

Campaign to bring back the half-time orange



Scottish children's teams are being called on to sign up to a scheme to bring back half-time oranges to kids' football.

The project is calling for children's teams around the country to sign a pledge to replace chocolate, crisps, sweets and biscuits during the half-time break with a healthier choice of snack.

Teams sign up to the scheme free at www.halftimejaffa.com

They will receive vouchers for fruit, entry into draws and competitions for football kit and other equipment, as well as regular updates on how the project is developing. Many teams will also receive their own half-time starter pack – including a cool bag, containers for home and away sides and information for the team.

The Bring Back the Half-Time Jaffa project was launched to encourage healthy eating in kids' football. It began in Cambridgeshire in September, where local club St Ives Rangers was given half-time starter packs for all of its children's teams as well as free half-time fruit for the entire 2013/14 football season.

A recent survey on half-time eating habits carried out for Jaffa fruit found almost half (45%) of kids eat crisps, chocolate, sweets or biscuits at half time. 43% drink fizzy or high sugar drinks during sports. Half of children thought it was important to eat fruit at half time, while 97% said they would eat a healthy snack if it was provided for them.

Zoë Fothergill display at Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art



The winner of the 2012 John Watson Prize, which is awarded each year to a graduating student at Edinburgh College of Art, will present her most recent work in a new display at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art this week. Zoë Fothergill, whose impressive degree show earned her the award, is fascinated by the ways in which digital technologies have begun to alter our experience of the world. The three new pieces she has created for Fur, Bizmuth & Spiny Oyster are based on her research into the internet phenomenon Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response (ASMR).

The term describes the physical response; generally felt as a pleasurable tingling in the head and scalp, which is reportedly caused by exposure to a range of sensory triggers, and which has been closely linked in recent years to the experience of watching homemade 'whisperer' videos posted on internet sites such as YouTube. These videos are posted by people known as 'ASMRtists', who attempt to stimulate the viewer's response by addressing the camera in a soft voice, and generating gentle, soothing sounds, by touching, handling and describing inanimate (and sometimes animate) objects – crinkling paper, tapping fingernails, or brushing hair for example.

To date there has been no dedicated research to establish a physiological basis for ASMR, but news reports have suggested

that many people successfully use the videos as a means of alleviating the effects of stress or insomnia. The experience is described in a variety of ways, but for some it is akin to synaesthesia (where the stimulation of one sense produces a secondary, involuntary stimulation of another), or to hypnosis. For others it has a titillating or confessional thrill, but for most of the hundreds of thousands of people in the online community that has grown up around ASMR these intimate, non-sexualised exchanges are the source of the specific, euphoric sensation which has variously been described as a 'brain massage', 'head tingle' and 'braingasm'.

Fur, Bizmuth & Spiny Oyster, comprises three new works which explore the different forms that ASMR videos can take, and celebrates Fothergill's fascination with the phenomenon, combining found online footage with studio-based material produced by the artist.

The first film, *Keep Delete* (2014), focuses on the show-and-tell format adopted by many ASMRtists, as they handle a range of objects and describe for the viewer their tactile, material qualities. The work combines a beautifully edited collage of YouTube video clips with a whispered narrative recorded by the artist. This follows the transcript of an online editorial discussion around the absence of scientific evidence which preceded the deletion of the first ASMR page on Wikipedia.

How does that feel? (2014) will be presented on a small screen with headphones, positioned at a desk and chair, to allow visitors to experience the work individually. The film brings together a succession of clips from 'role-play' videos, the other principal format used by ASMRtists. In these the performer enacts a scenario which mimics a direct, one-to-one interaction between themselves and the viewer – such as a session at the hair salon, an eye examination or a make-up application – which is again accompanied by a softly-spoken or whispered monologue, recorded on binaural (or 3-D) microphones to intensify the illusion of a personal, intimate encounter.

The final film casts three objects – fur, bizmuth and spiny oyster – as its principal characters, who together enact a ‘transactional analysis’ (a form of psychoanalysis that originated in 1960s California) of ASMR. The work explores the nature of the interaction between the performer and the viewer, as well as the psychological motives behind individuals’ involvement in the ASMR community.

A limited edition publication has been hand-made by the artist to accompany the exhibition. It includes two commissioned texts, a contextual piece by Emma Balkind and a fictional work by James Clegg, in addition to an interview between SNGMA curator Linsey Young and the artist. Imagery produced by the artist is combined with specific paper/fabric selection to make the publication both a visual and tactile experience. The publication has been made possible by the generous support of Arts Trust Scotland.

The research for this body of work was initiated during a residency at Hospitalfield Arts, Arbroath in July 2013 for which the artist was awarded funding by Creative Scotland’s Professional Development Programme.

Since graduation Fothergill has exhibited extensively including at Embassy, in Edinburgh (2013), at Flood, in Dublin (2013) and at FilmForum in Los Angeles (2014).

Artist Talk: Monday 31 March, 12.45-1.30 pm

The Studio, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art (Modern One)

Artist Workshop: Thursday 3 April, 5.30-6.45 pm

Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art (Modern One)

Two prestigious awards for Scotmid Barnton



Scotmid Barnton in Edinburgh has scooped two prestigious awards at last night's 2014 Convenience Retail Awards. The store was crowned the Best Multiple Convenience Store in the UK and picked up a second award for the Best Use of Technology.

Scotmid Barnton was recognised by the judges for its outstanding service, local supplier product range, customer facilities, fresh and local produce, and the design and layout of the store. The store was also praised for its engagement with the local community. Staff have raised over £3,000 for their local primary school in Cramond and have held a number of fundraising events for the school in the store.

The Barnton store won the Best Use of Technology award for its interactive customer touchscreen, which is used to communicate with shoppers and engage with the local community. Customers can use the touchscreen to find out about community events, news and special offers. The interactive screen can also be used to give feedback to staff and find out about Scotmid's work with local suppliers, as well as charity and community activities.

Scotmid Barnton was completely refurbished in April 2013 to improve the shopping experience for shoppers. A host of new customer services have been introduced, including an in-store bakery, artisan breads from The Breadwinner Bakery, freshly ground coffee and orange juice. The range of fresh produce, craft beer and specialty wines, meat and fish, and products from local suppliers have all been expanded to give customers a greater choice and variety.



Colin McLean, Chief Operating Officer for Scotmid Co-operative said: "Winning these two awards is a tremendous honour for everyone at Scotmid. These prestigious accolades show that Scotmid Barnton is leading the way in convenience retailing, while remaining at the heart of the local community. We are very thankful to all of our staff, customers and the community for their support."

Clare Surgenor, Store Manager of Scotmid Barnton said: "It's been a real team effort to win these awards – from the management team to our customer service assistants. I'm extremely proud of each of them for what they have achieved. We are very proud of the way we communicate with our customers, and our new customer touchscreen is taking convenience retailing into the future. It's been a useful resource for the local community to have this kind of technology in our store – we've used it to put up news, special offers and information about events going on in the local area. Our customers can also find out more about our local suppliers and discover more about Scotmid and the work we do with communities across Scotland."

She added: "I'd like to thank our customers and local residents for their loyalty and for helping us to build a better store."

Allan Robertson, Regional Business Manager for Scotmid Co-operative said: "We are thrilled to win these awards. It is wonderful to be selected from true leaders in our industry. Our customers really like the new-look store and their feedback since we completed the refurbishment has been fantastic. I would like to thank the Store Manager Claire Surgenor and her team for all of their hard work."

This is the second year that Scotmid has won the Best Multiple Convenience Store award, after Scotmid Warrender Park in

Edinburgh picked up the prize in 2013. The Convenience Retail Awards are the most prestigious awards for the convenience store sector in the UK.

Conference highlights the scale of Scotland's fake goods problem



Shock cases of paint stripper found in makeup products that can cause blindness, fashion boots made from skinned dogs, perfume containing urine and phoney condoms were unveiled at a major conference yesterday to highlight the scale of Scotland's fake goods problem.

The Scottish Anti Illicit Trade Summit is the first event of its kind that brings together police, trading standards, industry and other agencies to fight the counterfeit and illicit trade gangs operating across the country – and to urge the public to play its part by refusing to buy dodgy products.

The Summit features the largest collection assembled of diverse high quality and cutting edge fake and illicit products – such as foods, fashion, gaming, alcohol, DVDs, music, beauty products and medicines – that have been seized by police and trading standards in Scotland.

Organised by the Scottish Business Resilience Centre (SBRC), and delivered by its newly-formed Scottish Anti Illicit Trade Group, the two-day Summit at Edinburgh's Murrayfield Stadium is outlining the close links to serious and organised crime

and the escalating actions being taken to combat the problem.

SBRC Director Mandy Haeburn-Little said the Summit provides a platform to mount a step-change in the fight against illicit and counterfeit trade.

She said: “For the first time, every expert from every field and sector will share their concerns and discuss how best we move forward to reduce the scale, impact and cost of illicit trade in Scotland.

“But to tackle this problem we need people in Scotland to change their perceptions and refuse to buy any illicit or counterfeit product from this day forward.

“Everyone loves a bargain. But people need to stop to think about the true cost of fake goods. Can you be confident that those cheap cigarettes, perfumes and alcohol are actually safe?

“However, it goes much deeper as those products are likely to have supported child labour or human trafficking or used to fund serious organised crime.

“Illicit trade also hurts businesses in Scotland very hard. People choosing bargains at markets, car boot sales or on the internet impacts hugely on retailers and manufacturers – less genuine goods being sold closes businesses and put people out of work.

“But by us all working together we can make a change to ensure Scotland becomes a hostile environment for serious organised criminals.”

Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill, who gave the keynote speech, said: “Buying counterfeit goods might be seen as a victimless way to get presents for family and friends on the cheap, but many of these items will have a long back story of criminality often involving violence.

“However, the problem doesn’t just lie with fake bags, perfume or alcohol. There is a serious global problem in counterfeit medicines, machinery and engine parts which can be seriously damaging to people’s health and potentially deadly.

“The work that the Anti-illicit Trade Group is doing to tackle the influx of fake goods is a fantastic example of authorities cutting off the cash that funds these gangs and hitting them where it hurts – their pockets.

“I am delighted to open this first-of-a-kind conference to show the importance that the Scottish Government, along with the police, Crown Office, the Scottish Business Resilience Centre and a number of other agencies, places on this crime.

“Scotland will simply not tolerate the shadow economy that drives illicit trade.”

The summit featured a presentation by actress Blythe Duff, best known for her detective role in TV’s Taggart, while speakers from US Homeland Security, Interpol and Europol will meet together for the first time in Scotland to discuss the challenge against the criminal gangs.

Further discussion panels heard how prevention, intelligence and enforcement can be enhanced through collaborative work by multi-agencies.

Other sessions will showed sophisticated DNA testing of whisky, a catwalk show to highlight the threats to Scotland’s fashion industry talent and a unique debate organised by the Scottish Youth Parliament and Young Scot to discuss the right to download music/movies free.

The Anti-Illicit Trade Summit, supported by independent product safety testing and certification specialists UL, took place at Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh, on March 6 and 7.

Under the Mulberry Tree at Festival Theatre



A new play by Timothy Jones, directed by Hannah Eidinow

"Secrets shouldn't be hidden but when revealed they're even more dangerous..."

Desire, adultery and forbidden love resonate in this powerful new play about the darker side of human relationships and the secrets people hide from each other.

Cast: Joanna Bending, Annabel Capper, Roger Ringrose, Adam Slynn and Jeremy Todd

Five actors bring to life writer Timothy Jones' compelling and often disturbing account of a middle aged couple's relationship as they holiday in the South of France. The secrets of their past lives emerge as the characters find themselves going round and round the symbolic Mulberry tree, forever seeking the truth and desiring fulfilment.

With 5 Fringe First Awards to her name, Hannah Eidinow is one of Britain's most exciting young directors. Her previous credits include:

"Hannah Eidinow's production is the most daring and psychologically complex I have seen."

John Peter, Sunday Times **** The Lady from The Sea

"Hannah Eidinow's fine production...makes for another tremendous Ibsen evening."

Michael Billington, The Guardian **** The Lady From The Sea

“This is beautifully designed, beautifully performed, powerfully directed.”

Joyce McMillan, The Scotsman **** What I Heard About Iraq

Festival Theatre: Thurs 3 to Sat 12 April 2014 | Tickets from £12.50* Evenings 7.30pm | Matinees Sat 2.30pm

Recommended Age 16+ |

Free pre-show talks Friday 4 April

6.15pm (with writer and director) and Wed 9 April 6.15pm

Box Office: 0131 529 6000 / www.edtheatres.com

International Women's Day – speaking to Councillor Lesley Hinds



Convener of
Transport &
Environment –
Lesley Hinds

What are you doing to celebrate International Women's Day?

I will be attending an International Women's day event:
Womankind Fundraiser at St Columba's- by-the-Castle

What is your job?

Councillor for Inverleith and Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee on City of Edinburgh Council.

Would you give us a quick version of your career path?

Primary School Teacher: Councillor including Leader, Lord Provost and Convener of the Police Board but the most challenging and rewarding being a mother of three children!

If you had been given career advice on leaving school (knowing what you know now!) what would it have been?

Go for what you want to do and do not listen to anyone else!

Do you use any formal networking organisations? If you do which ones do you find useful?

Labour Party Women's Forum

Do you think there are enough women in important positions in private and public organisations in Edinburgh?

No

Who is your inspirational female figure and why?

All women who have achieved change in their own way.

AND anything else you would like to add?

If we want to change private businesses and public elected bodies to achieve better representation of women we need positive action and quotas. Nothing else works!

Two arrested and charged with drugs offences in Edinburgh



Two people have been arrested and charged under the Misuse of Drugs Act during Police Scotland enforcement activity to tackle serious and organised crime.

Yesterday, police in Edinburgh carried out an intelligence-led search of a property in Hawkhill Close following information relating to drug dealing. A 27-year-old woman was charged and is due to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court today.

In addition, officers in the Capital carried out an unrelated search at an address in Redbraes Place on the same day and recovered a quantity of diamorphine worth around £1,600. A 37-year-old man was detained within the property and is also due in court today.

Detective Chief Inspector Stuart Houston said: "Police Scotland is committed to tackling serious organised crime and associated offences, including drug possession and distribution.

"Whenever we receive information from our communities relating to crimes of this nature we will investigate thoroughly and respond accordingly.

"Anyone who would like to report ongoing criminal activity in their area can contact us on 101 or make an anonymous report via the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

Terry Butcher keen to see Kevin Thomson back in team



Hibs' manager Terry Butcher says that he is looking forward to seeing Kevin Thomson back in the first team although Saturday's game against Motherwell has come too early for the Scotland international midfielder who is on his way back after suffering an injury.

Thomson was one of the players who was reported to be on his way out of Easter Road however he remains determined to fight for his place in the team.

Speaking at the weekly press conference ahead of tomorrow's game, Butcher said: "Kevin's not quite at the right level yet, but he's getting there. Tom (Taiwo) is suspended and Robbo (Scott Robertson) and Owain (Tudur Jones) are both injured but Kevin's getting there and he's doing well. He played in the East of Scotland game against Burntisland and wanted to play in that game which they won 8-0. He came off and it was pretty comfortable for him. We asked him to train hard this week which he has done. We have games coming up thick and fast so who knows?

"I want him to play in the team and push himself to a level of fitness to play and I'm looking forward to that."

Butcher admitted that the performance against Dundee United was not good enough and accepts that the fans want to see action rather than words from him and his players.

He continued: "It's horrible not playing well at Easter Road, it kills you and it affects out whole week. It's OK speaking about how much we care and how much it hurts us but that is little consolation to the fans who want to see us do well and

play well.

"We gave away crap goals, silly goals, poor goals. They (Dundee United) are a side that will cut you open, but they didn't need to as we shot ourselves in the foot by giving away penalties and being rubbish on the ball. We expect more and we expect better.

"It's not about what we didn't do, it's about what we are going to do as we can't change what happened last week let's get on with this week. We have four away games after this, culminating in the Hearts match at the end of March and we want to make sure we do well."

It now looks to be a straight race between Hibs and St Johnstone to secure the last top six spot, and after tomorrow, Hibs will be on their travels for the next four games although this could be a blessing in disguise at the moment. He said: "With the four away games coming up, perhaps it is easier for Hibs to play away from home. As a manager I used to come to Easter Road and say quieten the crowd in the first 20 minutes and get a goal if you can and then see what they do after that. You would do that at any away ground."

"If we have any aspirations of the top six then we have to take advantage of the fact we can move level on points with St Johnstone if we win against Motherwell. We want those three points and we want them badly. Hibs have not been in the top six for a long while. Three years for Hibs is a long while, but we have a great opportunity. We have to go to Perth in three weeks time. "

Butcher revealed that defender Paul Hanlon who was substituted after suffering double vision following a clash of heads against Dundee United is back in training and available for selection. "Paul didn't train Monday but he wanted to train Tuesday although the doctors were saying that he should really wait until Thursday but Paul is Paul and he just wanted to get

back out there. He trained well on Tuesday and he's fine. We will see how Ryan McGivern is tomorrow when he comes back from international duty. All the other boys, Jason Cummings, Sam Stanton and Danny Handling after their international games."

Photo by John Preece

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

Gary Locke says Hearts' form has to improve against Kilmarnock



Hearts' boss Gary Locke insists that his players will have to improve on last week's form if they are to take anything from Rugby Park on Saturday.

Speaking at the weekly press conference ahead of the game, Locke said: "I wish I could put my finger on what went wrong last week. I think just too many players didn't turn up on the day. Motherwell is a difficult place to go, against a good side, and as much as they were very good, we were poor. I don't think you can say this season that there have been many times that we have given up the ghost: we've put everything into most of the games. Last week was a game that you get every now and again. The team just didn't play well on the day. I won't make excuses, we weren't good enough and that's the reason we got beat.

“This week we have to do better. Kilmarnock are a similar side to Motherwell – a strong spine to their side, good experience and they can cause you problems if you don’t do your own job. We have worked as hard as possible this week – albeit there have been a few away with Scotland – and it is a game we need to try and win. You’re not going to win a game if only two or three players are on their game.”

“Kilmarnock have beaten us twice, and convincingly at Tynecastle, so we know how difficult it is going to be and we will certainly need to do better than we did last week. If we can achieve that then hopefully we get the right result.

“In the last couple of months the performances have certainly improved and got better and I’m hoping that last week was a blip, one game in the last seven or eight where we didn’t play well. And the good thing about football is you have another game which comes quickly and hopefully we get a better performance and better result.”

Hearts remain bottom of the table 20 points adrift.

International Women’s Day – speaking with Councillor Joanna Mowat



What are you doing to celebrate International Women’s Day?

Nothing special

What is your job?

Councillor for Edinburgh City Centre, Conservative Group whip and Transport and Environment Spokesman

Would you give us a quick version of your career path?

Worked the 1997 general election as general girl Friday for the Conservative Party in Scotland (ahem!), temped across Edinburgh, Exec PA to Chief Executive of a Finance Company, Parliamentary Assistant to an MSP, then got elected.

If you had been given career advice on leaving school (knowing what you know now!) what would it have been?

Get a professional qualification then do politics on the side!

Do you use any formal networking organisations? If you do which ones do you find useful?

No

Do you think there are enough women in important positions in private and public organisations in Edinburgh?

I think quality is more important than quantity and am uncomfortable with anyone being promoted because of what they are rather than what they can do or what skills they can bring to an organisation. It's interesting to see how people react when women storm the bastions of very traditionally male areas and bring new skills and ways of interacting – I can see an improvement in the balance and there is definitely more of an attitude that it's what you bring to the table that counts rather than what you do outside work.

Who is your inspirational female figure and why?

Impossible to come up with just one – probably all the women who manage to succeed in juggling fulfilling work and family life with a few historic inspirations from Lizzie Bennet, Elizabeth Fry, Nancy Astor and Theresa May.

Kind hearted Hibs' fans step in to help Macmillan charity



Kind hearted Hibs' fans have stepped in to help Macmillan Cancer Support by taking over a planned bucket collection outside Easter Road stadium before this Saturday's match against Motherwell.

When the Hibernian Community Foundation's Healthy Hibee, FFiT and Fit for Change groups learned that Macmillan's planned bucket shake had to be cancelled due to their normal fundraisers having prior commitments when the game was rescheduled, they immediately volunteered to help this worthwhile cause.

Macmillan Cancer Support improves the lives of people affected by cancer offering practical, emotional and financial help. They also provide trained medical professionals to the NHS and have cancer centres throughout the country where people receive expert care in a specially-designed environment.

Four million people are expected to be living with or beyond cancer in 2030 – which means the need for Macmillan's work is set to increase dramatically. Thanks to their loyal and committed supporters, over 98% of their income in 2012 came from voluntary donations and fundraising.



HCF volunteer Glenn Milne said: "Macmillan were allocated the match, originally scheduled for Wednesday 26 March for a bucket collection in and around the stadium, but when the

match was rescheduled, their volunteers were already committed to another event, and it looked like the local charity, based at the Western General Hospital would lose out on the opportunity. The health groups run by the Hibernian Community Foundation have all had inputs from cancer groups on how to use diet, exercise and regular checks to try to prevent this disease, which one in three of us can get, and decided that they would volunteer and help out the charity. Look out for our 20 collectors, who will be wearing the FFiT Hibs tops on match day, and help us to help MacMillan. Don't forget your spare change!

"If you want to do more, Macmillan are looking for volunteers to take part in the Edinburgh Marathon Festival 24 and 25 May, check out their website for other local events."

Missing man traced in Berwick upon Tweed



Police have confirmed that missing man Robert Lee who was last seen in the Morningside area at about 12.30pm on Thursday has been traced safe and well.

The 71-year-old was found at Berwick-Upon-Tweed Railway Station just after 9am this morning.

Police have thanked the public for their assistance.

Man in court following Corstorphine bank robbery



A man has been arrested and charged following a robbery at the Royal Bank of Scotland on St John's Road.

The incident happened at 09.30 on Monday 3rd March.

Afterwards detectives revealed that they were speaking to taxi companies in an effort to trace witnesses.

The 44-year-old is scheduled to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court today.

Children's drama in Wester Hailes



A magical and musical theatre production, celebrating the wonder of worms by Glasgow based Children's Theatre Company **Eco Drama**, is winding its way to WHALE Arts in Edinburgh on Friday 21 March 2014 after a sell-out tour.

The performance on Friday 21 March 2014 at WHALE Arts, will mark the end of a 47 date tour of schools and venues in the Central Belt, including sell out performances at the Eastwood

Theatre and Paisley Arts Centre. Over 1500 children will have seen the show by the end of this tour, with more anticipated in the summer when the production will visit various festivals along with more schools and venues.

This popular production is an immersive, musical tale celebrating the wonder of life beneath our feet. It has bundles of humour, music and interaction and is a perfectly intimate show for 3-7 year olds, their parents and carers.

Wilma and William, two nature lovers, find themselves on a journey underground as they seek a glimpse of the wonderful wriggly creature they have always dreamed of seeing. To their delight, they encounter a family of friendly, musical worms, who invite them into their tiny underground home, complete with miniature couch, toilet and other surprising delights. Making friends with Wee Wilma, the youngest member of the family, they help her find the courage to explore the grassy world above and she too discovers a new, wonderful world, which comes with its own colourful reward!

With laugh out loud songs, including one about the significance of worm poo, and colourful knitted bobble hats, children will marvel at the wonder of worms and their importance in our natural world. They'll even get the opportunity to meet some real-life wriggly worms through a specially designed glass Wormery after the performance.

'The Worm' is devised and directed by Emily Reid, and devised and performed by Caroline Mathison and Alistair Edwards. The colourful and surprising set is designed by Claire Halleran. It also features a range of instruments including cello, ukulele and loop pedal.

Eco Drama is a touring children's theatre company based in Glasgow, who use theatre to engage and inspire children, young people and the wider community to look after the natural world. Previous productions have included the widely acclaimed

'Isle of Egg' and **'The Forgotten Orchard'**. In 2013, **Eco Drama** was awarded the Scottish Government's Greener Together Award as well as the best Community Initiative at the Scottish Green Awards.

✖ For more information about **'The Worm – An Underground Adventure'** or **Eco Drama** please visit www.ecodrama.co.uk

To book tickets to see the Worm at Whale Arts phone: Tel: 0131 458 3267

International Women's Day – speaking with Councillor Deidre Brock



What are you doing to celebrate International Women's Day?

I'm really looking forward to attending a conference the feminist organisation Engender will be holding in Glasgow on Friday March 7th – **"Shaping Scotland's future: women's equality and constitutional change"**.

To quote from their invite:

"It's an exciting time to be a feminist in Scotland. This conference will bring together academics, gender equality experts, activists, and women from all walks of life, to talk about women's equality, and the choices that we face in the independence referendum and afterwards".

That same evening I will be speaking at the launch of Dr

Walter Stephen's new book 'Learning from the Lasses: Women of the Patrick Geddes Circle' . Dr Stephen is a noted scholar of Geddes and the launch of this new book, published by Luath Press, will be taking place at Central Library as part of our Edinburgh Library Service's celebrations for International Women's Day.

I've also been asked to attend an event later on in the month being organised for International Women's Day by the users of the MILAN service, which will celebrate the contributions of older Asian women to Edinburgh and Scotland.

What is your job?

I'm SNP Councillor for the Leith Walk ward, and Depute Lord Provost for the city.

Would you give us a quick version of your career path?

Born in Perth, Australia.

Bachelor of Arts in English, John Curtin University

Diploma in Performing Arts, Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts.

Moved to Sydney, and worked as an actor for ten years. In between acting work worked in a wide variety of jobs, including retail, sales and marketing.

Moved to Scotland, where I met my partner and had two children.

Personal assistant to the Managing Director of a South African Wine Club here in Edinburgh.

Parliamentary assistant to Rob Gibson MSP in the Scottish Parliament.

Elected to the City of Edinburgh Council in 2007

2007-2012 Convenor for Culture and Leisure

2012 re-elected and was appointed Depute Lord Provost. Currently sit on the Planning, Transport and Environment, and Children and Families committees, and on the boards of the Edinburgh International Festival, the Centre for the Moving Image (Edinburgh International Film Festival and Filmhouse) and Creative Edinburgh.

If you had been given career advice on leaving school (knowing what you know now!) what would it have been?

If I was giving someone else career advice knowing what I know now it would be:

-Don't be modest and hang back, take the opportunities that come your way as soon as you see them – as a Scottish friend once said to me, shy bairns get nae sweeties!

-Try to get as much experience as possible at speaking in public – it's a very useful skill to have, no matter what career you're in – and I promise you the more you do it, the easier it gets!

-Your career doesn't always travel along a straight path – be ready to take up those sudden opportunities as they arise, even if they don't fit in with what you currently see as Your Life Plan.

Do you use any formal networking organisations? If you do which ones do you find useful?

Not formally, although I am aware of and support Scottish Women in Business and Investing Women, the first women-focused angel investment network in Scotland which launched last year, to name just a couple. In politics, my party the SNP mentors women members through its Women's Academy.

Do you think there are enough women in important positions in private and public organisations in Edinburgh?

No – although things are certainly improving, there is still much more to be done. The Council is making a lot of effort to some good effect in areas such as supporting women entrepreneurs through its Business Gateway service , and has certainly seen an increase in the numbers of women taking senior managerial roles in the last few years which is positive. The Scottish Government, through initiatives such as recently announced extensions in free nursery care, is playing an important part here too. I was heartened to note recently from the most up to date figures available that there are record numbers of women now in work in Scotland.


Who is your inspirational female figure and why?

Tough question! There are so many! May I at least choose two from the dozens??

One is Elsie Inglis, the quite remarkable doctor whose intelligence, guts and iron determination led to her becoming one of the earliest female doctors in Scotland, an energetic and influential suffragist, and, despite advice to the contrary from all sides including the War Office, led to her organising and taking out women only medical units to the battlefields of Europe in WW1 and saving countless lives.

The second is that tremendous actor Katherine Hepburn. Highly-educated, she was strong willed, talented, intelligent, forthright and fearless. Seen by many at the time as over-opinionated and eccentric, she was in fact a great role model for women at a time when the options for women to freely express themselves and their needs were few and far between. We're also told that when she was questioned about politics, she told an interviewer, "I always just say be on the affirmative and liberal side. Don't be a 'no' person". I have to agree with that!

International Women's Day – speaking with Councillor Angela Blacklock

 Councillor Angela Blacklock is also known as Bailie Angela Blacklock and is the Labour Councillor for the Leith Walk Ward.

What are you doing to celebrate International Women's Day?

I will be attending the Womankind fundraiser in Edinburgh

What is your job?

I am a local councillor.

Would you give us a quick version of your career path?

I have a background in business management but following a career break to look after my young children my hobby became my job when I was elected to represent the Leith Walk ward for the City of Edinburgh Council in 2007.

If you had been given career advice on leaving school (knowing what you know now!) what would it have been?

Choose languages and sciences and take the time to study what interests you.

Do you use any formal networking organisations? If you do which ones do you find useful?

I am on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. I am a member of a

pot luck supper club and the Edinburgh Oyster Club. I find the latter two the most useful for hearing about what people think of the Council and the Labour party.

Do you think there are enough women in important positions in private and public organisations in Edinburgh?

No, there aren't enough women in important positions in Edinburgh.

Who is your inspirational female figure and why?

Angela Merkel, she is the leader of the biggest economy in Europe and just keeps going. I also love Hilary Clinton partly because she is married to Bill who has been the best American President in my memory and they make a great team, I hope she becomes President soon. Sorry that's two.

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



Forsyths – Wee Dub Festival – Leith High Flats – National Library of Scotland exhibition – Greyfriars tartan

Some people may remember when the building in our photo was Forsyths. Now it is owned by Sir Philip Green's company Arcadia and houses Top Shop.

In 2012 [The Scotsman reported](#) that the tycoon had 'balked' at

the cost of replacing the spire which used to be on top of the building. Well it is still not there.

Does anyone else think that it is time to force the building to be restored to its former beauty with its spire back in place?

 The Wee Dub Festival gets going today until Sunday.

“It is by far our best line-up yet, featuring giants of UK dancehall culture, top live bands, and hot upcoming talent.

For the artist line-up including artist bios, links, videos and tracks [go here](#), and for the full festival programme [go here](#) (which is the Wee Dub Festival website) Have fun if you’re going along, and do tell us below in our comments section which bit you enjoyed best.

Edinburgh Tenants Federation are holding a meeting down in Leith on 20 March 2014 to find out about setting up a tenants group there. [More information here.](#)

If you live in any of the Leith high rises, why not come along to this Public Meeting, meet other folk and have a chat about setting up tenants and residents group for the Leith

High Rises?

Residents welcome from:

- Hawkhill Court
- Nisbett Court
- Inchkeith Court
- Kirkgate House
- Linksvie House

ALL WELCOME to this informal meeting. To find out more, please contact Justine at [Edinburgh Tenants Federation](#) on 0131 475 2509 or email justine@edinburghtenants.org.uk

The Wha's Like us exhibition at the National Library of Scotland includes information about Miss Jean Brodie, a fictional character created by Muriel Spark.

The exhibition runs until 18 May 2014. [More details here.](#)

Have you seen the new Greyfriars Tartan? The Grassmarket Community Project has developed it and made it into dog coats. There is a cute photo of the dog from GCP [over here](#) wearing one of them.

WE closed our storyboard about dogs as not many of you wanted to share photos of your pets with us, but you could add a photo of your cat either with or without its tartan coat to our [EdinburghReportage storyboard](#).... Go on show them off!

International Women's Day –

Speaking to Councillor Norma Austin Hart



Vice-Convener of
Culture & Leisure

Councillor Norma Austin Hart is the Labour councillor on the City of Edinburgh Council representing Liberton/Gilmerton. She is also the Vice-Convener of the Culture and Leisure committee.

What are you doing to celebrate International Women's Day?

I have been working with other Labour women to have a fundraising event on 8 March [to raise money for Womankind](#). This is an international women's rights charity to help women transform their lives across the globe, it works with partners to challenge discrimination and violence. All welcome at 1.30pm at St Columba's by the Castle on 8 March 2014.

What is your job?

I am a City of Edinburgh Labour Councillor and a self-employed business trainer and adviser

Would you give us a quick version of your career path?

English degree, teacher, Masters degree, policy maker and strategist, programme manager, chief executive, business woman, politician.

If you had been given career advice on leaving school (knowing what you know now!) what would it have been?

Don't be afraid to try anything that instinctively draws you.

Do you use any formal networking organisations? If you do

which ones do you find useful?

I love being part of women's networks and have been involved in many over the years. At the moment I am the chair of the Edinburgh and Lothians Labour Women's Forum and a member of the national Labour Women's Network. The E&L meetings are open to any woman who supports Labour values

Do you think there are enough women in important positions in private and public organisations in Edinburgh?

The numbers are still depressingly low. In Scotland women are 52% of the population but less than a third of MSPs are women, less than 25% of Scottish councillors and only 22% of Scottish MPs are female. Members of the European Parliament from Scotland who are women ? 17%. There is a long way to go and most of these figures do not represent an improvement on previous years. Don't get me started on the low numbers of women on boards of private and third sector organisations in Scotland...

Who is your inspirational female figure and why?

Michelle Obama, stylish smart and a woman with her own agenda.

Edinburgh College designated as a regional college



Edinburgh College has been officially designated as a regional college and has confirmed that its current regional lead will continue to lead the board of management as Regional Chair.

As part of the Scottish Government's national college regionalisation programme, Edinburgh College is one of the country's merged further education institutions that has now been granted regional college status. The move coincided with the official appointment of regional chairs, and the government has announced that Ian McKay will continue in the role he was appointed to at Edinburgh College in August 2012. Ian has played a key role in steering the college through its first 18 months since merger.

The regionalisation designation and the appointment of chairs marks the implementation of the Post 16 Education (Scotland) Act, with 13 colleges now having regional responsibilities.

The government appointed regional chairs with the aim of providing each of the 13 regions with a strong voice that will allow more effective communication with employers, higher education and other colleges. Regionalisation also aims to ensure colleges have stronger governance arrangements, including a more prominent voice for students on college boards.

Ian McKay has been the Scottish chair of the Institute of Directors since January 2012, so is well placed to advise the college on building stronger links with industry and advising on how the college can meet the needs and expectations of businesses. Among a number of high-profile roles in industry and education, Ian was a longstanding member of the Scottish Council of the Confederation of British Industry and a member of the executive committee of the Scottish Council for Development and Industry. He also served for fifteen years as Assistant General Secretary of the EIS with responsibility among other areas for further and higher education.

One of Ian's principal aims for the college is to develop governance to ensure it continues to meet the highest professional standards.

Ian said: "I'm delighted to have been appointed Regional Chair and now have the opportunity to continue the significant work we've started as a merged college. This is a new era for the further education sector and I'm proud to be playing my part. We have come a long way since Edinburgh College was formed and the work we've done so far makes me certain that we are developing in the right direction. I'm passionate about good governance as with that in place it's simpler to provide students and staff with the opportunities they deserve and that will equip them to develop. I'm looking forward to working with my fellow chairs across the country to make the further education sector stronger than ever and make sure our voice is heard by politicians and industry leaders."

Ian pointed to the forthcoming Wood Commission report as a sign of the importance of colleges to Scotland's business, raising issues that he is eager to lead on in his role as chair.

"Sir Ian Wood in his interim report stressed the importance of vocational opportunities for young people, such as apprenticeships. Making sure there are the right kinds of vocational schemes that meet the needs of young people and employers is essential and I intend for Edinburgh College to be forward thinking on this."

Edinburgh College principal Mandy Exley said: "I speak on behalf of the whole board in congratulating Ian on his appointment. He has been instrumental in shaping the college's aims and direction and, as well as his considerable expertise and experience, the continuity provided by his appointment is crucial. I have found his counsel valuable and I know he has the best intentions for all our staff and students. With Ian continuing in the role of chair I am sure we can continue to

support our students to thrive and achieve positive destinations, as well as ensuring the college meets the needs of our industry partners and the national economy.”

Charity Trustee Role for Linda Urquhart OBE



Marie Curie Cancer Care has announced today the appointment of high profile Scottish business leader Linda Urquhart OBE, as a trustee.

As chairman of Morton Fraser, one of Scotland’s largest law firms, and as non-executive director and board member to a number of UK businesses, Edinburgh-based Linda brings a wealth of experience to the role. Linda will help lead the strategic management of the charity, supporting people with a terminal illness across the UK. In Scotland, this care is delivered through the two hospices in Edinburgh and Glasgow and in the community through the Marie Curie Nursing Service.

Linda has led Morton Fraser for nearly fifteen years, first as Chief Executive and now as chairman. Trained as a commercial

property lawyer, she has advised businesses of all sizes across a variety of sectors. Linda is a member of the board of the CBI and Scottish Enterprise, Chairman of Investors in People Scotland and is a non-executive director of Scottish private bank, Adam & Co and Edinburgh Airport Limited.

Linda joins four other UK-based individuals appointed to the Council of Trustees led by chairman, John Varley. Their combined expertise includes communications, marketing, healthcare, finance, business, retail, services and law. Their experience covers both public and private sectors.

The appointments address Council member succession, as well as the recruitment of additional trustees to enable greater representation across the devolved nations.

Commenting on her new role with Marie Curie, Linda said: "I am passionate in helping organisations to deliver their best and to make an impact in their field. Nowhere is this more important than for a charity such as Marie Curie who provide an essential service to patients and their families who need very specialist and tailored care and support.

"I'm excited to be joining an ambitious organisation that is investing in services across the UK and is striving to deliver care to people no matter where they are. With my fellow trustees I look forward to helping the charity raise awareness of its value to the healthcare sector and achieve its full potential."

John Varley, Chair of the Trustee Council of Marie Curie, said: "We are delighted to welcome the new trustees to Council at a time when the charity is embarking on an ambitious new five year strategy to meet the growing need for our services across the UK. An ageing population with increasingly complex and diverse needs, and divergent health and social care systems across the UK, make it very important that we continue to provide the best possible care for people with terminal

illnesses.

“Moving forward we are committed to doubling our funding of research; sharing ways to improve the experiences of all terminally ill people regardless of circumstance, including support for families after the death; and working to improve the delivery of healthcare better to meet the needs of patients and their families.

“I look forward to drawing on the expertise of our new trustees and existing Council members to help Marie Curie meet these challenges.”

The Usher Hall celebrates 100th birthday today



Edinburgh's iconic Usher Hall celebrates its 100th birthday today and The Royal Scottish National Orchestra will tonight perform a replica of the opening night concert to mark the occasion.

The hall was built after whisky distiller Andrew Usher donated £100,000 for a music hall in 1896. When it eventually opened on March 6th 1914, it was used to recruit young men for the First World War with Prime Minister Asquith making a speech to the all male audience.

Since then numerous pop, rock and classical musicians have graced the stage including Chuck Berry, Johnny Cash, the Rolling Stones Fleetwood Mac and Cliff Richard.

In 1972, the Eurovision contest was held at the hall with the UK entry The New Seekers finishing second with 'Beg Steal or Borrow.'

In 1986, the building hosted the boxing for the Commonwealth Games and four years later, the Hands off Hibs campaign held a fundraising concert.

The hall remained unchanged for over 80 years until part of the roof fell in during a Tony Bennett concert in 1996. An £18m refurbishment began, with the final building reopening in 2010.

Scotland Women 1-1 France Women



Scotland Women produced one of their best-ever results in Larnaca last night, after securing a 1-1 draw with France.

Leanne Ross put Anna Signeul's side ahead in only the sixth minute and it was over an hour later when an own goal from Jenny Beattie brought a reprieve for the side who are fifth in the Fifa rankings.

Manager Anna Signeul sprang a surprise before kick off by selecting Ifeoma Dieke, who was expected to be on the bench, for her first Scotland game since rupturing her anterior cruciate ligament in the 2012 London Olympics.

Dieke partnered Beattie in central defence, which meant a

change of role for Rachel Corsie, who moved forward into a holding midfield position in a 4-1-4-1 formation.

France started strongly and Camille Abily went close with a low shot before the Scots shook the tournament favourites with a well taken goal in the sixth minute.

Kim Little wrong-footed the French defence with a great turn in the box and the ball eventually fell to Lisa Evans who beat her marker and sent in a low cross which was met by the unmarked Leanne Ross – and the Glasgow City midfielder scored easily.

Two minutes later Gemma Fay produced a great save to deny Abily.

The French number 10 missed another chance in the 19th minute, then six minutes before the interval a long range shot from Elise Bussaglia tested Fay again.

New French coach Philippe Bergeroo sent his players out early for the second half but it was Scotland who came closest to adding to their lead through Jane Ross who fired just over the bar in the 57th minute.

France made a triple substitution in an effort to get back into the game and they eventually equalised when Gaetane Thiney cut the ball back from the byline and Beattie directed the ball past Fay for an own goal.

Despite France doing most of the pressing, Scotland nearly regained the lead ten minutes from time when Jane Ross's flashing header went just past the post.

Giant French defender Wendie Renard had the last chance of the game with a downward header from a corner, but it slipped past the post on a memorable night for the Scots.

Scotland (4-1-4-1): Fay (GK), Brown, Dieke (Mitchell 74), Beattie, Lauder, Corsie, L Ross, Little, Love, Evans, J Ross.

Parents' gratitude to Sick Kids Friends Foundation



The parents of two young patients who have been diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis have thanked the Sick Kids Friends Foundation (SKFF) for providing a wealth of services at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children (RHSC) in Edinburgh.

Kadan Robertson, three, and his two-year-old sister Elise have had the condition since birth and have spent the duration of their short lives in and out of hospital.

Cystic Fibrosis is a genetic condition which affects the movement of salt and water in and out of cells. This causes the lungs and digestive system to become clogged with mucus, making it hard to breathe and digest food.

Former business owner Jayne Brockie and partner David have spent three years accompanying Kadan and Elise to the RHSC for a variation of regular and emergency treatment.

Jayne of Bonnyrigg, Midlothian said: "The RHSC is like a second home to our family and we rely heavily on a number of initiatives available in the hospital to get from one day to the next.

"When Kadan and Elise are in hospital they have to stay in an isolation cubicle within the ward, so it's really important for us to be able to stay close to their bedsides in case they need us.

“The facilities in the room are fantastic. Without this clean and comfortable accommodation the kids and both of us just wouldn’t feel at ease in the hospital or be able to get the rest we all need.”

SKFF spends £30,000 every year to ensure that anxious parents have somewhere to spend the night. The charity invests the same amount again to renew furniture and fittings and supply housekeepers to ensure areas are kept up to four star condition.

Jayne continued: “Spending so much time in the RHSC can be difficult for Kadan and Elise, particularly as they must be kept in isolation when they are undergoing treatment.

“The hospital play specialists are another vital lifeline for us. They make the play area private for an hour at a time so that the children have an opportunity to enjoy this great facility.”

The Foundation provides play equipment for all wards and waiting areas in the childrens’ hospital. The SKFF recently invested £8,000 in an outpatient soft play area to create an improved recreational environment for visiting children.

Lorna Galbraith, play specialist at the RHSC in Edinburgh, said: “Hospital play areas provide children in isolation with a vital break from ward life and relentless treatment.

“The Foundation works hard to ensure this haven remains at a high standard to improve the experience of children receiving treatment at hospital.”

The Robertson family will continue to use these SKFF-funded services on a regular basis as the young Bonnyrigg brother and sister endure their on-going battle with Cystic Fibrosis.

Maureen Harrison, chief executive of the Sick Kids Friends Foundation, said: “I’m delighted to hear that Jayne and her

family continue to feel the benefit of some of our key investment facilities.

“Providing first-rate accommodation and play areas for our young patients are imperative to ensuring our support reaches those in need.

“We’re always on the lookout for big-hearted corporate and volunteer fundraisers to help boost vital funds used to provide fundamental services to families from across Scotland.”

Scottish Car Wash raising funds for Fire Fighters Charity.



Fire fighters across Scotland are preparing to roll up their sleeves to take part in the Scottish Car Wash this March, raising vital funds for The Fire Fighters Charity.

Firefighters will be on hand to make your car sparkle and as you drive away in your gleaming car, your donation to The Fire Fighters Charity will help thousands of serving and retired fire service personnel and their families.

Regional Fundraiser for Scotland Jan Mattison said: “We are delighted that so many of our fire stations are getting involved and would urge local people to come along and support the day.

“Firefighting can be dangerous, stressful and traumatic.

That's why The Fire Fighters Charity is here for every one of the UK's serving and retired members of fire and rescue service – and their families.

“It costs £9million a year to keep our charity running. With no government funding, we rely completely on donations and goodwill. Please come along to your local fire station and support us.”

As well as being a fun fundraising event for The Fire Fighters Charity, the firefighters want to share a very serious message about fire safety in the home. Each year fire destroys lives, something firefighters see regularly and by taking some precautions this risk can be minimised. While your car is being pampered you'll have the chance book a FREE home fire safety visit with us.

As part of our commitment to building a safer Scotland we offer everyone in Scotland a free home fire safety visit. We can also fit smoke alarms free of charge if your home requires them.

You can arrange a free home fire safety visit by calling SFRS on the freephone number 0800 0731 999 or by texting 'check' to 61611. You can also fill out a form at www.firescotland.gov.uk or contact your local community fire station.

Let's face it, washing the car is nobody's favourite job so why not take the hassle out of it and head on down to one of our fire stations on Saturday 8th March 2013 and get your car washed by local fire fighters.

Car wash events are being held at the following stations across East of Scotland from 11am onwards:

Bathgate Fire Station

Broxburn Fire Station

Coldstream Fire Station

Crewe Toll Fire Station

Dalkeith Fire Station

Dunbar Fire Station

Duns Fire Station

Eyemouth Fire Station

Galashiels Fire Station

Hawick Fire Station

Kelso Fire Station

Lauder Fire Station

Liberton Fire Station

McDonald Road Fire Station

Newcraighall Fire Station

Peebles Fire Station

Selkirk Fire Station

Sighthill Fire Station

South Queensferry Fire Station

Tollcross Fire Station

Whitburn Fire Station

Death and the Maiden and Tortured Love



The Edinburgh Quartet's final Rush Hour concert in its series of three will take place on Wednesday 12 March at 5.30pm at St Andrew's & St George's West on George Street, Edinburgh. The Quartet will perform Schubert's masterwork Quartet No 14 in d minor, "Death and the Maiden". The players will be joined by Edinburgh Makar, Ron Butlin, who will chat to the audience and read his own translation of the "Death and the Maiden" poem.

Those who can't make it to the event in person can watch it live on the internet at [livestream.com](http://new.livestream.com/innerear/edinburghquartetschubert). Thanks to Creative Scotland funding this will be the second Edinburgh Quartet concert to be live streamed this season. Log in to watch for free [here](http://new.livestream.com/innerear/edinburghquartetschubert)

The following week, on Wednesday 19 March at 7.30pm the Quartet will present "Tortured Love" at the Queen's Hall, Edinburgh. The ensemble will use dramatic visual imagery to explore the themes of forbidden, unrequited and tortured love that inspired Janáček's "Kreutzer Sonata" string quartet, Bartók's first quartet and Mozart's D minor quartet K421.

Specially commissioned illustrations will be digitally manipulated and projected on to screens behind the players. The visual content will respond to various characters and influences within the programme, including Tolstoy's tormented female protagonist in his novella "Kreutzer Sonata". The images will be further enhanced by MIDI information captured from the players, adding real time effects based on expression, dynamics and frequency.

"Tortured Love" will be repeated at the RCS in Glasgow on

Saturday 12 April.

Further information about all events on
www.edinburghquartet.com

Concern for missing Morningside man



Police are appealing for help in finding an elderly and vulnerable man who has gone missing in the city today.

Robert Lee, 71, went missing from the Morningside area, about 12.30 pm, and has not been seen since.

He is described as white, 5'5" with short white hair, and was wearing a blue jacket, a light coloured shirt and brown cords.

A Police Scotland spokesman said it was believed Robert has a small amount of cash with him and may have access to other funds, so may have travelled outside of the immediate area.

Anyone who has any information is asked to call Police Scotland on 101 or through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Two model helicopters stolen

from van in Gordon Road

✖ Police are appealing for information following the theft of two model helicopters (pictured) from a van parked on Gordon Road. The crime was reported on 23rd February but Police are issuing an appeal now because these items are highly unusual and could be dangerous in the wrong hands. The victim had parked his van outside a property on Gordon Road at around 6.30pm on 23rd February. On returning to the vehicle at 7.50pm and he noticed that two model helicopters and a remote control had been taken from the back of the van. ✖ PC Sarah Bloomfield from Police Scotland said: "The two helicopters are each valued between £1300 to £1500 and the owner is obviously keen to recover them as they are unique items. "The helicopters also have batteries in them than can explode if left in front of a heat source and the rotator blades can cause serious injury if used by someone unfamiliar with how they work." Anyone with information should contact Police Scotland on 101, or make an anonymous report through the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

REVIEW – Communion New Faces Tour at Electric Circus



It is the inaugural year of the Communion New Faces Tour – a tour that showcases some of the brightest talents that are tipped to become something a lot more substantial in the foreseeable future. There are four acts that have been specially chosen to tour the country extensively with an

equally divided 30-minute slot for each artist. Those artists include Eliza and the Bear, Luke Sital-Singh, Farewell J.R, and Annie Eve. The first of two Scottish dates brought the tour to Electric Circus with a tame and timid audience on hand.

Starting off the packed three hours was Annie Eve. The talented, effortless singer had a band accompanying her work with a guitarist who introduced some beautiful slide guitar alongside her remarkable and intense finger-picking. Electric Circus was no place for her music to be exhibited, and there were hardly enough people there to fully appreciate the flair in Eve's work.

Farewell J.R. looked as if they had come off the streets after a day of busking, but the folk act used their studio recordings as a basis for their live show – making the performance sound tight collaboratively and sonically. They are not the folk that everybody is used to, it is almost indescribable. Oddly the band have two percussionists: the main drummer and a standing up drummer who has a small kit and an electronic board which adds some rather unusual folk sounds which gives the music an overall boldness. For a quiet and reserved frontman, there is a lot of charisma in the entire band to make them look modest.

✖ The two final acts were the most anticipated of the night.

First off was singer-songwriter Luke Sital-Singh. The calm and connected yet conversational artist has one of the finest voices in indie music and with a simplified sound, he could be something more important. Before his song 'Luna', Sital-Singh discusses the subject surrounding the song. "This song is about a killer whale," he says, while adding that he thought the name was cute but the whale turned out to be a male. His interaction with the crowd is admirable and not many acts have originality when it comes to banter with the audience, but Luke has confidence that allows there to be a return of laughter for explaining his happenings. He is tipped to be the

next Ben Howard, but there is something a lot more adept about Sital-Singh. His songs don't include just sole acoustic guitar, there is full-band electric among his trio of EPs. He seems like a more versatile Ben Howard but with more eagerness in his music.

The final act, not necessarily a headliner, was Eliza and the Bear. The band have enjoyed some moderate success over the last year, mainly including an exciting support slot with Paramore on their UK arena tour. Their emphatic, hard-hitting vocal melodies, insistent instrumentation and resounding stage presence is enough for indie rock fans to be admired. They aren't just a simple indie rock band, though. The simple layout of vocals, guitar, bass and drums is enhanced by the addition of keyboard and trombone which donates to the vigorous nature of their music. "You can come further in, we won't bite," said lead singer James Kellegher as the crowd slowly but surely made their way to half-filling the front row of Electric Circus.

A short and sweet set gave everybody a glance of what is to come in the future of British music. These four artists aren't the only ones but are right at the top of the pile waiting to pounce on some serious popularity.

Scotland U21s 2-2 Hungary U21s



Hibs' duo Sam Stanton and Danny Handling (pictured) came off the bench to win their first under 21 caps last night as Scotland let a two goal lead slip against Hungary at Tannadice

Park.

Hearts' striker Callum Paterson started the game which was part of Scotland's preparation for the European Championship qualifier against Netherlands in May.

Scotland took the lead in the 25th minute when Callum McGregor scored from a free kick awarded for a foul on Paterson then 12 minutes later, Ryan Fraser doubled Scotland's advantage with tap-in following a sweeping passing move.

Sam Stanton came on in the 46th minute replacing Armstrong then midway through the second half Joe Chalmers handled in the box and Andras Rado's spot-kick flew high into the net past Chris Ketting to ensure an exciting finish to the game.

Danny Handling replaced Fraser in the 76th minute then with three minutes remaining, Rado levelled the match when he took a pass from Istvan Kovacs, turned inside and placed his shot into the far corner from 10 yards.

Scotland U21: Archer (Ketting 46), Marcus Fraser, Findlay, Kelly (Chalmers 46), McGhee, Armstrong (Stanton 46), Slater (Grimmer 57), McLean (McGinn 58), McGregor, Paterson (Herron 76), Ryan Fraser (Handling 76). Subs Not Used: Henly.

Hungary U21: Jova, Barath (Kelemen 69), Lang, Szolnoki, Poor, Rado, Kovacs, Gyurjan (Vass 83), Vecsei, Bacsa (Ugrai 86), Nagy (Szakaly 83). Subs Not Used: Gyuru, Batik, Tamas, Jagodics. Booked: Gyurjan, Barath.

Goals: Rado 68 pen, 87.

Att: 4,537

Ref: Richard Liesverd (Netherlands)

Photo by John Preece

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



Pedal on Parliament 2014 – Live from the City Chambers – Tonight at the Cameo – Rubbish collections – Edinburgh International Book Festival

In April Edinburgh's streets will be taken over by a colourful mass of cyclists of all shapes and sizes calling for a cycle-friendly Scotland. Pedal on Parliament, the grass-roots organisation which brought 4,000 demonstrators to Holyrood last year, from children on balance bikes to champion cyclist Graeme Obree, have announced their third mass protest ride on the Scottish Parliament on Saturday the 26th of April. People will be gathering at noon at the Meadows for a minute's silence to remember those killed on Scotland's roads and then riding down the Royal Mile to call on politicians to support the PoP manifesto for safer cycling.

This will be a light-hearted occasion, but with a serious purpose. Last year saw 12 cyclists killed in Scotland, the highest number for several years, and 2014 has already seen two cyclists die, the most recent only this week. Meanwhile the latest census figures show that the Scottish government is far behind on its target to see 10% of journeys by bike by 2020 – in the last decade, the percentage commuting to work by bike has risen only 0.1% to 1.6%. The organisers believe that without real and sustained investment in cycling and roads designed to accommodate people of all ages and abilities, then

these figures will not improve.

Organiser David Brennan said “This year Scotland will be hosting the Commonwealth Games, bringing some of the world’s top cyclists to race around the streets of Glasgow. Yet if those same riders were to venture out in Glasgow on the roads that I and others cycle on any other day of the year, they would be shocked at how little quality provision there is for people who chose to travel by bike. As a result I often feel that my safety is compromised and many potential cyclists are discouraged from starting at all. We may have produced some great sporting cyclists as a nation but we’re a very long way from being a cycle-friendly country. We want to see a Scotland where anyone – from Sir Chris Hoy to my four-year-old daughter – can enjoy the freedom of getting about by bike if they wish, and not having to wait until the roads are closed to do so.”



Graeme Obree, who led the ride last year alongside the families of Audrey Fyfe and Andrew McNicoll who were both killed on their bikes on the streets of Edinburgh, said:- “Pedal on Parliament are not asking for spending here, but an investment, so that young people can cycle freely and without fear. We want a network from our homes to our workplaces, our shops, and schools and everywhere we want to go. It’s an investment in the health of the nation.”

Investment in cycling and other forms of active travel has been shown to return up to 19 times the amount invested in reduced congestion and improved health and pollution levels. It also makes the roads safer for everyone, including drivers, and substantially improves lives and livelihoods, as the experiences of places as diverse as New York, Copenhagen and Seville have shown. Pedal on Parliament believe that with proper funding and well-designed cycling infrastructure, Scotland can be a healthier, wealthier and above all happier place.

The council is webcasting the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee which meets at 10am today.

You can watch online as the meeting progresses or watch later by clicking [here](#). We are also told that the meeting can be watched for the first time on iPad or smartphone, however at last month's council meeting the technicians were having a time of it making anything work, so we may have to wait and see about that!

There are several showings of The Book Thief today at the Cameo. [Booking details here.](#)

Set to music composed by John Williams, this inspiring tale of courage and strength is set in war-time Germany.

Do you know when your rubbish should be collected? Well [this page](#) on the council website will help you find out. All you have to do is put in your postcode.

Important dates for this year's Festival have now been finalised so put them in your diary pronto.

- Details of this year's line-up will be revealed at the programme launch on Wednesday 11 June 2014.
- Tickets will go on sale to the general public on Tuesday 24 June.
- The 2014 Book Festival will run from 9-25 August.

More detailed information about how to book tickets will be available later in the year.



Photo of Cerys Matthews at EIBF 2013 by John
Preece