the day, the visiting side was just too big and strong – one of their forwards could just plough on, swatting aside defenders left, right and centre – with more than a little skill, to be worried by anything the Scots could come up with.

Images from the match will be uploaded to [here](#) sometime over the following week.

Funds raised for RNLI



A collection was taken at the funeral of the Late Irene Ross from Dalmeny in aid of the RNLI Queensferry Lifeboat Station held in Dalmeny Parish Church and raised £150.00.

Mrs Ross's great grandchildren Kiera(7), Connor(9) and Aidan Ross (4) and Emily Thomson (2) are pictured presenting the cheque to RNLI Queensferry Lifeboat Crew members Megan Weatherill and Mike Garfitt.

Contract for new Sick Kids awarded



A major milestone has been reached with the plans to develop a new landmark clinical facility in Edinburgh.

Integrated Health Solutions Lothian have been chosen as the preferred bidder to design, build and maintain the new Royal Hospital for Sick Children and Department of Clinical Neurosciences at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh site.

The project will mean that services from the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, the Department of Clinical Neurosciences, currently based at the Western General Hospital, and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service from the Royal Edinburgh Hospital are brought together in a high quality, modern facility.

As part of the procurement process a legal standstill period is currently being observed and, following this period, Integrated Health Solutions Lothian will then work with NHS Lothian to finalise the details for the new building.

Construction work is expected to start in autumn 2014, with the hospital becoming operational in the summer of 2017.



Susan Goldsmith, Director of Finance, NHS Lothian said: “The selection of a preferred bidder follows an extensive and thorough evaluation process.

“This announcement marks a major milestone in what is an extremely exciting project for the people of Lothian and

beyond.

“The development will prove significant in shaping the future of care by bringing children’s, maternity and adult services together on the same site.

“It will build on the existing centre of excellence, creating a major trauma centre and providing opportunities for sharing experience, expertise and research.”

The project is the first acute hospital facility to be procured under the Scottish Government’s Non Profit Distributing (NPD) model and the NHS Lothian team have been working closely with Scottish Futures Trust and the Scottish Government to prepare for the procurement process.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, Alex Neil MSP said:- “I am delighted to see the positive progress being made in the delivery of this dedicated new children’s hospital and national centre of excellence for clinical neurosciences.

“NHS Lothian has worked hard to get the project to this important stage and I look forward to hearing how they work with Integrated Health Solutions Lothian to commence construction later this year.”

Peter Reekie, director of finance and member of the Project Steering Board, Scottish Futures Trust, said:- “It’s fantastic to reach this milestone on such a significant hospital project. Robust project preparation and the strength of the NHS Lothian project team, combined with SFT’s simplified NPD programme approach had led to a highly efficient and competitive procurement.

“I look forward to working with the team and preferred bidder to deliver construction activity later this year, which will be welcome news to many local businesses.”