

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



Planning for Royal Edinburgh Hospital – Field of Light opens today in St Andrew Square – Mammoths of the Ice Age – John Byrne talk at Edinburgh College of Art – Manipulate Festival

A planning application was lodged last October for the Royal Edinburgh Hospital which closes for comments until this Friday 7 February 2014. These are revised plans but the local community council reports that not much has changed.

13/04232/FUL | Planning permission in respect of the phase 1 development of the healthcare masterplan of the Royal Edinburgh Campus including erection of mental health and brain injury facilities (Class 8) together with various works including access and landscaping. | Royal Edinburgh Hospital 23 Tipperlinn Road Edinburgh EH10 5HF

The ten year master plan is filed under reference 13/04292/PPP [here](#).

All other papers can be viewed [here](#).

The Field of Light is opening this evening in St Andrew Square. We will be there to capture the first glimpse of the spectacle which will last until 27 April 2014.

9,500 lighted glass spheres will rise from the ground on slender stems to create a natural and otherworldly effect

through the volume of spheres, the glow of the lights and gentle shapes. The piece has been conceived to create an immersive experience, inviting people to wander through St Andrew Square along the existing pathways and view the space in a new way.

The Field of Light, created specifically for St Andrew Square, is the first time the piece has been exhibited within an urban landscape and the exhibition will be his Scottish debut.

Mammoths of the Ice Age

24 January – 20 April 2014

Exhibition Gallery 1, Level 3

Cost: Adult £9, Concession £7.50, Child (5-15) £6, Under 5s free, Family of 3* £19, Family of 4* £25 (*must include at least 1 adult and 1 child), National Museums Scotland Members free, National Art Pass holders receive 50% discount

Journey back in time millions of years and discover the animals of the Ice Age at the first UK showing of this interactive, family-friendly exhibition. Joust with mammoth tusks, feel mammoth fur between your fingertips and touch the replica teeth of a colossal mastodon. Then meet Lyuba, a detailed replica of the 42,000-year-old baby woolly mammoth, and learn why early humans both hunted and honoured these majestic animals. This exhibition was created by [The Field Museum, Chicago](#).

Edinburgh College of Art have invited an art world VIP to talk to them this evening.

“We’re looking forward to the School of Design lecture series on Monday 3rd February, when we’ll be welcoming the artist

John Byrne to ECA.

One of the most significant recent commissions in Edinburgh was the painting of the new ceiling of the King's Theatre. John Byrne will chat to Rachel Simmonds about receiving this commission, and his vision for the painting.

Join us at 4pm in the Main Building Lecture Theatre to learn more about the King's Theatre ceiling and John Byrne's work. Entry is free, all are welcome.

Details:

3rd February 2014, 4pm – 5pm, Main Building Lecture Theatre (Room E22), Main Building, ECA, Lauriston Place, Edinburgh.

More information: <http://bit.ly/ECAJohnByrne>

We met John Byrne last year at the unveiling of his work on the Dome. You can read about it [here](#).

The Manipulate Festival continues till the end of the week, a festival of innovative and outstanding visual theatre and film. It includes two world premieres, one European premiere and four UK theatrical premieres of the highest quality from Austria, England, Germany, the Netherlands, Russia, Scotland and the USA – and a film programme from all global points in between – a festival designed to entertain, intrigue and inspire... More details [here](#).

The Edinburgh Reporter's Weekly Sports Roundup



Rugby (Scotland) by John Preece

Four representative matches were played over the weekend with one draw, and three defeats on the score card. First up, the Scotland 'A' side were playing the England Saxons at Scotstoun and the Scots were looking for their third win in a row against the English. It wasn't to be, but in spite of being behind at half time 10-6 – courtesy of a penalty and a converted penalty try to two penalties – the Scots came back with a try of their own following another English penalty, to take the score to 13-13. Another penalty from England, took the visitors into the lead, but a late on goal from Scotland meant the match finished all-square, 16-16.

It wasn't such good news for the U20 side, which endured a battering from both the weather and a strong Irish team. 20-0 down at half time, the Scots leaked another 14 points before they landed a solitary try of their own with seconds left on the clock to make it a 34-7 victory to Ireland.

Not so good news for the women either as they were hammered into submission by another strong Irish side. 32-0 down at half time, the Scots never stood a chance. However, good play in the second half from the Scots saw Ireland 'only' able to score 27 points, scoring four tries in the first 13 minutes. However the rest of the half was dominated by the never-say-die Scots, but the old failing of not being able to cross the line, meant that they stayed rooted on zero, while Ireland managed to score another, late, try against the run of play to finish the 59-0 winners.

Even worse news for the Senior side was their 28-6 defeat to

Ireland's 'big boys'. Scotland had the first chance for points but Laidlaw saw his kick hit the post, which wasn't a problem for Sexton as he put Ireland into an early lead. Laidlaw drew the sides level with a successful kick, but seconds later Ireland were ahead again with another Sexton kick. Scotland dominated both territory and possession in the first half, but it was Ireland who were to score the first try. Both teams had almost scored tries earlier in the game, but close isn't quite the same as crossing the line. Quick recycle from a penalty line out in the left corner saw the passed ball outrun the Scots' defence to give Trimble an easy gallop over in the other corner. Sexton missed the kick and Ireland went in 11-3 ahead.

The second half Irish team either put some sort of sedative in Scotland's tea or fielded another five players for the second half as they went on to totally dominate the match. Laidlaw did score first with another penalty, but two tries allied to Sexton's boot saw the Irish safely over the line 28-6

Club Rugby by John Preece

In spite of predictions to the contrary, the weather didn't wipe out this weekend's programme, so the spectators and players enjoyed a full calendar of fixtures.

In the Premiership, Currie scored their fifth win of the season with a 16-7 defeat of Glasgow Hawks in Glasgow, while Edinburgh Accies lost 30-13 away to Gala. Their near neighbours, Heriots survived a wee scare in Aberdeen as the narrowly defeated Aberdeen Grammar 21-17.

In the League table, Heriots are third with 52 points and Accies are fifth with 30. While, in the relegation zone, Currie now have a clear four point advantage over Aberdeen at the bottom with 25 points. With the first four clubs breaking free – 16 point gap between fourth and fifth – and heading for British and Irish Cup qualification, the rest of the table

looks very close – five points cover fifth to ninth – with any of the six teams in danger of relegation if results don't pan out to their satisfaction.

In the National League, the top of the table clash at Myreside went the way of Boroughmuir, who beat Watsonians 13-6 at Myreside (full match report elsewhere). Stewarts-Melville, on the other hand had to settle for a 10-10 draw away to Dundee.

This leave Boroughmuir a further three points clear – 'Sonians gained a bonus point – with 64 points to second placed Watsonians 53. But, Stew-Mel's two points at Dundee means they close the gap to a single point with 52 points for third place.

With only three scheduled league matches left in the season for most teams – a few have some 'weather affected' games in hand – the relegation zone in the Premiership is hard to predict, although Aberdeen seem to have lost their way a little. But, at the top of the National League, it is looking like Boroughmuir are rank favourites – as they have been from the start of the season – to go up, while Watsonians and Stewarts-Melville are in a closely fought chase for runner's up spot. So it looks possible that there could be five Edinburgh teams in the Premiership next season if the games go to plan, but there should be at least four – Heriots, Edinburgh Academy, Boroughmuir and one or two from Currie/Watsonians/Stewarts-Melville.

Football

Friday saw the end of the January Transfer Window with both Edinburgh clubs doing business.

Hearts transfer window

Players in

Paul McCallum – loan until the end of the season from West Ham

United

Players Out

Adam King – to Swansea City



Hibs transfer window

Players in (alphabetical order)

Daniel Boateng – loan until the end of the season from Arsenal

Bradley Donaldson – return from loan spell at Arbroath

Paul Grant – return from loan spell at Berwick Rangers

Danny Haynes – loan until the end of the season from Notts County

Duncan Watmore – loan until the end of the season from Sunderland

Players out (alphabetical order)

Ross Caldwell – loan to Alloa Athletic until the end of the season

Tim Clancy – contract cancelled by mutual consent

David Gold – loan to Cowdenbeath until the end of the season

Fraser Mullen – contract cancelled by mutual consent

Rowan Vine – contract cancelled by mutual consent

Hibs had a free weekend, but on Sunday, Hearts took on Inverness Caledonian Thistle in the semi-final of the League Cup at Easter Road.

In a dramatic game, nine-man Inverness exacted revenge on Hearts, winning on penalties to set up a first major final

against Aberdeen on 16 March.

Greg Tansey's sensational strike put Inverness ahead but Jamie Hamill scored twice in two minutes for Hearts after Gary Warren was sent off.

Caley Thistle's Josh Meekings also saw red but the nine men grabbed an injury-time leveller through Nick Ross.

Despite having a numerical advantage, Hearts were unable to capitalise during the 30 minutes of extra time, then Graham Shinnie won the toss to take the penalty shoot out to the Famous Five end which housed the travelling support.

In the penalty shoot-out, Shinnie and Hearts' new signing McCallum failed to convert the opening kicks.

But Caley Thistle did not miss again, with Billy McKay, Ross, Tansey and Draper scoring to capitalise on Hamill's miss and ensure a place in the final.

Scottish Sun Lowland League

Threave Rovers P Spartans

Vale of Leithen P Dalbeattie Star

Edinburgh City 4-1 Gala Fairydean Rovers

University of Stirling 3-2Preston Athletic

Whitehill Welfare 4-1 East Kilbride

Central Taxis First Division

Berwick Rangers Reserves P-P Easthouses Lily MW

Hawick Royal Albert P-P Eyemouth United

Image Printers East of Scotland Qualifying Cup, Third Round

Tynecastle 1-3 Leith Athletic

King Cup, First Round

Heriot-Watt University 2-1 Craigroyston

Qualifying League, Section A

Kelso United P-P Lothian Thistle Hutchison Vale

Qualifying League, Section B

Duns 2-4 Edinburgh University

Ormiston 0-2 Stirling University

Qualifying League, Section C

Hibernian EOS 4-0 Burntisland Shipyard

Qualifying League, Section D

Peebles Rovers 0-4 Coldstream

Basketball

Congratulations to the City of Edinburgh Kool Kats Senior Women who beat Glasgow's Lady Rocks Senior Women by 72 -62 to successfully defend the Scottish Women's Basketball Cup at the Lagoon Centre, Paisley

The score at the end of the first quarter was Lady Rocks (11)-(15) City of Edinburgh Kool Kats than at half time Lady Rocks (36)-(38) Kool Kats.

With ten minutes to go the score stood at Lady Rocks (49)-(59) City of Edinburgh Kool Kats and the ten point gap remained at the final whistle.

MVP – Hannah Peacock (City of Edinburgh Kool Kats)

Ice-Hockey

Edinburgh Capitals lost another match on Wednesday night, this

time to Sheffield Steelers in Sheffield. In spite of the yawning gap between the teams in the EIHL table – Sheffield second on 45 points, with three games in hand, and Edinburgh tenth on 22 – the Steelers were held to a goalless first period by a well marshalled Edinburgh defence. They did score in the second, however, with a goal from Nate Dicastmirro when the Steelers were a man down, and they followed it up with another in the third from Tim Spencer. This latest defeat has probably sunk any chance that Edinburgh had of reaching the play-offs, not helped by the loss of Tomas Horna to a top European club, as they are 15 points shy of Cardiff – who have two games in hand – in eighth.

Saturday night saw the Capitals take another big hit with an 8-2 defeat to Coventry Blaze for their seventh defeat in a row. Coventry were six goals to the good – including two 'short-handed – before Edinburgh were on the scoreboard. Zembergs' two in the second period were the only scores for the Capitals and Coventry rounded off a fine evening with another two in the third.

On Sunday, the Caps played local rivals the Fife Flyers and took the lead through Portwood (Dobron, Leinweber) at 6:00 (PP). The Flyers then equalised through Nickerson (Stewart) at 21:57 before taking the lead through Roehl at 26:55. Stewart (Lukacevic) scored a third at 29:14 then Horne (Reber, DaCosta) increased the lead at 32:22 before adding a fifth at 38:29 (PP). Final score Capitals 1-5 Flyers.

Speedway

Edinburgh Monarchs' Max Fricke has become only the seventh rider to win the Australian Under-21 Championship on more than one occasion joining Leigh Adams, Darcy Ward, Chris Holder, Rory Schlein, Ryan Sullivan and Travis McGowan in the record books.

Volleyball

Division One Men

South Ayrshire 3 2 City of Edinburgh

City of Glasgow Ragazzi 1 3 Edinburgh Jets

Beacon Fire 1 3 Bon Accord

Dundee 0 3 Glasgow Mets

Division One Women

Su Ragazzi 1 3 QTS Troon Team Ayrshire

North Lanarkshire 0 3 City of Edinburgh

Aberdonia 3 0 QTS Kyle TA

Edinburgh Jets II 0 3 Edinburgh Jets

Division Two East Men

Beacon Flame 0 3 NUVOC

Bellshill Cardinals 1 3 City of Edinburgh II

Su Ragazzi II 3 1 Edinburgh Jets II

Division Two Women

Su Ragazzi II 3 0 Glasgow International

Dundee 3 1 NUVOC



American Football by John Preece

The Napier Knights and Edinburgh Predators played their annual Varsity Superbowl match at Meggetland on Sunday (full match report elsewhere). The teams are a lot closer in the British Universities American Football League (BUAFL) than they were this time last season, lying fourth and sixth respectively, so

it was going to be an interesting clash of Edinburgh's two Universities sides. The Predators scored the only points of any kind from a couple of yards – yes, 'yards'! – from a running play when their running offence hammered through the Knight's defence to cross the line for the touchdown. With the kick going over the Predators were into a game winning 7-0 lead and went on to take the unique trophy.

Photos by John Preece

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

Football – Spartans v Durham



Spartans continued their pre-season winning ways with a 4-3 victory over English Super League 2 side Durham at Ainslie Park.

A brace from Sarah Ewens helped Spartans secure their second warm-up win against a strong North East outfit who offered a physical challenge in what were cold conditions in the Capital.

Last season's leading goal scorer at the Club was happy with the outcome, "I thought we played well today against a fairly physical side. It's great to get another win and we'll continue to use pre-season to iron out any mistakes ahead of the season starting."

Debbi McCulloch welcomed back Lana Cleland into the squad and the Scotland Internationalist only had to wait 4 minutes

before coming off the bench to replace the injured Alana Marshall.

Spartans took the lead shortly after, when Kerry Montgomery leaped above the Durham defence to head the ball into the back of Katie Luther's net.

Caroline Dixon came close to levelling proceedings seven minutes later when her header crashed off the Spartans crossbar.

A speculative 33rd minute long range effort from Beth Hepple finally put Durham on level terms. The midfielder's strike gained height as it headed goal bound before it finally nestled in Lessels top corner. 1-1

It was a momentary respite which lasted four minutes. Lana Cleland hurdled a couple of challenges as she raced into the box before unleashing a fine strike across the goal to put Spartans back in front. 2-1.

Young Scottish midfielder Zoe Ness was keen to mark a visit back across the border with a goal however her attempt on the stroke of half-time hit the side-net.

Half Time: Spartans 2-1 Durham

It was first blood for the tourists as the second half got off to a lively start. A Beth Hepple corner into the six yard box saw the Spartans defence fail to clear the danger and the ball was bundled over the line by Jess Round from a yard out. 2-2

Spartans started to take control of the game and on the hour, a route one aerial launch from Lessells was seized upon by Sarah Ewens and the striker drove the ball home to give her sides the lead for the third time. 3-2.

Evens put some light between the teams in the 76th minute when she slotted home a penalty kick after she was upended in box following a clumsy challenge by a Durham defender. 4-2.

Durham's claims for a penalty of their own were waived aside by Referee Rennie after Montgomery and Hepple tangled in box.

Seana Cooke was a shoelace's length away from getting on to a Beth Jennings cross in the box as Durham looked for a way back into the game.

Beth Hepple's 89th minute goal gave Durham some late hope however it was too little too late and Spartans held on to their 4-3 lead to record a win against a well-drilled WSL 2 outfit.

Double scorer Evens was delighted with the win and her two goals. "The first one came from a long ball from Charlene, who is claiming an assist in the changing room, and I just went for it and it went in. For the penalty, I was just glad it hit the back of the net and I'm always nervous before taking them!"

Final Score: Spartans 4-3 Durham

**Inverness Caledonian Thistle
2 Heart of Midlothian 2**



(Inverness Caley Thistle win 4-2 on pens)

Hearts had an all too brief respite from their travails of league business with a League Cup semi-final against Inverness Caledonian Thistle at Easter Road on Sunday. It was a re-match of the same stage of the competition a year and a week ago. Sadly, the outcome was different; whereas in 2013, Hearts were the victors after a penalty shoot-out, this year it was the Highlanders, who were reduced to nine men, who emerged victorious after another penalty shoot-out.

Hearts had re-arranged their midweek SPFL fixture against St. Mirren in order that Ryan Stevenson could complete his two match suspension following a red card at Perth a couple of weeks ago. Ironically, with Hearts winning the two games in which the former Ayr United man was missing, Stevenson didn't start the semi-final, taking his place on the substitutes bench alongside Hearts new on-loan signing from West Ham, Paul McCallum.

Hearts boss Gary Locke began the game with the same side that defeated St. Mirren on Wednesday but they were almost behind after just three minutes when a mistake by skipper Danny Wilson allowed Caley Thistle's McKay to set up Draper but his effort went over the bar.

John Hughes' men looked the livelier of the sides in the early stages but Hearts eventually pulled themselves into the game. Sam Nicholson's pace and trickery was causing the Jags defence problems and his effort from 20 yards produced a decent save from Brill in the Caley Thistle goal. Dale Carrick then headed over when he really ought to have found the target as play raged from end to end. The best chance of a goalless first half, however, fell to Caley Thistle's McKay on the stroke of half-time. The striker got ahead of his Hearts namesake Brad before firing in a shot which Hearts keeper Jamie MacDonald did brilliantly to save.

As happened in last year's semi-final, Inverness took the lead early in the second half. From 20 yards out Tansey fired in blistering shot which whistled past MacDonald to put the Highlanders a goal up.

This seemed to ignite Hearts and Callum Paterson produced a superb save from Brill before Caley Thistle were reduced to ten men when Warren was shown a second yellow card of the afternoon when he fouled Sam Nicholson. From the free-kick, Ryan Stevenson rolled the ball to Jamie Hamill whose shot took a deflection before nestling in the net to level the scores at 1-1. The Hearts fans celebrated and they were ecstatic two minutes later when Hamill scored again, this time with a magnificent 20 yard free-kick.

Jamie MacDonald then produced a wonder save from Meekings but this was the Caley Thistle defender's last involvement before being sent off for a late challenge on Scott Robinson. Hearts were 2-1 up against nine men as the regulation 90 minutes drew to a close and a third cup final appearance in less than two years seemed on the cards. However, calamity struck when shoddy defending from Hearts allowed substitute Ross to squeeze the ball past MacDonald in the final minute to take the tie to extra time.

Caley Thistle defended resolutely during the extra half an hour and Hearts, despite their numerical advantage, just could not break them down. Newcomer Paul McCallum, on as a substitute, had the best chance at the end but couldn't direct his header on target.

So the tie was decided by a penalty shoot-out. After Shinnie missed his kick for Thistle, Paul McCallum had the opportunity to make an immediate name for himself – but he also missed his spot kick. Danny Wilson and Dale Carrick scored for Hearts but Jamie Hamill, so often hero from the penalty spot missed his kick. Caley Thistle converted their remaining penalties and so progressed to the League Cup Final with Aberdeen on 16 March.

It was a bitterly disappointing end to the game for the Hearts supporters in the crowd of 12,762. Their team's failure to see out a game against opponents who had just nine players was quite frankly an embarrassment and some fans weren't slow in making their feelings known as the Maroon Army trudged out of Easter Road.

Afterwards, Gary Locke struggled to contain his anguish. "We only have ourselves to blame. It was a great opportunity to get to a final. Defending in the last minute, we had chances to get rid of the ball before we did. But there's nothing we can do about it now."

Inverness Caledonian Thistle: Brill, Raven, Shinnie, Vincent, Warren, Meekings, Watkins, Tansey, McKay, Draper, Doran.

Hearts: MacDonald, McKay, McHattie, Hamill, McGowan, Wilson, Smith, Robinson, Carrick, Paterson, Nicholson.

Referee: John Beaton

Att: 12,762

Top man: Jamie Hamill.

Police concern for missing Edinburgh man



Police in Edinburgh are appealing for information to help trace a man reported missing in the Capital.

Alistair Porteous was last seen leaving his home in The

Steils, Greenbank at around 2pm on Wednesday 29th January.

The 56-year-old has not been seen since then and enquiries are underway to establish his whereabouts.

Police in Fort William have since recovered Mr Porteous' Saab car after finding it parked at the head of Glen Nevis on Saturday morning.

Local officers, mountain rescue teams and the RAF have since been deployed to search the mountain and locate Mr Porteous. However, so far, he is yet to be traced.

Anyone with information that can assist Police Scotland with their investigation is asked to come forward.

Mr Porteous is described as white and is believed to have been wearing black waterproof trousers and jacket, a blue woolly hat and carrying a black and grey rucksack.

A Police Scotland spokesman said: "We believe Mr Porteous may have taken an unscheduled trip to Fort William to walk the mountain trail at Glen Nevis.

"He is an avid and competent hill walker. However, he did not tell family or friends where he was going and has yet to be traced.

"As such, we are growing increasingly concerned for his welfare.

"Anyone with information that can help us trace Mr Porteous is asked to contact Police immediately."

Witness appeal following phone theft in Wester Hailes



Police in Edinburgh are appealing for witnesses after a man had his phone stolen in the Wester Hailes area.

The incident happened around 7.45pm yesterday (Saturday) in Clovenstone Gardens.

The 33-year-old victim got off a bus and was walking through the area when two men approached and engaged him in conversation. At this time the suspects threatened the man and demanded his possessions.

Both men then made off along Clovenstone Road, towards the canal with the victim's phone.

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

A Police Scotland spokesman said: "The victim was not injured during this incident but is very upset at the loss of his phone.

"Anyone who remembers seeing anything suspicious in the Clovenstone Gardens area on Saturday evening, or who can help us trace the men responsible is urged to contact police immediately."

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

Darts -Edinburgh Pro-Am Darts Classic – enter now!

The Edinburgh Pro-Am Darts Classic will take place on 26 April 2014 at the Edinburgh Corn Exchange.

This is your chance to see four of the top players in the world competing against each other and four local qualifiers. First qualifier will be held 1pm on 8th February at Inveresk Bowling club, £5 entry. Just turn up and enter and try to qualify to play against double world champion Adrian Lewis, Simon Whitlock, James Wade and Robert Thornton. Tickets and table details available from the Edinburgh Corn Exchange website [here](#).

Submitted by [Struan Douglas](#)

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



Council meeting this week – Usher Hall Centenary – Waverley Care – Edinburgh Bookshop events – Trade Waste Pilots

When the council meets this week it will be the first of two meetings involving all 58 councillors in February.

The first meeting will have a normal kind of agenda covering business of all kinds, but the second on February will concentrate only on setting the council's budget for the next year. The draft budget was published in October and the public

were asked for their views until the end of last year. The council have restrictions on what they can spend their budget on, but they must make cumulative savings of around £95.2m by the year 2017-18.

This has been recognised from early on in this administration when they set out the need for savings in a report to the [Finance and Budget Committee](#) dated 15 November 2012.

☒ The Usher Hall, owned and operated by The City of Edinburgh Council, first opened its doors on 6 March 1914 and has an amazing history of entertainment over the last one hundred years. The versatility of The Usher Hall is shown in this series of concerts, proving that the Usher Hall is still one of the most impressive entertainment venues that Scotland has to offer.

The complete series of Centenary Events are:

Wednesday 5 March – **Rufus Wainwright;**

Thursday 6 March – **100th Birthday Concert;** 1914 opening programme;

Friday 7 March – **Gilded Comedy Gala when the line up will include Phil Jupitus, Barry Cryer and Gary Tank Commander.**

Saturday 8 March – **Mogwai** with guests The Pastels, Remember Remember;

Sunday 9 March – **Vienna Tonkünstler Orchestra** conducted by Andrés Orozco-Estrada.

Tickets for all performances are available from usherhall.co.uk and 0131 228 1155.

The Usher Hall has made a significant contribution to the cultural life in Edinburgh and these celebrations mark the

100th anniversary of this land-mark venue.

Councillor Richard Lewis, Convener of Culture & Sport said:-
“The Usher Hall has held a unique niche in Edinburgh’s history and has continued to thrive throughout a century. The grandeur of the venue both internally and externally and its qualities as a concert hall have led the Usher Hall to become one of the foremost buildings, enhancing the city of Edinburgh”.

Waverley Care is an Edinburgh-based charity to help those diagnosed with HIV/AIDS or Hepatitis. You can help them with their crowd funding to produce a deck of playing cards with photographs of Edinburgh on them. The photographs have been taken by the photography group set up by the charity.

So far they have raised over £250 out of their £800 target.

You can get more information on how to help [here](#).

Edinburgh Bookshop have changed their [website](#) and they have also changed how they stage events. From now on their events with authors will be staged in the Morningside Library. Their next event is in Wednesday 12 February 2014 at 7.00pm when the author coming along to talk about his book is Graeme Simsion who has just written The Rosie Project. This is described as original and compelling, poignant and funny. If you want to join them then you have to book by calling the shop on 0131 447 1917 or at the library.



The council has decided to test out new arrangements to collect trade waste from businesses on Leith Walk at certain times from next month onwards. This will mean that waste

should not be stored on pavements and that pedestrians should have an easier time of negotiating their way down the street.

The number of large industrial sized bins has increased over recent years and the council now believes that by getting rid of these bins they will be improving the appearance of the city's streets for residents and tourists alike.

A further two pilot schemes will be trialled in Rose Street and the High Street where bins have also increased to the point where the council feels it is time to take action.

The whole point is that trade waste will now be collected twice daily and so businesses will no longer need large bins and should use bags or collapsible bins instead. Recycling of dry rubbish will also be accommodated as well as residual waste which goes to landfill. The more that businesses recycle the more they will save on collection costs.

The main problem which the council faces will be in relation to glass waste. Anyone who lives near a pub will know of the nuisance this can cause, but again there will be a twice daily collection meaning that smaller amounts are collected each time, hopefully creating less noise.

Businesses will be made much more responsible for disposal of their trade waste, in an effort to copy schemes in Manchester and Westminster where streets have been significantly improved.

Rugby – Watsonians v Boroughmuir

Boroughmuir take the points in a lacklustre encounter at Myreside.



The day started badly with the revelation that the programme named, but didn't number, the players and faded away after that with a fairly dreary match, played under fairly dreary skies.

Boroughmuir started the better of the two teams with some attacking rugby from the off, forcing Watsonians into kicking downfield on a couple of occasions. Their persistence was rewarded after about nine minutes of play when they were awarded a penalty inside their opponents half. However, the kick from the No. 10, David Reekie, bounced off the crossbar and back into play where one of the 'Muir players collected the ball and appeared to touch down for the try. Unfortunately the referee had spotted a knock on and the scrum was awarded to 'Sonians, allowing them to clear their lines.

This point also signalled a sea-change in the flow of the match and it was the home side that played the better for the rest of the half. They were awarded a penalty after another five minutes of play, which Mike Ker knocked over to put them 3-0 ahead. The game then see-sawed back and forth, but territorial advantage always lay with the home side. A few probing runs into the opponents 22 came to naught, however, but the visitors were struggling to even cross the half way line.

Another penalty a few minutes from half time put 'Sonians 6-0 to the good, before disaster struck, Running the ball back to

'Muir territory, a quick recycle had the ball with Ker. His quick pass infield then failed to find its target as 'Muir's 13, Alex Cox intercepted and ran half the length of the pitch to score the only try of the match under the posts. Reekie couldn't – and didn't – miss the conversion and so the visitors were 7-6 ahead, which remained the score at the break.



If anything, the second half was less exciting than the first, with Watsonians clearly unable to match their first half performance. Barely able to get out of their end of the pitch for the majority of the half, they went further behind from two penalties, a successful one from Reekie and another later in the half from Craig Marshall.

As darkness was beginning to descend, the match brightened up considerably as someone, somewhere found a shilling for the meter – ask your parents – and the lights went on. But, it took until five minutes from the end of the match – which coincided with the heavens opening – before Watsonians were able to put in a meaningful attack. It almost paid off as they penetrated to inside the 'Muir five metre line, but a fumble gave the visitors a chance to clear from the scrum and the match ended 13-6 to Boroughmuir a few seconds later.

The cold, swirling wind, heavy pitch and frequent showers did nothing to help this top of the table clash turn into the spectacle it could have been. However, neither team looked like scoring a barrow load of tries and, if it hadn't been for a fortunate interception – suspiciously like offside – then there may not have been any scored at all. This all leaves the top of the table 'as was' with Boroughmuir a further three

points ahead of Watsonians and Stewarts-Melville close behind in third. The 'quality' of the match was highlighted when Boroughmuir's videographer commented that the most exciting thing he'd shot all day was the rainbow in the first half!

Images from the match will appear [here](#) over the next few days

Gus Poyet says SPFL will benefit Duncan Watmore



Hibs beat off competition from EIGHT Football League clubs to sign Duncan Watmore from Sunderland as manager Gus Poyet believes that the chance to play in front of big crowds in Scotland will help the 19 year old to develop his potential.

Watmore made a big impression for Sunderland Under-21s since arriving from non-league Altrincham during the summer, and was handed his first-team debut in the FA Cup third round victory over Carlisle.

Hibs' manager Terry Butcher who used to manager Sunderland, made a personal check on Watmore in the Under-21s' 1-1 draw with Stoke City last month, and opted to make a move for the winger.

Poyet believes the chance to play in front of big crowds in the SPL will be more beneficial to Watmore than plying his trade in Leagues One or Two.

Poyet told the Shields Gazette: "It's a great opportunity for Duncan Watmore to go to Hibernian. He's impressed me because of where he's come from, and where he's playing. To have an

opportunity to go to Hibernian is massive, and we couldn't let it pass. We couldn't really promise any opportunities for sure here in the first-team.

“There were a few clubs in England who wanted him, and they were easy options because we could have recalled him. But after talking to Terry,(Butcher) I think it was a unique opportunity for him – to go from where he was one year ago to play proper football.

“There's pressure and exposure up there with the television. Even in one game against Celtic it's going to be amazing.”

Photo by John Preece

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

Hearts advice to supporters attending semi-final



Hearts have issued a statement reminding supporters that any damage caused to Easter Road at tomorrow's League Cup Semi-final, including applying stickers to any parts of the ground, will be charged to Hearts and that is an expense that the club simply cannot afford.

In addition, flares, fireworks or any type of pyrotechnics cannot be taken into Easter Road or its surrounding areas and police will be on hand to carry out searches.

The statement on the club's website reads:

“Supporters intending to attend the Scottish League Cup semi-final match between Hearts and Inverness CT at Easter Road on February 2 should read the following important information.

“Heart of Midlothian Football Club would like to remind its supporters to enjoy the cup match in a peaceful manner. The club is proud of the way its supporters have behaved at Easter Road in recent times and would like to encourage fans to continue to uphold the good name of Heart of Midlothian Football Club.

“The club is confident its fans will display their usual passionate support for the team on the pitch whilst behaving before, during and after the match.

“Buses carrying supporters should park on London Road. Supporters are encouraged to make their way to the game in a civilised manner and respect their surroundings.

“Supporters are asked to allow sufficient travel time for the 12:15pm kick off. Turnstiles will open from 11:15am and supporters are asked to be in the Stadium 30 minutes before Kick-off.

“A new automated access system at Easter Road, allowing supporters to self-scan their tickets on entering the stadium, is in operation.

“Supporters are asked to insert the short barcoded end of their match ticket into the reader with the barcode facing up. If someone is entering into the stadium directly in front of you please wait until they are fully inside the stadium before scanning your ticket. Once you have successfully scanned your ticket a green light will then be displayed on the screen of the reader and the turnstile will release automatically. You should then push the turnstile to gain admission.

“Safety Stewards will be on hand externally to assist supporters on the use of the system and in addition Stewards

are located internally to check ticket price classification of the person entering the Stadium via a traffic light system at the turnstiles.

“Supporters are reminded that any damage caused at the stadium, including applying stickers to any parts of the ground, will be charged to Hearts and that is an expense that the club simply cannot afford. In addition, Supporters cannot bring flares, fireworks or any type of pyrotechnics into Easter Road or its surrounding areas.

“Police officers may carry out searches outside Easter Road in an attempt to prevent supporters carrying flares, fireworks, pyrotechnics, alcohol or any other kind of contraband from entering the stadium.

“Anyone caught in possession of any prohibited item can expect to be arrested at the time or as a result of a post match investigation. As well as a criminal conviction, supporters may find themselves banned from attending football matches throughout the country.”

Tim Clancy and Rowan Vine leave Hibs by mutual consent



Hibs have announced that Irish defender Tim Clancy and English striker Rowan Vine have both left the club by mutual consent.

29 year old Clancy was signed by fellow countryman Pat Fenlon from Motherwell during the summer of 2012 and made a scoring debut against East Fife in a friendly with a stunning free

kick.

His first competitive game came in a 3-0 defeat to Dundee United at Tannadice but injuries hampered his career at Easter Road.

In total Clancy played 21 times for Hibs, scoring one competitive goal against Celtic in a 2-2 draw at Parkhead.

His last game was a 0-0 draw with Aberdeen on 22 April 2013.

31 year old Vine joined the club from St Johnstone in the summer and made his debut against Malmo in Sweden.

In total, he played 14 times in the Hibs jersey without finding the net.

Vine has since joined former Hibs striker Garry O'Connor at Morton.

A statement on the club website reads: "Hibernian would like to thank Tim Clancy and Rowan Vine for the contributions they all made to the Club and we would like to wish them every success in the future."

Leigh Griffiths signs 4 year deal with Celtic



Leigh Griffiths has joined Celtic on a four year deal after passing a medical last night with the champions.

The former Hibs' striker travelled north yesterday after Wolverhampton Wanderers accepted Celtic's third bid.

Griffiths could make his debut against St Mirren on Sunday depending on international clearance although his first start is more likely to come against Aberdeen at Parkhead in next week's William Hill Scottish Cup.

After signing, Griffiths told the club website : "I'm just delighted it's finally done now. It's been a long day and I just can't wait to get started tomorrow in training. It was in the middle of December that I first found out there was interest and as soon as the window opened I was just praying for it to be done. It has gone to the last day but it's finally done now, and I'm delighted. The chance to come to Celtic is once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and you have to grab it with both hands. You can't turn it down."

"I am coming to the biggest club in Scotland to win things, hopefully play in the Champions League and just get better as a player. The gaffer has been very supportive to me in the press so far and he knows what I can do," he said. "That's why he has brought me to the squad and hopefully I can add goals and help the team win trophies.

"The first time I spoke to Neil was this morning at the training ground and he was very easy to talk to – he said what he wanted from me and I told him what I would bring to the team. He's happy that he has brought me in and I can't wait to get going.

"We have good strikers here, but the manager sees me as a good player and hopefully I can force my way into the team and stay there.

"I have only played a handful of games for Scotland and I don't think I have done myself any justice so far," he said. "But there is no bigger place to play than in the Champions League and hopefully in six months time I will be doing that."

Griffiths started his professional career with Livingston where he scored 24 goals in 43 starts before moving to Dundee.

He kept up his scoring record with an impressive 29 goals in 49 starts.

After moving to Wolves, the Edinburgh born striker was sent out on loan to his boyhood favourites Hibs where he helped the club reach consecutive Scottish Cup finals, scoring 39 goals in 72 starts.

In the summer he returned to the midlands and this season has scored 13 goals in 21 starts.

Witness appeal following Lanark Road collision



Police Scotland is appealing for witnesses following a road collision last night.

The incident happened around 5.35pm on the A70 Edinburgh to Lanark Road, near Harperrig Reservoir.

A Honda Civic was travelling west when it was involved in a head-on collision with a Skoda Fabia, which was travelling in the opposite direction.

The four occupants from both vehicles were all taken to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh after sustaining various injuries.

Road Policing Officers closed the road for several hours while they carried out enquiries at the scene.

Anyone who can assist with their ongoing investigation is

asked to come forward.

Sergeant Roger Park of the National Trunk Road Patrol Group said: "I wish to thank those motorists and members of the public who stopped at the scene to assist the persons involved and who provided information to Police at the time.

"I would now appeal to anyone else who thinks they may have witnessed the incident or who perhaps think they have relevant to our enquiries to contact police immediately."

Those with information can contact Police Scotland on 101.

Preview – Cheltenham Festival peak of horse racing year



Cheltenham preview

On Tuesday 11 March 2014 one of the highlights of the horse racing calendar will kick off, with the 2014 Cheltenham Festival set to thrill casual racing fans and hardcore followers alike. The festival includes some of the best and most competitive jumps racing of the entire season, with some of the world's most famous racehorses set to go head to head over the four days of the festival following regional qualifiers around the country including Musselburgh.

Day One

The first day of the festival will set the tone for the rest of the week, with some of the most popular races taking place. The very first race of the festival is the Supreme Novices'

Hurdle, which will feature some future stars of hurdling. With up to date odds available at cheltenham.coral.co.uk/, Vautour just shades favouritism at 8/1. He is closely followed in the betting by Irving and The Tullow Tank, both available at 10/1.

The second race of the first day is the popular Arkle Chase, and Champagne Fever is a warm favourite at 4/1. However, the favourites have not usually fared well in this race, making Felix Yonger (7/1), Dodging Bullets (7/1) and Defy Logic (8/1) appealing.

The main event of the first day is the Champion Hurdle, and a popular winner would be Hurricane Fly, going for his third win in the event. He is currently a slight second favourite at 10/3, with The New One leading the market at 3/1. These two are closely followed at 4/1 by My Tent Or Yours.

Day Two

Race goers hoping to see a big name could do a lot worse than attending day two of the festival, with Sprinter Sacre set to race in the Queen Mother Champion Chase. Although he suffered a setback in December, the superstar horse looks set to run and, at odds of 4/5, is a hot favourite to win.

Day Three

Cue Card will be looking to repeat his success in last year's Ryanair Chase, and is a 3/1 favourite to do so. Beneficient (6/1) and Al Ferof (7/1) look the bookies' best options of stopping the favourite.

The main event of the third day will see Big Buck's go for his fifth World Hurdle victory in the last six years. He is a 7/4 favourite to take the victory, with Annie Power (7/2) hoping to cause an upset.

Day Four

The final day of the festival will feature the Cheltenham Gold

Cup, won last year by Bobs Worth. Last year's champion is favourite to repeat his success this time out, available at 2/1, however, Silviniaco Conti, at 7/2, could provide a stern test.

Featured article

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



New Year Resolutions – Saturday Morning Talks – Chinese Lanterns – Hidden Door – Dig In Bruntsfield

Today marks the start of another month. What happened to your New Year resolutions? Have you kept them so far or were they ditched in the first week? If your resolution was to learn something new then you may still have time to join in one of the many Adult Education classes which are available across the city.

The full list is [here](#).

This morning at 11am there will be a talk at the Talbot Rice Gallery at Old College, South Bridge, EH8 9YL

Join [Artlink](#) for a performative talk by Pauline Goldsmith, travelling backwards and forwards through time, creating a picture of the Royal Edinburgh hospital from the perspective

of the people who have lived and worked there over the past 200 years.



While you are at Old College you will be able to admire the Chinese Warriors at the Old Quad, although it is after dark that they come alive.

Larger-than-life lanterns inspired by ancient Chinese warriors are adding a burst of colour to the University of Edinburgh this Chinese New Year.

The spectacle was created by Chinese artist Xia Nan for the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008 – and this is the first time the Warriors will be showcased in Scotland.

The lanterns are inspired by the army of terracotta soldiers, discovered in 1974 when the tomb of the 3rd Century BC First Chinese Emperor Qin Shi Huang was unearthed in the Xi'an province of China.

Hidden Door is taking place in East Market Street from 28 March till 5 April. They held their launch party last Friday and Chris Scott was there to take photographs of the event. You can see his photographs on [Flickr](#) and beautiful they are too. Hidden Door is an art exhibition which will use the old vaults under the street as their home for that week. You can find out more [here](#).

Dig In Bruntsfield is a cooperative venture to set up a community greengrocers to complement the other independent shops in the area. They will sell local produce and the aim is to foster some community spirit at the same time.

You can get involved as a volunteer or as a shareholder to help them reach their first fundraising target. They only need £1395 to get there! More details on their Facebook page [here](#).

Today they are opening the shop at 119 Bruntsfield Place from 11.00 till 3.00 and will be serving soup to keep you warm. They need help to get some leaflets delivered today too.

Supporters! Come to 119 [#Bruntsfield](#) Place today 11-3. Help us get 3K postcards around doors. Sample our lovely... <http://t.co/0TktrluE0b>

– Dig In Bruntsfield (@DigInBruntsfiel) [February 1, 2014](#)

Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre congratulated at Holyrood

✘ Gordon MacDonald SNP MSP for Pentlands has lodged a motion at Holyrood to note the funding which Oxgangs is to receive from the STV Appeal.

S4M-08711 Gordon MacDonald: Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre Funding Award—That the Parliament congratulates Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre in Edinburgh on being awarded £52,240 from the STV Appeal; understands that this cash injection will support a series of new groups and projects in 2014, including children's work, parent groups, projects tackling mental health and training initiatives, and notes that the centre will also be creating opportunities for the community to come together to have fun and build pride in the local community through regular community fun days and a major event that it

considers will really put Oxfords on the map.

Supported by: Joan McAlpine, George Adam, Dennis Robertson, Kenneth Gibson, Chic Brodie, Bill Kidd, Annabelle Ewing, Adam Ingram, Angus MacDonald, Kevin Stewart, Stuart McMillan, Richard Lyle, Mike MacKenzie, Maureen Watt, Gil Paterson, Rob Gibson, Fiona McLeod, David Torrance, Colin Keir, Nigel Don, Colin Beattie, Roderick Campbell, Sandra White, Mark McDonald

The Oxfords Neighbourhood Centre has a website full of news about their activities. One of the activities they run is a computer class every Monday from 10.00am till 1.00. More details [here](#). Do you use the centre? What do you like best about it?

Hibs announce three new loan deals



Hibs have announced three new loan signings: Notts County striker Danny Haynes, Sunderland winger Duncan Watmore and Arsenal defender Daniel Boateng. The trio will join the club on loan until the end of the season. All loan moves are subject to international clearance.

Throughout the transfer window, Terry Butcher has insisted that he wanted to bring in new faces to freshen up the squad, but likened the process to the domino world championship where one move could spark a series of others.

He also maintained that any moves would be in the last few days, and the Hibs' boss has been true to his word.

Former England under-19 internationalist Haynes, 26, is a quick forward, who can operate on either wing or through the middle and arrives at Easter Road with a wealth of English Championship experience.

After originally making his name at Ipswich Town – where he won the 2005 FA Youth Cup alongside Hibernian captain Liam Craig – Haynes has experienced spells with Millwall (loan), Bristol City, Barnsley and Charlton Athletic before joining Notts County in the summer.

Butcher believes Haynes will provide extra width and pace to Hibernian's attack and says he is delighted to have finalised the loan deal.

Butcher told Hibernian TV: "Danny is an extremely quick forward, who can play anywhere up front. I've followed his career since he made the breakthrough at my old club, Ipswich Town and he has scored goals wherever he has played.

"He will add extra experience, pace and quality to our forward line and we're pleased to be able to bring Danny to Hibernian."

Butcher watched Watmore in action for Sunderland's under-21 side against Stoke City earlier on in the month and believes the inclusion of 19-year-old will add an extra attacking option to the team.

He added: "Duncan is a quick, direct winger with a good work-rate. He is a young player, who has impressed me with his intelligence on the pitch, eye for goal and quality deliveries into the box.

"Duncan has already made his first team debut at Sunderland and he is highly-rated by the coaching staff there; we're pleased to be able to add him to the squad."

Formerly with English non-league side Altrincham, Watmore

joined Sunderland in the summer and made his first team bow at the beginning of January in an FA Cup tie against Carlisle United.

Right-back Boateng, 21, has progressed up through the youth ranks at Arsenal and has previously been on loan at both Swindon Town and Oxford United. Boateng will join up with the Hibernian squad on Monday.

West Lothian man jailed for domestic abuse



A man who subjected his victims to a sustained period of domestic abuse and physical violence was jailed at the High Court in Glasgow today.

James Alexander Boyd was sentenced to spend six and a half years in prison for six incidents of violence against women in West Lothian.

The 28-year-old had previously been convicted earlier this month for the attacks, which took place over ten years following an investigation by the Domestic Abuse Task Force based in Bathgate.

Detective Inspector Helen Pasquale from the DATF said: “When Police Scotland was launched one of the key priorities was to tackle domestic abuse by identifying offenders like James Boyd

and bring them to justice.

“The Domestic Abuse Task Force conducted thorough enquiries during what was a complex and sensitive investigation, which required the assistance and co-operation of his victims.

“I would like to thank those women today for the courage they have shown in helping ensure Boyd will spend a considerable period of time behind bars.

“His sentence today reflects the commitment of the DATF, Police Scotland and the Crown Office in removing violent domestic offenders from our communities.

“I would like to reassure the public that we treat all reports of domestic abuse with the utmost seriousness and professionalism and would urge victims of these offences to report their abuse to police.”

Looking ahead to the Scottish Grand National this spring



It may be a while away yet but canny horse racing punters are already sizing up the likely odds for the [Scottish Grand National](#), which will be held at Ayr on 11 and 12 April 2014. We may have a few meets before then but let's forget the January weather and take a look forward to the biggest race of the season.

All about Ayr

The home of the Scottish Grand National is, of course, [Ayr](#) and we're looking forward to the highlight of our National Hunt racing calendar. But before we get into that, how much do you know about Ayr?

It's the premier racecourse in Scotland and was officially opened in 1907. However, fascinatingly, racing in Ayr can be traced way back to the 1500s. No wonder it still causes such a buzz. It may have fewer entrants than the Aintree Grand National but it's no less hard won an honour.

The course is four miles and 110 yards long with 27 fences between the starting point and the victory point. Typically there are around 25 entrants and this year it looks like there should be around that number, although it's early days yet.

History of the Scottish Grand National

When all the Aintree excitement has died down the eyes of the racing world turn to Ayr. But how much do you know about our very own Grand National? Originally the course was at Houston, Renfrewshire for a short time before moving in 1858 to Bogside, near Irvine. It was then a race of around three miles and wasn't known as the Scottish Grand National until 1880.

Although several winners have also won at Aintree, none in the same year apart from the aforementioned Red Rum. Horses who have won the double but in different years include Music Hall who won the Aintree race in 1922 and much more recently [Earth Summit](#).

The Coral Scottish Grand National 2014

Although odds aren't available as yet, soon enough you'll be able to search for the best odds at [bookmakers.co.uk](#) and work out who you think is likely to be following in Red Rum's footsteps and winning this year's race.

As the Scottish Grand National is held a week after the

English Grand National, it's often a fact that horses who could have competed are out of the running, but it still remains the highlight of our local calendar, and along with the Gold Cup at Sandown, forms the traditional ending to the steeple chasing season. Red Rum's double victory in 1974 of the Aintree Grand National and the Scottish Grand National within a week remains unique – maybe it can be beaten this year?

Featured article

Council to continue its scrutiny of statutory repairs

Members of the Council's Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee (GRBV) have reaffirmed their commitment to subjecting the former Statutory Repairs Service to full and proper scrutiny.

The service was suspended and subsequently replaced in April 2013 but there remain a number of issues relating to outstanding works and billing that the council is bringing to a close.

In parallel with this, and the development of the new Shared Repairs service, regular reports are being brought to the GRBV committee for detailed consideration. A specific report on 'minimising future risks' was heard in private on 10 October.

The committee was established in November 2012 and given a strengthened and wider remit in relation to both financial and operational scrutiny than its predecessor, the Audit Committee.

✘ In line with Audit Scotland guidance, it is chaired by a member of the opposition, Councillor Jeremy Balfour.

He said: “The role of the GRBV committee is crucial, particularly now as the council seeks to develop its new repairs service.

“I will be ensuring that the services – both past and present – continue to be the subject of clear and robust scrutiny by this committee and, further, to the right level of independent oversight and audit.

“We owe it to the people of Edinburgh, and in particular to those let down so badly by the previous service, to ensure that lessons are learned and acted upon. Only then can we begin to regain their trust.”

People's Postcode Lottery award funding to cycling project



£230,000 FUNDING BOOST FOR PIONEERING GLASGOW BIKE PROJECT

Play on Wheels project wins People's Postcode Lottery's Dream Fund

At the wonderful PPL Gala on Wednesday evening, the lottery made two significant awards from their Dream Fund. An innovative Glasgow based project, which sets out to encourage children to take up cycling, has won an amazing £231,957 and

the child rescue project Missing People was also awarded £225,000.

A four way partnership, including the Cyclist Touring Club and the Glasgow Bike Station, developed the idea for the project 'Play on Wheels' which aims to empower 7,000 children across Glasgow to learn how to ride a bike. Thanks to the support of players of People's Postcode Lottery the Dream Fund is making this incredible concept become a reality..

This project aims to get every child under four years old in Glasgow on a bike. Play on Wheels aims to help children lead healthier lifestyles and increase activity levels. This fantastic project will work with 50 community organisations, including nurseries, playgroups, disability support groups, health and medical centres, and community centres across Glasgow to create a group of cycling ambassadors. These will be instrumental in targeting every family in their community and getting them cycling.

Suzanne Forup, Cycling Development Officer at Cyclist Touring Club said; "This is absolutely fantastic news for everyone involved with developing the plans for Play on Wheels. It's great that as a result of this funding through Dream Fund we can get the wheels in motion to make this dream a reality. We would like to offer a huge thank you to players of People's Postcode Lottery for their support. "

Clara Govier, Head of Charities at People's Postcode Lottery said; "This is the biggest sum of money that has ever been given to a Dream Fund project and we are absolutely delighted that our players are able to support this fantastic project in Glasgow. With the Commonwealth Games just around the corner this is the perfect project to kick off the year of sport for Glasgow."

The project was one of two to secure funding from the Dream Fund which asked charities to work with partners to develop

their dream projects. This year, for the first time, applications were open across Great Britain.



The winners were announced on Wednesday night at People's Postcode Lottery's annual Charity Gala held at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh to which The Edinburgh Reporter was invited. The event was made extra special as keynote speaker Chelsea Clinton joined 500 guests to celebrate the tremendous impact that players of the charity lottery make each day.

Ms Clinton explained that the Clinton Foundation was set up to reflect her father's view that philanthropy can help to fill the gap between public funding and private fundraising efforts. Funding announcements of over £1,000,000 were made on the night to a range of charities and good causes including £500,000 to the Clinton Foundation who carry out work in Malawi, which Ms Clinton said she was very proud of. She also explained that the Foundation is careful only to work in countries where they are invited in, and that after their exit from Malawi they hope to carry out projects in Tanzania. It is important to the Foundation that they have a clear goal of helping only as long as they need to. They aim to 'transform lives and communities from what they are today to what they can be tomorrow'.



Chelsea Clinton acknowledging the support of People's Postcode Lottery for the Clinton Foundation All photos
© Rob McDougall

To date, players of People's Postcode Lottery have helped generate in excess of £35.6m for good causes.

Entertainment by the Rock Choir and Jahmene Douglas made the evening very special indeed. A further cheque for £5,000 was given to X Factor contestant Douglas who supports a domestic abuse charity.

Five things you need to know today



Conferences – Chinese New Year – Dundas Street hotel to be altered to house – Chinese Warrior Lanterns – Arctic Convoy exhibition

Edinburgh's economy is boosted by conference income. A conference being held at the Corn Exchange next week aims to focus on the role of transport in the Scottish economy and how Scotland prepares for growth. The Scottish Transport Conference 2014 which is organised by Mackay Hannah, will hear a keynote speech from the Transport Minister, Keith Brown MSP and will discuss all forms of transport:- rail, road, maritime and air.

More details [here](#).

In May, Lothian Buses is hosting the Bus company conference at Murrayfield Stadium over 2 days.

The company says on its website:-“This year, we are very excited to be hosting the event which expects to see around 250 bus industry professionals and bus company suppliers come to Edinburgh to network and exchange ideas to help provide the

best service for their customers.

As well as a two day conference at Murrayfield Stadium, delegates will also be able to enjoy social activities showing off the best of Edinburgh and our bus network.”

Who knows by then the trams might be up and running – we saw one on Princes Street late on Wednesday night. Have you seen any on the streets? Send us your photos [here](#). We have a whole storyboard just waiting for your photos of trams!

2014 is the Year of the Horse. Kung Hei Phat Choy!



St Cuthbert's Stable 109-119 Grove Street Edinburgh
©RCAHMS

In this Year of the Horse we urge you to upload some of your equine photos to our sister site [EdinburghReportage](#). We will share the best with you! Are there many horses kept within the city boundaries? There used to be a large stable on Grove Street owned by St Cuthbert's who kept their heavy horses which pulled the milk floats there. Our photos of the stable have been provided by our good friends at RCAHMS. Did you ever go in there to see the horses?



St Cuthbert's Stable Interior general view of stalls.
©RCAHMS

Plans have been lodged to change a former hotel on the ground and basement floors at 79 Dundas Street back to a house. All plans have been lodged with the council for a development in what is already mainly a residential street.

You can see the planning papers [here](#).



In the quad at Old College there is a magnificent light installation of Chinese warrior lanterns to mark the Chinese New Year. We went to visit after dark and took some photos to show them to you. We recommend a visit!

The lanterns are inspired by the army of terracotta soldiers, discovered in 1974 when the tomb of the 3rd Century BC First Chinese Emperor Qin Shi Huang was unearthed in the Xi'an province of China.

The figures were found in an underground vault of 12,000 square meters and comprised of more than 8,000 terracotta sculptures depicting warriors and horses arranged in battle formation. It is thought that they were created to defend the emperor's immortal soul.

Chinese artist Xia Nan who first created this colourful display for the Olympic Games in Beijing has used traditional Chinese lantern designs to re-imagine this awe-inspiring historic discovery. The figures are up to 2.5m tall and will be on show from 4.00pm till 9.00pm until 7 February 2014.

Take a look at our other photos [here](#).

National War Museum

[Edinburgh Castle](#), EH1 2NG

Arctic Convoys

Display until 13 March 2014

Free with admission to Edinburgh Castle

Sailing from Scotland, Iceland and North America to ports in northern Russia, the Arctic convoys carried vital supplies to the Russian allies. As well as facing the constant possibility of attack from German U-boats, the men who sailed on these ships faced some of the toughest conditions of the war: freezing cold, storms and treacherous fog. Thousands of British merchant and naval seamen lost their lives in this operation. Through photographs, letters, interviews and personal possessions, this exhibition tells the story of the courage and determination of these wartime heroes.

Hibs move for Sunderland winger Duncan Watmore



Hibs are hoping to announce a loan move for 19 year old Sunderland winger Duncan Watmore today.

The former Manchester United youth player joined Sunderland in the summer of 2013 from Conference North side Altrincham where he made 29 appearances, scoring 14 goals and earning the player of the year and goal of the season awards, as well as helping his side to the first round of the FA Cup with Budweiser.

He is currently studying for a degree in finance and economics and is the son of Ian Watmore, the former chief executive of

the Football Association.

The teenager has featured regularly for the under-21 side so far this season and a number of football league clubs were interested in taking him on loan.

He made his first-team debut for the Sunderland earlier this month in the 3-1 win over Carlisle United in the FA Cup.

Terry Butcher recently watched Watmore playing for the Under 21s at the Stadium of Light.

Mike hopes to be mechanic of Durham's downfall on Sunday

✘ Spartans pre-season campaign continues this Sunday when they welcome WSL2 side Durham to the Capital for a cross-border challenge match.

The Ainslie Park side got off to a winning start last weekend with a 2-1 win over fellow SWPL outfit Queen's Park and Head Coach Mike Ross says the victory has offered an early boost to the pre-season schedule.

"Training has been good this week – a win brings confidence and although we weren't at our best last weekend we created several opportunities and should have scored more."

With four new additions to the squad for the 2014 campaign, Ross was pleased that all 17 who featured in the game made it through without picking up any knocks.

He said: "We always want to keep our squad healthy and injury free. Sometimes when you haven't played in a competitive game

for a while it's easy to pick up minor injuries.

"To compete at the top level you need all your players available and in peak shape to maintain that competitive element to the squad and training."

This weekend's attentions turn to an exciting clash against Durham Ladies.

The North East England club are preparing for life in the newly formed WSL 2 and will offer a strong challenge. How does the Head Coach think WSL2 compares to SWPL?

"I think it's hard to compare them directly, but I do know that in both Scotland and England Women's football continues to grow and I know Durham and Spartans are going in the right direction as they strive for success."

With continued investment in England's women's football, Durham are just one of several aspiring clubs in the WSL and WSL 2.

The sides met at the Academy this time last year where Spartans ran out 3-2 winners.

Ross added: "Like ourselves, Sunday's opponents have strengthened their team since then, therefore we are expecting a tough game and that's exactly what we want as we prepare for another exciting challenge in the top flight."

On the playing front, Scotland International players Lana Clelland and Rachel Harrison are available for selection as Ross and Manager Debbi McCulloch continue to use the exercise of pre-season to work on new ideas in a less pressurised environment.

Ross concluded: "We know the importance of a good start in the league and are progressing well to be ready for that."

The match kicks-off at 1pm on the stadium pitch.

Submitted by [Mark Brown](#)



Edinburgh East MP raises death row plight of Mohammad Asghar



There was an exchange between Edinburgh East MP Sheila Gilmore and the Prime Minister at Westminster yesterday during which the Edinburgh East MP called for the UK Government to intervene in the case of an Edinburgh man sentenced to death in Pakistan.

Ms Gilmore said:-“Mohammad Asghar, who lived in the UK for 40 years and has family in my constituency, has recently been convicted of blasphemy and sentenced to death in Pakistan. Mr Asghar was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia in 2010 and was treated in Edinburgh, but the judges refused to take that into account. I wrote to the Foreign Secretary yesterday, but can the Prime Minister now assure me that he and his Ministers are doing everything they can to support this man and see him returned to the UK, where he can get the treatment he needs?”

The Prime Minister assured her that he and the UK Government always oppose the death penalty and view the matter very seriously.

Amnesty International have called upon Pakistan to immediately and unconditionally release Mr Asghar who has been sentenced to death under the country's blasphemy laws after writing

letters to various officials claiming he was a prophet. Mr Asghar's family have said that he is suffering from a mental illness.

"Mohammad Asghar is now facing the gallows simply for writing a series of letters. He does not deserve punishment. No one should be charged on the basis of this sort of conduct," said Polly Truscott, Amnesty International's Deputy Asia Pacific Director.

Colourful Chinese Warriors now on show at Old College



The Chinese Warriors have come to town. They are multi-coloured and up to about 2.5 metres high.

They are part of a fabulous installation at the Old College quad which is being staged until 7 February each evening from 4.00 till 9.00pm which have been brought to Scotland for the first time.

The spectacle was first created by Chinese artist Xia Nan for the Olympic Games staged in Beijing in 2008.

The lanterns are inspired by the army of terracotta soldiers, discovered in 1974 when the tomb of the 3rd Century BC First Chinese Emperor Qin Shi Huang was unearthed in the Xi'an province of China.

We hope you like our photos! If you have any photos of the

warriors or anything else connected with Chinese New Year then please add them to our EdinburghReportage storyboard [here](#). They can be from anywhere around the world!



Fire crews help rescue man after ladder fall in Trinity



The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Operations Control Edinburgh received a call this morning from the Scottish Ambulance Service informing of an incident involving a 21 year old male trapped within a basement of a mid-terraced property in Clark Road, Edinburgh.

The casualty had fallen approximately 9ft onto a concrete floor following the collapse of a makeshift internal wooden ladder. He had suspected head and arm injuries.

Crews from Tollcross, McDonald Road, Newcraighall, Liberton and Dalkeith attended to assist Paramedics. Operating in a confined environment crews and partner agencies worked hard to stabilise and remove the casualty.

The man was then taken to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary for treatment to his injuries.

Scottish Fire and Service recommends that every time you use a ladder you should do a pre-use check beforehand to make sure that it is safe for use.

Five things you need to know today



Today's council webcast – Edinburgh's history – Planning application for changes to High Street shop – Mountain Film Festival at Queen's Hall – Chinese Warrior lanterns

The council is beginning to webcast more of its meetings and today they will be showing the Governance Risk and Best Value committee live from 10am. Councillor Jeremy Balfour is the convener of this committee which oversees decisions made by other parts of the council.

The papers for this meeting are available [here](#).

The capital's history will be shown off from a whole new angle with an exhibition set to open this weekend. If you read our articles about [Caltongate](#) yesterday you will have seen the lovely photos that RCAHMS allows us to use from their collections.

Historic Edinburgh from Above will encapsulate the capital's

changing cityscape throughout the early 20th century with a series of stunning photographs.

Designed especially for display at the Museum of Edinburgh by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS), the free-to-enter exhibition consists of aero-photographic images from the body's archives and will open on 1st February.



Visitors to the museum will be able to zoom in on the dramatic shots, which capture some of the key industrial and social changes to have taken place in Edinburgh, and are accompanied by fascinating facts about the capital's past.

Amongst the collection are an aerial shot of 1930s Leith, at the time a bustling centre for industry, an image portraying the construction of the iconic Jenners Furniture Depository from above and the west end of Princes Street in 1927, complete with horse-drawn vehicles and trams.

The exhibition, which will run until 26th April, is a local offshoot of RCAHMS' major UK-wide project [Britain from Above](#), a partnership with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and English Heritage to present the Aerofilms collection of aerial photographs from 1919-1953. Last year, current-day Edinburgh was similarly caught from above when it played host to [Britain from the Air](#), an outdoor street gallery of more than 100 aerial photographs of the British landscape, brought to the city by the Royal Geographical Society in collaboration with street gallery pioneers, Wecomunic8.

Councillor Richard Lewis, Culture Convener for the City of Edinburgh Council, said: "Edinburgh's rich heritage is part of its appeal and is appreciated by residents and visitors the world over, and this exhibition offers a new perspective on the city's fascinating history.

"We are delighted with the gallery created for us by the Royal Commission, which showcases some of the amazing architecture, landscapes and thriving industry of our past. Historic Edinburgh from Above is a welcome addition to our busy calendar of sporting and cultural events marking the exciting year ahead."

Lesley Ferguson, Head of Collections, RCAHMS said: "We are delighted to be exhibiting these wonderful images taken by

Aerofilms in the Museum of Edinburgh. The 'bird's eye' view provides a tantalising glimpse into this historic city and some of the changes that transformed Edinburgh in the twentieth century.

"The exhibition represents just a small number of the photographs taken by Aerofilms and we hope that visitors will be inspired to discover more online at the project website britainfromabove.org.uk."

Later this year, the Museum of Edinburgh will also host a Sporting Edinburgh exhibition to coincide with the Commonwealth Games and Scars on the City, commemorating the start of WW1.

A planning application has been lodged this week to alter the shopfront at 215 High Street, which was formerly the Luckenbooth.

Now it is to become known as Kiltane and will look a little different if the planners approve the change. All planning papers for this application can be viewed [here](#).

Tomorrow and Saturday evenings the Queen's Hall will screen short films showing adrenaline-packed action from the Banff Mountain Film Festival. Part of the Banff world tour this sounds like the way to kick off your weekend!

Booking details [here](#).

If you're out after dark then you might have a look at the Chinese warrior lanterns in the University Old College Quad.

Larger-than-life lanterns inspired by ancient Chinese warriors will add a burst of colour to the University of Edinburgh for Chinese New Year which is tomorrow.

The Lanterns of Terracotta Warriors outdoor exhibition is on

show until 7 February.



Yellow Moon at the Bedlam Theatre



The Edinburgh University Theatre Company (EUTC) staged David Greig's 'Yellow Moon: the Ballad of Leila and Lee' last night at the [Bedlam Theatre](#) but there is still time to see what is dubbed 'a modern day Bonnie and Clyde story' tonight at 7:30pm at the same venue.

The story follows two protagonists on their journey across Northern Scotland as they try to escape from their sorrowful reality and into a world that allows them to feel more 'real'. Set in present day Scotland, it explores various complex issues such as self-harm, abandonment and neglect whilst maintaining a beautiful narrative and wonderful characterisations. The cast include Macleod Stephen, Casey Enochs, Caitlin Mclean and Nathan Trotter.

The Edinburgh Reporter spoke to Director **Julia Carstairs** about her experience of working on the production:

How have you found directing Yellow Moon?

I have absolutely loved directing Yellow Moon, but because of the nature of the script it has been quite the challenge! It is up to the director to interpret the text in a way that is entertaining and most successful. For example there is no cast list and much of the script is written in prose/verse, so decisions have to be made with regards to the narration. But it has been so enjoyable because I have a wonderful cast and a great technical team – they are a great support system.

How does this compare to any of the other shows you have

directed?

Most of the productions I have directed in the past have been musicals so it is entirely different to work with such an open script. A lot happens in the space of 62 pages and the play flows continuously without an interval so the audience have to stay interested. The words are so important, and there aren't any tricky dance numbers I have to choreograph so that's a bonus!

What has been the most challenging thing about putting this play together?

I think the casting was pretty difficult because the cast have to gel so well together and there cannot be a weak link, but luckily the talent within Bedlam is immense! So I have landed great actors and a superb team. But I would say that the blocking was quite a challenge and there is one scene which is set in during a muirburning so I had to decide how to make that look most effective. But the process has been entirely enjoyable and hopefully everyone will enjoy the show.

[Tickets](#): £6 (adult) £5 (student) £4 (member).