

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 Kettings 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 (Kettings 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

Scotland U19s 4-2 Switzerland U19s



Scotland Under-19s came from behind to secure a hard-earned 4-2 victory over Switzerland at The Energy Assets Arena in Livingston yesterday.

Three Edinburgh based youngsters, Gary Oliver and Sam Nicholson from Hearts and Jason Cummings from Hibs (pictured) started the match along with former Jambo Adam King who moved to Swansea in the January transfer window.

After trailing 2-1 at the interval, the Scots turned in an excellent second half performance to grab the victory.

Scotland fell behind after just two minutes when a slip at the back allowed Karlen in on goal and he fired low beyond Motherwell goalkeeper Ross Stewart.

Scotland hit back on 12 minutes when Hearts striker Gary Oliver nodded home from close-range, however the visitors were back in from after 27 minutes when Zoller pounced on a defensive mix-up to make it 2-1.

Rangers midfielder Fraser Aird equalised just a minute into the second half and former Hearts' star Adam King put Scotland in front for the first time in the match with an excellent low finish on 66 minutes.

Aberdeen forward Cammy Smith grabbed the fourth with seconds remaining.

Scotland face England (hosts), Montenegro and Romania in their Euro elite round in May.

Scotland: Stewart, Kidd, McKenna, Burgess, Hendrie, Petrie (C), Aird, King, Oliver, Cummings, Nicholson.

Subs: Hurst (GK), Halkett, McLennan, Sinnamon, Lindsay, Telfer, Smith.

Photo by John Preece

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

Young Entrepreneurs Make an Impact in UK's New Business Hot-spots



From artisan boutiques to multi-million pound digital agencies, young business people are making their mark in some of Britain's biggest cities, including Edinburgh, riding an entrepreneurial wave that saw a record number of new companies registered last year, research by Virgin StartUp reveals.

In interviews with young entrepreneurs from the UK's top startup hot-spots, the Virgin not-for-profit company, set up to promote entrepreneurship, shows how generation Y are exploiting opportunities and overcoming difficult challenges

in their home towns to build a whole variety of businesses.

The research coincides with [Virgin StartUp's HotHouse Tour](#), a series of regional workshops for budding entrepreneurs, concluding soon.

[Figures from the national enterprise campaign StartUp Britain](#) shows 526,446 new businesses were registered in 2013, compared with 484,224 in 2012. The top 7 hot-spots last year were Greater London 136,939 with new companies; Birmingham 16,281; Manchester 11,765; Glasgow 8085; Bristol 7589; Brighton 7499; and Edinburgh 7112.

According to a survey by the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, 5 per cent of those under the age of 30 were starting business in 2010. The figure had almost doubled by 2012.

Rising youth unemployment, workplace insecurity and disillusionment with dead-end jobs are some of the factors prompting many to strike out on their own, in sectors ranging from traditional trades, design, fashion to technology and digital marketing.

With little experience of business and modest start-up funds, many rely on their wits and learn from mistakes. For most, it's a steep learning curve, and not everyone survives. According to one estimate, a third don't make it through their first year of trading. But a willingness to share experiences and knowledge with others through networking groups gives them a fighting chance.

Amy Dolan is one of those young businesses started in Edinburgh. She is 23 and the founder of Ziggy Sawdust, a furniture redesign business. She says young people in the Scottish capital have established a vibrant hand-craft and creative design sector, encouraged by good local markets, design fairs and independent retailers that allow them to promote their products.

Dolan adds that few young entrepreneurs are able to set up

shop in the city, as office rents are too high. “Many of these new businesses are like me – one-man bands. We all have quite small budgets. I work from home so my costs are minimal. But there are helpful organisations like Entrepreneurial Spark which offer other young people desk space, access to computers, phones and WIFI which also helps to keep down overheads,” she says.

“The high office rents in the city are a problem but also an opportunity. I think this forces you to be more creative and unconventional. You can set up pop-up shops, put up stalls in design fairs. In the future, I think young entrepreneurs would benefit from being able to occupy abandoned retail spaces; landlords supplying short-term leases for pop-ups; and more independent shops offering space to promote our work.”

Virgin is hoping to find more young entrepreneurs not just in their HotHouse Tour, but also through their fund schemes in the hubs of the UK, like Edinburgh, in order to boost younger generations into founding successful, competing businesses. And Edinburgh, as a startup hub, according to Dolan, has a lot to offer.

Submitted by [Lola Olson](#)



UK's first student housing co-op launches in Edinburgh



Credit: Edinburgh Student
Housing Cooperative

Campaign

Edinburgh is famous for its history, its architecture and its literature, but it's not known for cheap rental property. Well, students at the University of Edinburgh say that this is about to change. The Edinburgh Student Housing Co-op, which launched publically last night at the Edinburgh University Students' Association (EUSA) chaplaincy, aims to provide cheap rents to Edinburgh students squeezed by landlords.

Mike Shaw, one of the student campaigners behind the cooperative, told the Edinburgh Reporter that, "it was just an idea over a cup of tea a year ago."

The co-operative – recently incorporated as the Edinburgh Student Housing Cooperative Ltd – will be the first working student housing co-operative in Britain.

"It's something that a lot of people said we couldn't do, but we've done it," he said.

Students coming to Edinburgh from across Scotland and across the globe can expect to pay over £400 a month for a flat in the city, as well as having to fork out for tuition, books and rising living costs.

Campaigners have already secured the 106-bed Wrights Houses overlooking Bruntsfield Links, and hope to rent rooms to students at cut-price rates from September onwards. The co-op hopes to rent out the property to students for just £260 a month. Each of the 26 flats will contain a kitchen/living room, two toilets and a shower – and all with a view of one of the city's largest public parks.

Those behind the campaign say they want to follow the business model developed by students in the USA, where small-scale housing co-ops have existed for over 70 years. They say that the example of students at Michigan State University, where over 4,000 students live in housing cooperatives, proves that

students can be trusted to manage without help from university faculties.

The campaign has been helped out by EUSA, Scotmid and the Cooperative Educational Trust Scotland, but is financially independent. Kirsty Haigh, Vice President of Services at EUSA, told the Edinburgh Reporter that, “we’ve been helping the students throughout the process, working very closely with them. It’s something that EUSA has worked to support, and will continue to do so in the long term.”

Mike Shaw, one of the students behind the campaign, told how he collaborated with Rector Peter McColl. “It was just an idea over a cup of tea a year ago, and we both knew people who could help us.”

Couple charged with drug offences after raid in Wardieburn



A man and woman have been arrested after £14,000-worth of heroin was found in a house in Edinburgh.

The pair, aged 36 and 35 were charged with drug offences following the raid on the property in Wardieburn Road on Friday and appeared at Edinburgh Sheriff Court on Monday.

Detective Inspector Stuart Harkness said: “Police Scotland continues to tackle serious and organised crime in the city and this operation demonstrates the continued efforts in that regard.

“I would appeal to those in the local communities we police who may have information on criminals operating in their area to provide us with that information.”

Contact can be made with community officers by calling 101 or alternatively in anonymity by calling the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Edinburgh students presented with tourism prize at Stirling Castle



Five students from Wester Hailes School in Edinburgh were today announced as the winners of the 2013 Keys to the Castle Challenge, and were presented with a trophy to mark their achievement at a special ceremony at Stirling Castle.

The competition is a joint venture between Historic Scotland and Springboard Scotland and is designed to inspire young people to consider a career in tourism in Scotland. The winning team worked together to answer a series of questions about Scotland's history and culture.

Billie Leigh Taylor, Tommy Kivlin, Vicky Soutar, Ryan Walker and Michael Singh were presented with their trophy as part of a VIP visit to Stirling Castle for themselves plus six of their classmates. They were given the opportunity to meet characters from history during a tour of the recently refurbished James V Palace and took part in a fun, interactive learning experience drawing on different aspects of Stirling

Castle.

Entries are now being invited for the 2014 Keys to the Castle Challenge.

Liz Grant, Commercial Business Manager at Stirling Castle said: "Scotland enjoys a thriving tourism industry, and as the biggest operator of visitor attractions in the country, we were delighted to team up with Springboard Scotland on this exciting project. Working in tourism can be incredibly rewarding, and I hope that spending the day at Stirling Castle might encourage some of these young people to consider pursuing a career in this diverse and challenging industry."

Amanda McDade from Springboard Scotland said: "This competition is a brilliant opportunity for young people across Scotland to gain an understanding and insight into Scotland's tourism and hospitality industry. Through industry visits and master classes and a year-long relationship with Historic Scotland, the competition affords young people the opportunity to explore tourism as a thriving industry with a wealth of career opportunities open to them. With the Year of Homecoming, Ryder Cup and Commonwealth Games, there has never been a more exciting time to be involved!"

Entries for the 2014 Keys to the Castle Challenge are being invited at www.careerscope.uk.net/events-activities/scottish-tourism-careers-festival/keys-to-the-castle

Red Bull Hill Chasers

returning to the capital next month



Hundreds of cyclists will descend on Edinburgh next month (Saturday 12 April) for Scotland's first ever Red Bull Hill Chasers 2014 – the UK's only multi-discipline uphill cycling race, transforming the historical Old Town into a gruelling race track for one night only.

Riders are being encouraged to register to take part in the event, sponsored by Charge Bikes, from today by visiting www.redbull.co.uk/hillchasers.

Now in its fourth year, having made its debut in Edinburgh last year, and previously been held in Bristol and Malaysia, the unique urban event will give 500 bike enthusiasts from BMX, mountain bike, road cycling and fixed-gear disciplines a chance to race against their heroes, including Olympic BMX rider, Shanaze Reade.



Battling head-to-head to settle the long-standing dispute between disciplines, amateur racers will be invited to partake in a series of five punishing, mass-start knockout rounds, before being whittled down to just 40.

Following the qualifying heats, the fastest aspirant riders will then battle it out against 10 of the UK's most elite cycling stars in a bid to steal the winning crown to become the Red Bull Hill Chasers 2014 'King of the Hill'.

The international competition will take place on The Mound – a punishing 200m uphill sprint beneath the dramatic Edinburgh skyline.

Cllr Steve Cardownie, Festival & Events Champion, City of Edinburgh Council, said: "We are thrilled to welcome back the Red Bull Hill Chasers to Edinburgh following the great excitement and boost to the city the event brought last year, when 5,000 supporters took to the Grassmarket to cheer on more than 100 riders. This year the uphill bike sprint will kick off at the Mound and where could be better to host what will be yet another fantastic cycling event in Edinburgh."

The qualifying rounds will be held on The Mound between 10:00 and 14:00 on Saturday 12 April. For your chance to compete against the elite as one of the 40 amateur riders please visit www.redbull.co.uk/hillchasers and register for your place in the qualifiers.

Book now for Pop up restaurant at French Institute

 **BUDDING CHEFS 2014**

Franco Scottish exchange programme for young chefs-to-be

A new group of 16 French budding chefs and waiters come to Scotland from 18 to 22 March 2014 to take part in the fourth edition of the Budding Chefs in Scotland. The young chefs will experience the Scottish larder, meet Scottish producers and chefs and run a Pop-up Restaurant at The Hub with their mentor Craig Sandle. The other highlight of the week will involve a series of talks on food by Nicholas Lander, Roderick Sloan, Hervé Mons and many other chefs, artisans and food writers.

Set up in 2011 by the Institut français d'Ecosse and Chef Fred Berkmler, the constantly expanding Budding Chefs programme offers 12 young French chefs and 4 budding waiters from the Lycée Hotelier in Dinard (in Brittany, France) the opportunity to visit Scotland, experience the Scottish larder and get hands-on experience running the busy kitchen of a pop-up restaurant.

Craig Sandle, head chef of The Pompadour by Galvin and Galvin Brasserie de Luxe at The Caledonian Hotel, is the mentor of the youngsters this year and will accompany them on their Scottish adventures. The trip will take the budding chefs to Blackford Farms (Perthshire) where they will see the Wagyu and Angus cattle and they will meet the fishermen discharging their catch of the night at Peterhead's Fish Market (Aberdeenshire).

Their newly gained knowledge will be put to the test at the Pop-up restaurant they will open at The Hub on Saturday 22 March. For this unique dining experience, their mentors Craig Sandle and Fred Berkmler have designed a five course menu that brings French and Scottish cuisines together and introduces some of the little known gems of the Scottish aquatic larder. In the kitchen, the budding chefs will be working under the watchful eyes of Craig and Fred to deliver a dinner for 250 foodies while the budding waiters will lead the service in the restaurant.



Craig Sandle says: 'After a very rewarding experience last year mentoring the young French chefs, I'm genuinely excited to be more involved with the 2014 exchange. Having the opportunity to work with all the young chefs at The Hub is a huge honour, and one that I approach with enthusiasm. It echoes my own passion to support and train young chefs for the future whilst having a great time!'

To mark the fourth birthday of the Budding Chefs, the programme this year will involve an extended series of public events. The 'Talking Food' series will gather some of the greatest names of the food industry from France, Great Britain and Scandinavia. Nicholas Lander (restaurant critic, England), Roderick Sloan (sea urchin diver, Norway), Michael Booth (journalist and writer, Denmark), Hervé Mons (cheese affineur, France), Erica Randall (gardener, Scotland), Loic Bienassis (historian, France), Tom Kitchen (Chef, Scotland), Craig Sandle (Chef, Scotland) and Fred Berkmiller (Chef, Scotland) will follow one another on The Hub's stage to talk about gastronomy, larder, restaurants and all other things food. The talks will be chaired by food writer and journalist Alex Renton and will take place at the Hub on Saturday 22 March afternoon.

Vincent Guérin, director of the Institut français d'Ecosse and co-founder of the Budding Chefs programme explains: 'There is a real revolution going on in Scotland nowadays, with lots of passionate people involved. Practices, habits and tastes regarding food are really changing and I believe this is a great time to contribute to the conversation. I am very proud that such fascinating guests have accepted our invitation to take part in this event and I can't wait to see them before a Scottish audience!'

Fred Berkmiller, chef-patron of the Escargots Restaurants in Edinburgh and co-founder of the programme says: 'This is the biggest and the most exciting Budding Chefs programme we've ever done. As a chef, I am keen on finding ways to re-connect people, youngsters especially, with what they eat and cook. The programme as it stands today, strongly supported by fantastic, passionate professionals is the perfect opportunity for me to do just that. I am incredibly proud of what it has become over the past four years, and extremely excited by the week to come.'

Coming all the way from Norway where he handpicks sea urchins

for the greatest restaurants in the world, Scottish chef and fisherman Roderick Sloan returns to his homeland with a new challenge: to get people eating sea snails. He will start his 'crusade' at Stockbridge Primary School on Friday 21 March where he will host a workshop with the P3 pupils (8-9 year olds) and introduce them to the wonders of periwinkles. Taking part in 'Talking Food', he will discuss his passion for the sea and its superb produce with journalist Michael Booth.

To attend the school workshop with Roderick Sloan on Friday 21 March or one of the Budding Chefs' visits on 19 or 20 March, please contact us.

Talking Food – Saturday 22 March, 13.30 – 18.30 – The Hub, Edinburgh EH1 2NE – £12 (£10) – Info & Booking: www.buddingchefs.net

The Pop-up Restaurant – Saturday 22 March, 19.00 – 22.30 – The Hub, Edinburgh EH1 2NE – Five course menu £40 (£38) – Drinks not included – Advance purchase only: www.buddingchefs.net or 0131 225 5366.

Tickets for Talking Food and the Pop-up Restaurant are now on sale and the full programme is available [online](#).

Winners of Scottish Children's Book Awards announced today

EDINBURGH AUTHOR WINS SCOTLAND'S BEST CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD



Award-winning Edinburgh-based children's author Janis Mackay was today announced as the winner of the Younger Readers (8-11 years) category of the Scottish Children's Book Awards 2013, for her book *The Accidental Time Traveller*, published by Kelpies.

A celebration of the best of Scottish writing and illustration for children, the Scottish Children's Book Awards are judged in 3 age categories – Bookbug readers (3-7), Younger Readers (8-11) and Older Readers (12-16) – and are run by Scottish Book Trust in partnership with Creative Scotland. The winner in each category receives £3000.

Commenting on her award, Janis, a lecturer at the Office of Lifelong Learning in Edinburgh University, said:-“I am completely thrilled, and can't quite believe it. It has been such a wonderful opportunity to be shortlisted for this award; suddenly my books are in the consciousness of hundreds of teachers and librarians – and pupils – and I have been invited to many schools and libraries and book festivals.

“First winning the Kelpies prize and now this amazing prize – I feel chuffed, and have already written the sequel!”

Janis MacKay is a writer, storyteller and voice teacher born and raised in Edinburgh. She studied journalism in London, but aged 21 she realised that it was the wrong job for her, and took time out to travel. After returning to Scotland she studied speech and drama, becoming a teacher and voice coach.

After many years she studied for an MA in Creative Writing at Sussex University. An SAC writer-in-residence award took her to Caithness, where she wrote the novel that became her Kelpies prize-winning [Magnus Fin and the Ocean Quest](#) in 2009. Her children's novels feature Magnus Fin, a young boy who is part human, part selkie – a mythical sea creature. Her latest novel, [Magnus Fin and the Selkie Secret](#), is published by

Floris books.

Janis is also the niece of Helen Crummy OBE, whose statue is being unveiled on 21st March in Craigmillar, where she lived and started the Craigmillar Festival Society.

The Accidental Time Traveller is a pacy, time-travelling adventure, full of funny misunderstandings and gripping action. It tells the story of Saul, who is on his way to the corner shop one ordinary day when a girl appears suddenly in the middle of the road. She doesn't understand traffic, or the things in shops, and she's wearing a long dress with ruffled sleeves. Her name is Agatha Black and she is from 1812, and Saul needs to find a way to get her back there. With help from his mates Will and Robbie, he tries to work out how to make time travel happen.

Record numbers of children read the books on this year's shortlist, with over 38,000 votes cast – an increase of 20% on last year. The shortlist is comprised of books published between 1st April 2012 and 31st March 2013 by authors or illustrators living and working in Scotland, and is chosen by a panel of booksellers, teachers, librarians and, most importantly, children. Children across Scotland are then invited to read the shortlist of three books in their age category and to vote for their favourite.

Jasmine Fassl, Head of Schools at Scottish Book Trust, commented:-“A big thank you to all of the shortlisted authors for writing such wonderful books – children across the country have enjoyed reading, debating and championing each and every one of them over the past few months, with huge numbers of children voting for each book. As our review competition shows, there was something for everyone in the shortlist, with the themes of humour, first love and fast-paced action proving most popular this year. There is nothing nicer than celebrating the books that children themselves have enjoyed reading, and the passion of the teachers, librarians, parents

and authors who take part in the Scottish Children's Book Awards are playing a key part in inspiring a new generation of book lovers."

Picture book author Chae Strathie, based in Fife, won the Bookbug Readers Category (3-7 Years) for Jumblebum, illustrated by Ben Cort and published by Scholastic and debut author Claire McFall, based in the Scottish Borders, won the Older Readers Category (12-16 Years) for Ferryman (published by Templar).

CALL Scotland has again worked with Scottish Book Trust and the authors and publishers to create accessible digital versions of the nine shortlisted books, for children and young people with physical, visual and reading or dyslexic difficulties, who can't read the paper books. The accessible digital versions are available free of charge from CALL Scotland. You can request books by going [to their website](#).

The Scottish Children's Book Awards are managed by Scottish Book Trust in partnership with Creative Scotland, and are supported by The Barcapel Foundation, Times Educational Supplement Scotland, Waterstones, CALL, Ernest Cook Trust and the Zachs-Adams family.

No cold feet for MS supporters!



Thirteen big-hearted volunteers braved burning embers and

temperatures soaring above 1200 degrees Fahrenheit to tackle a firewalk for the MS Society.

More than £2,300 was raised at the Blaze Firewalk Challenge event which took place in The Centre, Livingston for the charity that supports more than 100,000 people in the UK who are affected by multiple sclerosis.

Most people are diagnosed in their 20s and 30s. MS is unpredictable, one day you can be fine, the next you might lose your sight or be unable to move.

After an in-depth training session, the group braved their fears in their orange MS branded t-shirts and walked 20 metres on the roasting hot embers.

2014 marks the end of the second consecutive year of The Centre's national charity partnership with the MS Society.

The event took place on Thursday 27 February and was followed by a presentation of certificates to all participants.

David Carson, centre director of The Centre in Livingston, said: "I'm delighted by the courage and generosity of all of the firewalkers who took part.

"This is not an easy challenge and every person involved overcame their own fears to complete the walk.

"The MS Society is a fantastic charity and funds support to many people with MS. I would like to extend my thanks to all of the firewalkers for raising such a significant sum."

Suspected cat poisonings in Newtongrange



The Scottish SPCA is appealing for information and urging cat owners to be vigilant following a spate of suspected poisonings in Newtongrange, Midlothian.

Scotland's animal welfare charity has received reports of four possible cat poisonings in the past month, concentrated in and around Fifth Street.

Inspector Emma Phillips said, "We are concerned by the number of incidents which have been reported to us over a short space of time and in a very small location.

"This suggests there is a source of poison lying out in the area which cats have ready access to.

"The most recent incident took place on Monday (3 March) and the cat involved sadly died. The vet who examined this cat said it showed advanced, untreatable symptoms associated with poisoning and we are now in the process of having a post mortem examination carried out on the body to confirm the cause of death.

"Meanwhile we are urging local cat owners to be extremely vigilant while we investigate this matter.

"Although we can't confirm what type of poison has been used, in our experience the most common source is antifreeze.

"Animals which have consumed this substance will display a number of symptoms including vomiting, lethargy and in the latter stages, head-shaking and coma, which ultimately results in renal failure and death.

“Owners whose cats appear unwell should seek immediate veterinary treatment as early detection offers the best chance of survival.

“Unfortunately, many cats die a slow, horrible and painful death as a result of poisoning.

“At this early stage we do not know whether the poisonings are the result of a deliberate act or an accidental spillage so we are appealing to local residents to contact us if they have any information in relation to these concerning incidents.”

Anyone with information should call the Scottish SPCA Animal Helpline on 03000 999 999. Calls will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Funding announced to create modern, family friendly workplaces



A new initiative launched today (Wednesday) by families charities has secured funding to get a fairer deal for working parents and help more fathers to balance work and family life.

Fathers Network Scotland, Parenting across Scotland and Working Families have been awarded £100,000 from the Scottish Government for the initiative to create more family friendly workplaces where parents and carers are supported to work flexibly.

The new funding was announced today by Scotland's Minister for

Children and Young People Aileen Campbell as she launched the Family Friendly Working Scotland programme at an event held in Edinburgh to outline what new flexible working laws will mean for employers.

The new Family Friendly Working Scotland programme will raise awareness about flexible working, conduct research and for the first time fund a dedicated coordinator to work directly with employers in Scotland to support parents at work.

It will also see the launch of new Scottish Top Employers for Working Families awards, designed to promote a family-friendly Scotland in the field of employment.

New UK legislation that comes into effect in June will see the extension of the right to request flexible working to all employees. From 2015 parents will have a right to shared leave.

Research shows that mainly women request flexible working but more fathers would request it if they knew it was accepted by their co-workers.) More than a third of men questioned in a recent UK wide study said they worked full-time and were offered no flexibility at all by their employers. The study also found that 80% of mothers feel “guilty” about going back to work after having children.

The new funding will allow research to be carried out into challenges faced by Scottish families, in particular by fathers. A recent report by Fathers Network Scotland (FNS) highlighted a lack of Scottish data.

As well as the forthcoming UK legislation, the Scottish Government’s National Parenting Strategy commits to making Scotland’s workplaces more family friendly.

Family friendly working policies also benefit employers. Falling absenteeism and higher retention leads to a reduction in costs – 65 per cent of employers said flexible working

practices had a positive effect on recruitment and retention, helping employers save money on recruitment, induction and training.

David Drysdale, Founder & Chair, Fathers Network Scotland said: "Fathers' voices are often unheard at work when it comes to family friendly working. Men are less likely to request flexible working, and if they do, are less likely to get it. Fathers don't use many of the family friendly initiatives that are available because they're not aware of them and more often than not, because they think their colleagues or employers wouldn't take them seriously, and there is an outdated assumption that family friendly working means part time working is only something that mothers need. However, we know that they too want to combine work with family life. This new partnership will address this and ensure that father's voices are heard in the workplace."

Clare Simpson, Parenting Across Scotland (PAS) Project Manager, said: "Our partners work with thousands of families across Scotland, many of whom feel the conflict between work and home life sharply. The new partnership aims to ease that conflict by working to bridge the chasm that exists between the legislation and what happens in reality so that for example, parents aren't scared to ask for parental leave, or time off to care for a sick child. A real family friendly work ethic in Scotland would benefit parents and employers alike in so many ways."

Launching the funding and programme of work today, Minister for Children and Young People Aileen Campbell, said, "I'm very aware of the challenges that many parents face in balancing commitments at home and at work. In addition to measures such as funded early learning and childcare, the Scottish Government recognises the importance of flexible working in helping parents and carers to manage those twin responsibilities. We're committed to working with employers to explore ways of promoting and supporting flexible working

so I'm delighted that we are able to support this important new initiative."

Sarah Jackson, Chief Executive, Working Families said, "I am delighted that Working Families has been invited to be involved in this wide-ranging programme of work with two of Scotland's leading family charities to enable Scottish employers and families to benefit from more family friendly working."

Edinburgh Zoo welcomes first ever banteng calf



Edinburgh Zoo's hoofstock keepers have welcomed their first ever beautiful banteng calf! Although only four weeks old, the bubbly boy loves to canter around outdoors with his parents.

The calf, who has been named Kala, was born to resident banteng Tino and Leticia and is the first ever banteng calf to be born at Edinburgh Zoo. Dad Tino was born in July 2007 and he arrived at Edinburgh Zoo in 2011 from Wroclaw and mum Leticia was born in 2001 and arrived in 2012 from Munich.

Listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List, banteng are native to South East Asia, with hunting and habitat loss as the two biggest threats to the species. They are very close to becoming locally extinct in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

Lorna Hughes, Team Leader of Hoofstock and Primates at Edinburgh Zoo, said: "Kala is doing really well; it is great to see him out and about after such a long wait. He's going

from strength to strength and is already proving very popular with our visitors – he certainly has a lot of character! This birth is a positive step in helping towards the conservation of these endangered animals as well as educating visitors about their plight.”

Banteng females give birth to a single calf after a pregnancy that lasts 285 days. The banteng baby will stay close to mum Leticia for around 6 to 9 months, then he will start venturing and exploring further.

Banteng, also known as Tembadau, live in herds of between two and 40 individuals. They like to feed mainly on grasses, bamboo, leaves and fruits and are more active at night due to human encroachment on their natural environment.

Mature males have a dark brown coat, while females are a much lighter brown, with a dark strip down their back, making it very easy to distinguish between the sexes. The baby banteng although born with a light brown coat like all male banteng calves, will turn the more prominent darker colour as he reaches maturity.