

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



Planning matters – The Big Pedal – Walter Geikie – Daily email update – Edinburgh College

The council's planning team have recommended refusal of two key applications at tomorrow's Development Management Committee meeting.

The first is for the site at 14-16 Beaverhall Road where the developer Springfield has requested that the S.75 agreement between them and the council is discharged without payment. A S.75 agreement is registered against the title to ensure that the developer makes payment or does certain things to comply with the planning requirements. In this case the sum of £81,250 was agreed to be paid towards public realm works (that's pavements and stuff to you and me) in connection with the 60 flats to be built. The council confirm that the money would be used for works in the vicinity and not simply in a general fund for the city centre. The agreement states that the money would be paid when the final house was deemed complete and ready for occupation by the council's planners.

This is a mixed residential and commercial development and the proposed houses are [already advertised on Springfield's website.](#)

The Elgin based developer argues that the contribution does not meet any of the tests set out in a planning circular and is unreasonable. They also state that since the council does not have a specific project to upgrade the public realm in mind it is wrong to ask for a specific sum of money which is more of a best guess than a calculation.

The planners recommend refusal of the application on the basis

that the developer is incorrect in asking for it to be removed. They argue that the contribution was assessed and considered along with the planning permission first granted.

The Newtown and Broughton Community Council objected in relation to the previous and now withdrawn planning application to the developer's application to have this monetary obligation removed.

The other application which is up for a no vote tomorrow is the proposed development on Princes Street of retail on four floors along with installation of ATMs. This is a vacant site at 133 Princes Street and was last used as a GAP store in 2010. The current application is for a new entrance to the upper floors and new shop front with illuminated fascia signs. The proposal is for a restaurant at upper level and a bank on the ground floor. Previously application was made for a hotel and restaurant but this has been deleted.

In view of the fact that the council has stated an aim to develop the upper floors of properties along Princes Street it is perhaps regrettable that this application is not up for approval. It is being rejected on the grounds that the retail use is being lost. There would be a single storey modern extension to the rear which would only be seen in Rose Street anyway, but is deemed in keeping.

The main reason for objection seems to be that the shopping ambience would be weakened. Given that the site has been empty for four years this seems a fairly weak objection. The Development Management Committee meets tomorrow at 10am at the City Chambers.

Has your school or your child's school registered for [The Big Pedal](#) yet? This is an initiative backed by active travel charity Sustrans to get everyone cycling or scooting to school during the week beginning 3 March 2014. The idea is to

encourage pupils and teachers alike to cycle to school and the more children who do, the more points the school gets. There are prizes of bikes on offer.

All school results will be published on the Big Pedal website and then everything culminates in a Superhero day on 14 March 2014, as a fundraiser for Sustrans work in schools. There are also two challenge days on 5 and 14 March if two weeks is just too much!

Are you taking part? Will you send us a photograph of your bike? [You can do so by clicking here!](#)

Helen Smailes is Senior Curator of British Art at the Scottish National Gallery and [she is delivering a talk on Thursday at 2pm](#) at Museum of Edinburgh. Entry is free but you must book in advance.

To complement the exhibition *Walter Geikie (1795-1837): An Artist of Character*, she will be discussing the life and work of this remarkable artist, exploring some of the artworks featured in the exhibition.

To book contact Margaret Findlay on 0131 529 3963 or via margaret.findlay@edinburgh.gov.uk.

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While some of the lecturers are on strike today and tomorrow at Edinburgh College, we hope that may be resolved sometime soon. All the courses at Edinburgh College start in August 2014. You can find all the [details of how to sign up here](#) on the new look Edinburgh College website.

There are 900 courses on offer with full time, part-time and flexible study options available.

Edinburgh College yesterday made an improved offer to teaching staff, hoping this would satisfy the EIS union and avert planned strike action this week.

The college management say it is disappointed that the union felt unable to suspend strikes today and tomorrow while the detail of the offer is finalised.

The college is seeking to harmonise contracts for all teaching staff – making them equitable, fair and affordable and bringing all teaching staff together on one set of terms and conditions and the same pay scale.

The revised offer, made at a meeting with the EIS today, would raise the previous maximum salary offer of £34,700 to around £36,000 over a two-year period. Full details of this have yet to be confirmed.

The new offer would also introduce maximum number of teaching hours at 24 per week. A limit on weekly teaching hours is one of the reassurances the union has been asking for. The new offer retains the 800-hour annual maximum teaching hours that was part of the original offer, which was already significantly less than all three legacy colleges.

Edinburgh College principal Mandy Exley said: “We have listened to staff, considered what they need very carefully and come back with solutions to their issues. This offer

demonstrates that we're committed to preventing any more disruption to students and doing what is most important – ensuring their education needs are fully met and that we support our staff in a fair, affordable way.”

The chair of Edinburgh College's Board of Management, Ian McKay, said: “We're very disappointed the EIS officials have not suspended this week's strike action. They've been given a fair offer that they can now put to their members and striking this week will only harm the students. The college has done what we can to prevent this happening, so the decision now lies with the EIS and its members.”

Police investigation after injury to 14-month-old boy



A 14-month-old boy was taken to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh at 1.30pm on Saturday after paramedics were called to a house in the Gilmerton area of the city.

Police Scotland has confirmed that a thorough investigation is being carried out into the incident.

A Police Scotland spokesperson said: “In line with multi-agency child protection procedures we are working closely with NHS Lothian and the local authority to fully explore the circumstances of how this child was injured. Investigations of this nature are sensitive and complex and it is being approached in an open minded manner to help us fully understand what happened, which may take some time.

No person has been arrested in connection with the enquiry. The child remains in a stable condition.”

Shopping around for your new Mercedes in Edinburgh



Find your own Mercedes Benz for sale in Edinburgh

Want to buy Mercedes-Benz and don't know the best way to go about it?

These days there are a lot of options for buying a vehicle. Lots of showrooms offer various brand cars, newspapers are full of car ads, and the Internet offers a wide range of new and used vehicles all around UK. The most convenient way is online purchase. Buying a car over the internet can save you a lot of time and frayed nerves. You don't need to waste your time on numerous visits to showrooms or meetings with car dealers.

German brand

Mercedes-Benz alongside Audi, Porsche and BMW are the four most popular German brands in Great Britain. Mercedes-Benz is one the biggest car manufacturers in the whole world and German brands have always been popular in the UK car market. Mercedes cars are regarded as signs of power, stability, classic taste and reliability. So when you decide to buy Mercedes-Benz, you want to be sure that you'll buy the right vehicle. When purchasing a car one should pay attention to

such options as service, price and reliability. Mercedes cars have all these features and more.

Online mode

Searching Mercedes Benz in Edinburgh head to localmachine.co.uk and you will find lots of cars on offer. Search the Internet and find the most suitable Mercedes Benz among [second hand cars in Edinburgh](#) . You can search in a variety of ways. For example you can search by year of release or date of the ad's creation. Searching used Mercedes Benz cars you can also do a search by mileage or price.

Wide assortment

Before buying a Mercedes you should do your own research and decide what Mercedes-Benz car will suit your needs. There are many models of Mercedes-Benz on the market. You could become the new owner of the front-engine luxury Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG, or a multi-purpose vehicle Mercedes-Benz Viano, or the compact luxury crossover Mercedes-Benz GLK. Or perhaps you prefer a compact car such as the Mercedes-Benz A-Class? Out of the Mercedes range, the mid-sized E-class is one of the most popular.

If in doubt the experts advise that you don't rush to make a decision. A rushed buy often leads to some regret. Whether you want to buy this year's model of Mercedes-Benz or a used model depends on your budget of course. Low price and low mileage always attracts buyers, but beware the car that has a low mileage and has been involved in an accident.

The Mercedes Benz name has a longstanding reputation for producing one of the world's best, most prestigious cars. Mercedes cars are known worldwide by engine power, transmission type, and additional features and Mercedes-Benz could be the right choice for many Edinburgh drivers!

First time buyers and investors are back in the property market



The latest figures from Edinburgh Solicitors Property Centre ESPC have revealed the number of small properties sold in Edinburgh have risen by 75% annually in the three months to January 2014 indicating a significant rise in activity from first time buyers and buy-to-let investors.

A rise in sales of one bed flats in particular suggests the return of those most significantly affected in the wake of the 'credit crunch'.

ESPC's latest House Price Report shows sales throughout the Lothians and Fife have also continued to rise sharply with the total number of residential sales jumping by 59% year on year.

Across Edinburgh the average house price increased by 3.8% annually from £202,275 to £209,918. while in East Lothian and West Lothian house prices fell, but in both cases the declines offset sharp rises a year ago. In East Lothian a 6.7% annual decline followed a 9.2% rise last year. The 11.6% fall in West Lothian came on the back of a 29% annual rise the previous year.

David Marshall, business analyst with ESPC said:- "Buyer activity has risen sharply over the last 18 months, and it's encouraging to see such growth in the number of one bedroom

homes selling, as it was this end of the market that was hit hardest by the economic downturn.

“An increase in borrower lending has played a significant role in supporting this upturn which is expected to continue as banks begin to lend more and more.

“We are still seeing some volatility in prices at a local level but in most cases sharper rises this year are offsetting falls a year ago and vice versa.

“The last few months have also seen a notable improvement in seller activity, with the number of homes being brought to the market for sale during the last three months up by 30% annually. As we move forward this growth in supply will help to moderate house price inflation.

With activity in the local property market on the rise, sellers are also now enjoying greater success in negotiations on price. Between November 2013 and January 2014, properties sold in Edinburgh achieved an average of 97.9% of their Home Report valuation. That marks an increase from an average of 94.3% a year ago.



Len Lothian will help with your DIY!




Complete your home improvements with a little assistance from Len Lothian

Recent wintry weather has peppered coastal regions of Scotland with heavy rainfall, causing a surge in flooding problems. In Edinburgh, throughout early January, powerful winds may have shelved some of your plans to renovate your homes, leaving many New Year's resolutions unfulfilled. Volatile weather is expected across the early months of the year, meaning domestic redecorations may have to be arranged. [Self-storage space](#) for furniture and household items may be forced by flooding or required just to get those home improvements done on time and on budget.

For those of you who periodically organise and reorganise individual rooms, purge overstocked wardrobes and cupboards of unused clutter, look no further than self storage at Len Lothian. Spacious, sturdy and dry, Len Lothian Store & More's [Edinburgh storage units](#) are manufactured from galvanised steel and protect the condition of belongings during DIY projects and interior facelifts.

Furniture sheltered inside a secure storage unit could help to ensure the project does not go awry. Inside a storage room, fixtures and fittings will avoid any surface damage or accumulation of moisture and mould, the likely fate for furniture which is temporarily shunted into a basement or garage.

 Avoid a collection of dust and unavoidable debris from building work by transporting your cherished possessions into safe storage rooms near your home. Len Lothian possess

three storage facilities around Edinburgh, with the Granton branch situated near the Leith area and the Sighthill and Calder Road facilities located just a short distance from the Edinburgh City Bypass.

The usefulness of self-storage becomes obvious in the flexibility of the service. Pack away your belongings for a short period, or save space over a longer period. Quick completion of work can be achieved by renting storage space, reducing costs and transforming your home more quickly and easily.

Len Lothian Store & More specialise in the accommodation of self-storage space for all scale overhauls, expansions, and refurbishments. Large warehouses and smaller storage rooms can house corporate goods, archive files and personal possessions of any size.

Whether you are planning a home makeover or undertaking a renovation of the magnitude of proposed developments to Glasgow's Queen Street Station, Len Lothian have experience in handling a range of storage requirements.

Featured article

UK Government bid to reduce long term sick-leave



The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) are to introduce health assessments for Scots who are absent from work for over

a month.

The announcement [follows the publication of DWP figures earlier today](#) showing that around 95,000 Scots took four weeks or more of sick-leave each year between October 2010 and September 2013.

The Health and Work Service scheme, which will not be mandatory, is intended to assist people back to work after an accident or illness.

Employers or doctors will be able to refer staff who have been off work for more than four weeks to the scheme. Doctors will work with the employee and employer to create a “return to work” plan.

This will include a timetable, advice and signposting to appropriate help and services available.

Minister of State for Work and Pensions Mike Penning said:- “As part of the government’s long-term economic plan, we are taking action to improve getting people back into work.

“This is a triple win. It will mean more people with a job, reduced cost for business, and a more financially secure future for Britain.”

The scheme will be funded by cutting the Statutory Sick Pay Percentage Threshold Scheme (SSPPTS) – which compensates employers who are paying the wages of absent staff – leading to fears that businesses may be left out of pocket when employees have an accident.

Colin Borland, head of external affairs at the Federation of Small Businesses Scotland told The Edinburgh Reporter:- “I’m slightly sceptical about scrapping the SSPPTS.

“While I accept the government’s logic that they want fewer days lost to sickness, how does this help an individual small business that has an employee who breaks their leg

playing football at the weekend or has a heart attack?

“The government might argue that not many people benefit from the SSPPTS, but the impact of an absence on a small business can be very significant. Losing just one staff member for a month in a business that has only two employees is halving their workforce.”

However, the DWP say that any financial losses will be offset by an overall reduction in lost working days.

Meanwhile, the DWP’s treatment of those receiving disability benefits faced further criticism this afternoon, following a report in today’s Daily Record that nearly 10,000 sick and disabled Scots were incorrectly told they were fit for work.

The figures show that 43% of people who were judged fit for work during their Work Capability Assessment – a test administered by the DWP – were later shown to be too unwell on appeal.

Aberdeen Central MSP Kevin Stewart, a member of the Scottish Parliament’s Welfare Reform Committee, said:-

“As well as the obvious human cost of these system failures, it is staggering that the DWP’s system manages to get things so badly wrong – at a cost of £66m to the taxpayer to manage the appeals process.

“It’s clear that the DWP’s Work Capability Assessment process is not fit for purpose.”

Anti cuts campaigners want council to honour pledges



The most vulnerable people in Edinburgh, the elderly and schoolchildren are among those who would be badly affected if the City Council goes ahead with its 2014-2015 budget proposals on 13 February, say local campaigners who will be lobbying the budget meeting later this week.

Edinburgh East Save Our Services, along with other community groups and trade unions, will demonstrate at the City Chambers from 8.30am on Thursday to urge the SNP/Labour coalition council to drop its austerity plans, which campaigners fear will devastate already hard-hit local services and target local people already suffering under the Westminster government's benefit cuts. Councillors will be discussing 'savings' of £36 million in the next year alone, resulting in increased care costs for the elderly and disabled; reduced provision for disabled people; increase in class sizes; and the closure of school libraries.


Costs will also be saved, say the council, in more competitive procurement of outsourced services, but campaigners argue this will only result in even lower wages and worse conditions for staff of council-funded organisations. It is estimated that these workers will see a 25 per cent drop in their wages by 2018.

Anti-cuts campaigners are asking councillors to honour their pledge when they came into office in 2012 to reduce poverty and improve services in the city. They will be urging them in particular to stand by their moral duty to defend the vulnerable and to consider other ways of making savings, such as reviewing the salaries of their top earners; revisiting the

higher levels of the council tax; rescheduling the repayment of interest on PFI contracts; and imposing a tourist tax on city hotels and businesses.

[More information from the group's website.](#)

Volunteers needed for Commonwealth Games opening and closing ceremonies

 ***Want to be a volunteer at the Commonwealth Games? Then you have until Friday to apply.***

A £200,000 funding package has been unveiled to support members of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies Volunteer Cast at the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Around 3,000 enthusiastic and talented cast members are required for the Ceremonies, to be held at Celtic Park and Hampden, Scotland's National Stadium, which will be seen by live audiences of more than 40,000 people and a potential global television audience of more than one billion.

Financial support to assist with costs will be made available to successful cast members and will be targeted to assist participation in the ceremonies by those facing challenges meeting costs including independent living support, carer costs, childcare, travel to Glasgow and ensure that they can complete their experience.

The mass cast recruitment for the ceremonies which herald the start and finish of Glasgow and Scotland's biggest-ever festival of sport and culture will close on 14 February 2014.

For further information about [how to apply to be part of the cast and for an online application form click here.](#)

The funding will be independently administered by Volunteer Scotland and Voluntary Arts Scotland which has developed detailed application criteria. For further information please contact info@volunteersupportpot.org.uk

Part of the fund will also ensure supported cast members can take their once in a lifetime experience back to their communities through a unique volunteer cast outplacement which will help cast members to use their new skills.

Whilst the content of the Ceremonies is being kept under wraps for now, spectators are being promised two evenings of delight and surprise which proudly and playfully reflect the culture of Glasgow and Scotland in a warm, welcoming way.

You could be part of Glasgow 2014's big moments on a global stage if you are:

- Aged 18 or over by 1 March 2014
- Available to attend auditions in Glasgow
- Available to rehearse and attend the performances

Eileen Gallagher, Independent Director on the Glasgow 2014 Board and Chair of the Ceremonies, Culture and Queen's Baton Relay Committee said:

"The Opening and Closing ceremonies will be a celebration of Glasgow and Scotland and we want to draw on the enthusiasm and passion in every community for our 3,000 cast members. The financial support now available to people who may otherwise have been deterred by costs associated with the rehearsals will give everyone the opportunity to put themselves forward for this once in a lifetime opportunity to be part of the Ceremonies Cast and an experience which will live with them forever."

George Thomson, Chief Executive of Volunteer Scotland, said:

“At Volunteer Scotland we are passionate about the importance of valuing volunteers and the 2014 Commonwealth Games is a fantastic opportunity to do that. We are delighted to be supporting the Ceremonies Cast along with the clyde-siders, who will be vital to the success of the Games. We want to create a lasting legacy for the 2014 Games through the development of a new generation of volunteering in Scotland.”

There are a limited number of tickets still available for the Opening Ceremony. For details go to www.glasgow2014.com or call 0844 826 2014

The Opening & Closing Ceremonies of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games are being created and produced on behalf of Glasgow 2014 by Jack Morton Worldwide who also created the Ceremonies for Manchester Commonwealth Games in 2002 and Melbourne Commonwealth Games in 2006. They are the team behind some of the most high profile and critically acclaimed ceremonies on four continents – including Athens 2004 Olympic Ceremonies and the South Africa 2010 FIFA World Cup Ceremonies.

The A to Z of Not Feeling Very Well



Our old man of Leith, Mike Smith, is not one for complaining about being unwell, much...

Here's his A to Z of not feeling very well. If you recognise

the majority of these symptoms, you may need as much help as he does...

A is for arthritis;

B's the bad back,

C is the chest pains, perhaps cardiac?

D is for dental decay and decline,

E is for eyesight, can't read that top line

F is for fissures and fluid retention,

G is for gas which I'd rather not mention.

H high blood pressure-I'd rather it was low;

I for incisions with scars you can show.

J is for joints, out of socket, won't mend,

K is for knees that crack when they bend.

L's for libido, what happened to sex?

M is for memory, I forget what comes next.

N is neuralgia, in nerves way down low;

O is for osteo, bones that don't grow

P for prescriptions, I have quite a few,

just give me a pill and I'll be good as new

Q is for queasy, is it fatal or flu?

R is for reflux, one meal turns to two.

S is for sleepless nights, counting my fears,

T is for Tinnitus; bells in my ears

U is for urinary; troubles with flow;

V for vertigo, that's 'dizzy,' you know.

W for worry, now what's going round?

X is for X ray and what might be found.

Y for another year I'm left here behind,

Z is for zest I still have in my mind.

I've survived all the symptoms, my body's deployed and I'm keeping twenty-six doctors fully employed...

Glenmorangie Annual Lecture by Turner Prize nominee



Artist Cornelia Parker to Deliver Glenmorangie Annual Lecture

Turner Prize-nominated sculptor and installation artist Cornelia Parker will deliver the Glenmorangie Annual Lecture on 13 February 2014 at the National Museum of Scotland.

In her lecture, Parker will explore her ideas of reverse archaeology and playing with time, and her on-going series of fractured, unmade and 'Avoided' objects. Through her art Parker resurrects destroyed objects, allowing the viewer to reassess their worth, just as archaeologists do when re-examining found objects.

The Glenmorangie Annual Lecture forms part of the Glenmorangie Research Project. Since 2008 this award-winning partnership between The Glenmorangie Company and National Museums Scotland has been generating exciting new research into Early Medieval Scotland and furthering understanding of Scotland's early people.

Mhairi Maxwell, Glenmorangie Research Officer, National Museums Scotland, said: -*"We are delighted that Cornelia Parker is delivering this year's Glenmorangie Lecture at the National Museum of Scotland. Strong themes explored throughout*

Cornelia's work are the fragmentation and destruction of objects, their subsequent power as relics and ability to be re-born, which closely mirror our own work during the Glenmorangie Research Project into Early Medieval Scotland. This is a thrilling opportunity to hear Cornelia speak about her internationally acclaimed work."

Parker's work can be found in collections across the world, including the British Museum, Tate Modern, MOMA New York and Pompidou Centre Paris. Renowned pieces include *Cold Dark Matter: An Exploded View* (1991, London, Tate) for which Parker exploded a garden shed, together with the British Army. The fragments of shed were reassembled and suspended in mid-air, challenging viewers to assess the worth of destroyed and resurrected objects.

Hamish Torrie, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility, The Glenmorangie Company, said:- *"With National Museums Scotland, we created The Glenmorangie Research Project in order to produce some really exciting developments together. The Annual Lecture is a highlight of this project and we are looking forward to playing our part in welcoming Cornelia Parker to the National Museum and learning more about her acclaimed work."*

Attendees are invited to enjoy a complimentary glass of Glenmorangie Original when doors open at 18.15, courtesy of The Glenmorangie Company. The Annual Lecture takes place in the Auditorium and entry is via the National Museum's Lothian Street entrance.

Tickets cost £6, or £5 for members and concessions. Tickets can be booked online and by calling 0300 123 6789.

Thursday 13 February 2014, 7pm

National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh

Further information on The Glenmorangie Research Project can

be found at www.nms.ac.uk/glenmorangie.

Give an hour of your time to Marie Curie Cancer Care next month



Would you like to help out – then become a volunteer collector!

Marie Curie Cancer Care is appealing for people in Edinburgh to donate an hour of their time this March to collect for the charity's annual [Great Daffodil Appeal](#).

The appeal is Marie Curie's biggest fundraiser, which encourages everyone to give a donation and wear a daffodil pin in March.

The charity needs volunteer collectors to encourage people in the local community to wear a daffodil pin and give a donation. The money raised will help Marie Curie Nurses to provide more free care to local people with terminal illnesses in their own homes and in the Marie Curie Hospice, Edinburgh.

Fiona Bushby, Community Fundraiser for Marie Curie Cancer Care in Edinburgh said: "We need over 400 people from Edinburgh to help with our collections this March. Donating just one or two hours of your time to the appeal will allow Marie Curie Nurses to provide more free care to terminally ill people and their families at the time when they most need support."

As well as local volunteer collectors, Marie Curie will be supported by the Lions Clubs of the British Isles and Ireland in March, with hundreds of collections being held by Lions Club members across the country on behalf of the charity.

To volunteer to collect for Marie Curie Cancer Care and support the Great Daffodil Appeal call 0845 601 3107 or visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil.

Ice Hockey – Edinburgh Capitals v Braehead Clan

Lapse of concentration costs the Capitals at Murrayfield.



Two played ten as Braehead Clan visited Murrayfield in the latest round of the Elite Ice Hockey League. With just a few games left, the Capitals saw the opportunity to gain a play-off spot by climbing to eighth disappear in a moment of “What the ...!” on Sunday night.

The first three-quarters of the first period were a fairly evenly matched contest with Edinburgh probably belying their league position and more than holding their own against the Clan. But it all went wrong in the fifteenth minute as 64, Joel Champagne (assists – 23, 5) finished off a period of sustained pressure on the Capitals’ goal with a short range effort which found a gap in the ‘keepers defence. A minute later, they were on the scoreboard again with a longer range strike from 19, Neil Trim (assists – 6, 25) which flew past the slightly unsighted Hiadlovsky and into the back of the net. The remaining five minutes of the period favoured the

visitors, but the period ended with no further scoring, 2-0 to the Clan.

Whatever some coaches can conjure up at a play break seemed to come into effect as the second period largely belonged to the Capitals with three goals to the Clan's zero to take a 3-2 lead into the third. The first was a Powerplay success in the fifth minute, with 14, Daniel MacIntyre slipping in between Trim and the Clan 'keeper, Will, to stick the puck in the back of the open goal. The second goal was fired in by 11, Curtis Leinweber (assists – 13, 29) past the 'keeper's right shoulder for the Capitals equaliser. Two minutes later, Leinweber (assists – 43, 36) was on the scorecard again with the Capitals' third to take the lead for the first time on the night. The Clan piled on the pressure, forcing Hiadlovsky to make a couple of decent saves, but they couldn't add to their tally and the period ended 3-2 to Edinburgh.



The Clan did most of the pressing early in the third period, but neither team could make any headway, Until, in the 50th minute, Edinburgh's hopes were raised when Clan's 22, Chris Frank, was ejected from the game for an 'over enthusiastic' disagreement with the officials. At this point, the Capitals had a five on three opportunity to go further ahead, but the blew the chance and the final minute of the game ticked over. Unfortunately, it was to be a fatal final minute for Edinburgh's chance to take their first win in 11 matches when a lapse in concentration by one of the defenders and the 'keeper left the Clan's Ed McGrane with the puck in front of the goal. 48 seconds left, 'Bang', goal, game gone...?

Despite a huge amount of pressure by the Capitals in the final seconds, and during the ensuing overtime period, with the score remaining at 3-3, the match went to penalties. And it

was the Clan who took the shootout 2-1 and, as a result, went home with the extra point having picked the pocket of the home side and, more or less, stolen the game.

So, a salutary lesson in 'It's never over 'til it's over' for the Capitals as they enter the final throes of the season with all chances of a play-off place having evaporated in that brief moment of 'Oh, no...!'

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


Valentine date idea #1 – Vegas comes to Edinburgh this weekend



Looking for somewhere to go on that Valentine date? Still time to get tickets for The Rat Pack Vegas Spectacular Show at the Playhouse this weekend.

It's fun all the way as the "Purveyors of Cool" swing into **EDINBURGH – Playhouse on Saturday 15th February 2014 (for both a matinee & evening performance)** with a sensational show featuring the greatest music of the 20th century.

Wonderful memories of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin & Sammy Davis Junior in a fabulous production that continues to be successful all over the world.

 The great news is – it's all totally live and every song is

an absolute classic – Come Fly With Me, Under My Skin, Mr Bojangles, Lady Is A Tramp, That's Amore, Mack The Knife plus many more of your favourites.

With an abundance of class & style they take you on a trip back in time to vintage Las Vegas; hip, cool and a with their timeless soiree that still remains the hottest party around.

The BBC summed up this show in just one word – MAGNIFICENT!

Tickets are available from:

EDINBURGH – Playhouse, 18-22 Greenside Place, Edinburgh EH1 3AA

Box Office No: 0207 091 8873 or 0844 871 3014

or from the following website – <http://www.atgtickets.com/shows/the-rat-pack-vegas-spectacular-show/edinburgh-playhouse/>

Stockbridge Restaurant one of the most romantic in the UK



Valentine's Day approaches and one of our Edinburgh restaurants features among a prestigious list!

With the most romantic day of the year rapidly approaching, [toptable](#), the leading consumer destination site for restaurant bookings in the UK, along with its parent company, [OpenTable](#) (NASDAQ: OPEN), have revealed the 2014 Diners' Choice winners for the Top 20 Most Romantic Restaurants in the UK. These awards reflect the combined opinions of more than 300,000 restaurant reviews submitted by verified toptable diners for approximately 4,000 restaurants across the UK.

"Diners can be certain that romance is always on the menu at each of these winning restaurants," said toptable Head of Restaurant Relations, Lucy Taylor.

"When it comes to Valentine's Day, the top restaurants fill up quickly so it is always best to book early. However, many diners still wait until the last minute and plenty of availability can be found on toptable in our round-up of [Valentine's day specials](#)," she added.

The Diners' Choice awards for the Top 20 Most Romantic Restaurants in the UK are generated from more than 300,000 restaurant reviews collected from verified toptable diners from January to December 2013. All restaurants with a minimum number of qualifying reviews were included for consideration. Qualifying restaurants were then sorted according to a score calculated from each restaurant's average rating in the "romantic" category along with a minimum "overall" rating.

Based on this methodology, the following restaurants, listed in alphabetical order, comprise the Top 20 Most Romantic Restaurants in the UK according to toptable diners.

[The Stockbridge Restaurant](#) – Edinburgh

Others on the list include:-

[Anderson's Bar & Grill](#) – Birmingham
[Aqua Eight](#) – Ipswich
[Bingham](#) – London, Richmond
[Bohemia Restaurant at the Club Hotel & Spa](#) – Jersey
[Boundary Restaurant](#) – London, Shoreditch
[Clos Maggiore](#) – London, Covent Garden
[Gauthier Soho](#) – London, Soho
[Kendell's Bistro](#) – Leeds
[Launceston Place](#) – London, Kensington
[Les Trois Garçons](#) – London, Shoreditch
[Maiyango](#) – Leicester
[Petrus](#) – London, Belgravia
[Quantus Restaurant & Bar](#) – London, Chiswick
[Restaurant Gordon Ramsay](#) – London, Chelsea
[Stovell's](#) – Surrey
[Tartufo](#) – London, Chelsea
[The Barn Restaurant](#) – Gillingham
[The Oval Restaurant at The Wellesley London](#) – London, Knightsbridge
[Upstairs at the Grill](#) – Chester

Nominate your favourite Edinburgh school or teacher for an award

DEADLINE APPROACHES TO NOMINATE EDINBURGH EDUCATION STARS

**Last chance to submit nominations for Scottish Education
Awards 2014**

Edinburgh residents are being urged to submit nominations for
the Scottish Education Awards 2014 before the

deadline on **Friday 21 February 2014.**

The awards, which celebrate the achievements of schools and teachers across Scotland, have attracted hundreds of nominations so far but many more schools and individuals are worthy of acknowledgment.

Last year, Prospect Bank School won the Learning Through Technology Award at the Scottish Education Awards 2013.

✖ Councillor Paul Godzik, City of Edinburgh Council Education Convener, said: “We have a wealth of talented teachers working in great schools in the capital which was shown last year by Prospect Bank School winning one of the top awards and Edinburgh having three other finalists.

“Each school has its own projects and successes involving both pupils and teachers and it would be great for as many of these to be recognised nationally at this year’s Scottish Education Awards. I would encourage people in Edinburgh to come forward and nominate the people, schools and projects that have made a difference to education in their local communities.”

The awards are open to all publicly funded schools, including secondary, primary, nursery and special schools. There are also categories to recognise and reward the dedication of teachers, head-teachers and support staff across Scotland.

For further information and to make a nomination visit www.scottisheducationawards.org.uk.

Categories at this year’s Scottish Education Awards include:

- *Commonwealth Games Legacy Award – recognises establishments that have developed opportunities for learners to be involved in developing global citizenship around the Commonwealth Games programmes.*
- *Education Supporter of the Year – those within the establishment setting that support children, young*

people, staff and the life of the school and wider community.

- Enterprise and Employability Across Learning Award (Secondary) – recognises the establishments that are helping children and young people develop the necessary skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work, essential to Curriculum for Excellence.
- Global Citizenship Award – recognises the achievements of establishments that have adopted a whole school approach to global citizenship.
- Health and Wellbeing Award – recognises establishments that are developing a holistic approach to health and wellbeing of children and young people.
- Learning and the Technologies Award – recognises establishments who are innovative in their use of technology and maximise the potential of information, communications and other technologies, including Glow, to support effective learning and teaching.
- Parents as Partners in Learning Award – recognises the important role that parents play in education, in establishments, in their local area, nationally and in individual children's learning.
- Teacher of the Year – teachers who are bringing learning to life by engaging and inspiring all children and young people to fulfil their potential.
- Creative Learning Award – recognises the achievements of establishments which promote creativity for pupils and staff.
- Enterprise and Employability Across Learning Award (Primary and Early Years) – recognises the establishments that are helping children and young people develop the necessary skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work, essential to learning and education under Curriculum for Excellence.
- Gaelic Education Award – recognises establishments who are providing opportunities for all children to develop fluency in the Gaelic language and culture.

- *Headteacher of the Year – headteachers that provide inspirational leadership, who motivate and involve staff, children and young people across the school, bringing learning to life, and inspiring all to fulfil their potential.*
 - *Innovation in Literacy and Numeracy Teaching Practice – recognises establishments who are innovative in their approach to literacy and numeracy.*
 - *Lifetime Achievement – open to all qualified teachers and headteachers approaching the end of their careers, and aims to recognise their work in providing leadership and commitment for colleagues, the establishment and the wider community throughout their education career.*
 - *Sustainable Schools Award – recognises the achievements of establishments that have adopted a whole school approach to sustainable development education and environmental awareness.*
-

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



Forth Crossing – Hopetoun House – FOMBL meeting – First World War in Scotland – Pop up at the Caledonian

Wondering how the new Forth Crossing is coming along?

The north tower of the new Forth bridge rises above its caisson. Workboat Tracey S approaches.

pic.twitter.com/lE3wFbfHnw Pic: [@BrianDonovan2](https://twitter.com/BrianDonovan2)

– The New Forth Bridge (@NewForthBridge) [February 9, 2014](#)

Now who can remember the name given to the new structure....? It was revealed in summer 2013 when the First Minister announced it after a public vote which attracted entries from almost 40,000 people. The bridge is due for completion by the end of 2016 and is to cost between £1.45 to £1.6bn.

The Queensferry Crossing will be just under 3 km long and will be designated as a motorway, thus no cyclists will be allowed on the roadway. It will have two general lanes with hard shoulders and there will be wind shielding which ought to protect traffic more from the effects of high winds than the Forth Road Bridge.

The Forth Bridges Festival which takes place later this year will celebrate 50 years since the Forth Road Bridge was opened by the Queen in 1964.



Our main photo today shows Princes Street Gardens getting a makeover two years ago. Meanwhile, out at Hopetoun House they have a fine garden, but it is the wild part you are invited to visit next weekend.

“With the grounds not officially open until Easter, this is a special one off walk before the season starts. As part of the Scottish Snowdrop Festival join our Ranger as we explore Hopetoun’s Grounds and witness the beautiful, white carpet of snowdrops on the woodland floor.

Grounds Open 10.30am-4pm

Grounds admission Charge is £4.25 adults, £2.50 children

The Guided Walk takes place from 2pm – 3.30pm and is free with admission charge. Booking Required.

Meet at the Car Park

The Stables Tearoom will be open for a cosy stopping point after your walk. Tea, coffee and a selection of traybakes as well as lovely homemade soup and sandwiches will be available from 10.30am – 4.00 pm. Make sure you pop in to experience some of our famous home-baking.

Booking is required for this walk. Please call our ranger team on 0131 319 3956 or email ranger@hopetoun.co.uk to secure your place.

This Project is supported by Scottish Natural Heritage."

[More details on the Hopetoun website.](#)

The next newsletter for the Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links has now been published, and can be found on the FoMBL website [here](#).

The Friends of Meadows and Bruntsfield Links say:-“Also on the website is notice of our next public meeting, which is to be held on Monday 24 February in the Pillar Hall, Barclay Viewforth Church, starting at 7.30 pm. Our speaker will be Steven Webley, CEC Forestry Manager, who will speak on “Trees in the City”. We had hoped to hear Steven at our Autumn meeting, but at the last minute he was unable to come. Refreshments will be served before the meeting. All are welcome.

Can we also draw your attention to the CEC Consultation on Events in Parks. If you are at all concerned about the damage done each year to a certain section of the Meadows, then please complete the online survey which you will find [here](#).”

Hundreds of sites and structures established for the defence of Scotland in the First World War are explored in an extensive audit of the conflict's built heritage, [just published on the RCAHMS, Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments in Scotland's website](#). It reveals previously unknown details of many aspects of our wartime

heritage, including top secret anti-invasion defences prepared around Edinburgh in case of enemy attack.

The audit, commissioned by RCAHMS and Historic Scotland, has unearthed an enormous amount of new and additional information, allowing the records of 830 buildings and places to be created or updated – more than double the number expected at the outset.

You can view all of the records on the Canmore database and they include improved selections of images of air stations, hospitals and prisoner of war camps all over Scotland. There are images of Redford Barracks which is of course still in operation despite warnings as to its closure by the Ministry of Defence.

Allan Kilpatrick of RCAHMS said:- 'Scotland was on the front line during WWI. St Kilda was bombarded by a German U-boat and Edinburgh was bombed by a Zeppelin. The naval bases on the Forth, Cromarty and Scapa Flow were essential to protect Britain's navy and her shipping. Large parts of the landscape were transformed by structures designed to repel any invasion or attack, and it is remarkable just how many WWI remains can be still be seen today. Having these records online and in one place, provides a perfect starting point for further study.'





Hurry to catch the last few days of the Dunmore Scotland pop-up shop which is at The Caledonian, A Waldorf Astoria Hotel at Edinburgh's West End this week (excluding Wednesday & Thursday).

The pop up shop is on the ground floor of the hotel, through reception.

Friday 7 February – Sunday 16 February (excluding 12th and 13th)

10am – 6.30pm daily

The Caledonian, A Waldorf Astoria Hotel, Princes Street, Edinburgh

10% of sales will be donated to Maggie's Centre.

The Edinburgh Reporter's Weekly Sports Roundup



Sad news from Murrayfield on Saturday. A 60-year-old supporter, who was watching the Scotland v England match with

a group of friends, took ill. Paramedics were quickly on the scene and the supporter was transferred by ambulance to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary where he was pronounced dead.

Scottish Rugby Union President Donald Macleod said: "We are extremely saddened to hear of the death of a supporter who attended today's Calcutta Cup match.

"We extend our deepest sympathy to the gentleman's family and friends and we are standing-by to support in any way we can."

RFU President Bob Reeves said: "The rugby family has lost one of its members and on behalf of all the travelling England fans and the RFU we extend our condolences to the gentleman's relations and all those who knew him."

The Edinburgh Reporter also sends out condolences to the man's friends and family.

Rugby by John Preece

There was only one club match in the top divisions this weekend, that between Boroughmuir and Selkirk. Boroughmuir had to win to ensure that they guaranteed a place in the Premiership next season, regardless of the remaining results. And this they did, but with a slightly less comfortable margin than might have been predicted at the mid-season point when they were flying. They won 20-17 at Meggetland which gives them an unassailable lead at the top with two games left. Watsonians would need to win their last three games with a bonus point to draw level, but that would be a big ask for the Myreside team.

Edinburgh Rugby were scheduled to play at Rodney Parade against Newport-Gwent Dragons, but that match was called off due to a waterlogged pitch.

On the international scene, England delivered a whitewash against all three Scottish sides over the three days. The

outcomes of the U20 and Senior matches can be mulled over in the main Sports section and really don't bear repeating to any great degree here. So, in the best traditions, if you don't want to know the details, look away now....

U20's were beaten 48-15 in, despite the score, an unexpectedly decent match in Gala and the Senior team should have been slaughtered by England at Murrayfield, but were let off the hook to the tune of 20-0.

The women were playing their counterparts in Aberdeen – England fielding a vastly different team, with 13 changes, to the one that lost in France – on Sunday. The match went the way of England, as expected, with a fairly comprehensive victory over the Scottish women. 29-0 ahead at half time, they were not especially worried by the Scots, who a missed penalty chance in the 22, and they went on to take the match 63-0.

This leaves all three teams at the foot of their respective tables with a grand total of zero points between them after six matches. Oh, well....

Football

Hibs dismal Scottish Cup record continues for yet another season following a surprise 3-2 home defeat to Championship side Raith Rovers.

The Kirkcaldy team arrived at Easter Road having lost their previous five games without scoring a goal, but that statistic changed in the 6th minute thanks to a goal from Kevin Moon. Sam Stanton equalised eight minutes later with his first goal for the club. Dougie Hill restored Rovers' lead before Michael Nelson made it 2-2 just before half time.

Grant Anderson grabbed what turned out to be the winner in the 62nd minute.



Afterwards Terry Butcher said: "I'm bitterly disappointed because we didn't deserve anything from our performance today, so fair play to Raith Rovers and I want to congratulate them for their display. They rubbished us at the back, they won second balls, they passed it well and stopped us from gaining any sort of momentum.

"I just can't believe we've turned in a display like that. We worked so hard through the week to try and win the game. It's unbelievable.

"We showed a bit of character to get back twice and you're thinking let us score the next one and we'll see if they can come back, but second half they seemed to get a grip. We couldn't get anything going; we couldn't get the wide players on the ball.

"I felt sorry for Duncan Watmore and Sam Stanton. I thought those two were great but the rest were very poor.

"We conceded three unbelievably poor goals which were disasters from our point of view. There's a lot of work to be done so what team I put out next week is anybody's guess because every position is up for grabs and I mean up for grabs.

"With the history that Hibs has with the Scottish Cup, we've let the fans down badly today."

Hearts had a free weekend having been knocked out of the competition by Celtic.

The Scottish Sun Lowland Football League.

Keith McLeod's sensational run of scoring in 14 consecutive games came to an end yesterday following Spartans' 0-0 draw at home to East Kilbride. Keith's run of 14 is now a joint British record with Evelyn Morrison who achieve the same number of consecutive games with Falkirk during their 1928/29

season.

After yesterday's match, Keith was also awarded with the Colin Campbell player of the month award for January. It means Keith wins the award for the third time in a row, and remains the only player to have ever been awarded it!

Speaking after the game, Keith told the club website: "I'm delighted to have picked up the player of the month award again. There are a lot of quality players in this division so have won this three times, really is an honour. I'm actually surprised to have won it again, perhaps I've been aided by the fact that at times in January we were one of the only teams to be playing every week!"

On the subject of his consecutive run coming to an end, Keith added: "I'm really proud that I've been able to equal an 85 year record and obviously it would have been nice to have kept it going, however my number one goal is for us to lift the Lowland League and to do that we need to win every game. It's disappointing to drop two points today, however it could still be a vital point gained come the end of the season. A few people have asked if the record run coming to an end means that I've got that 'monkey off my back' however the only pressure I've ever felt under is to do what I can for the team so we can continue winning."

Keith has had a sensational season so far, scoring 23 goals this season. Since joining Spartans from Civil Service Strollers in 2002, Keith has scored an incredible 267 goals in 385 appearances.

Spartans 0-0 East Kilbride

Edinburgh City 2-1 Dalbeattie Star

Gala Fairydean Rovers 1-4 University of Stirling

Gretna 2008 0-3 Threave Rovers

Preston Athletic 3-1 Selkirk

Vale of Leithen P Whitehill Welfare

Central Taxis East of Scotland League First Division

Burntisland Shipyard 1-0 Ormiston

Qualifying League Group A

Eyemouth United 1-1 Civil Service Strollers

Tynecastle 4-1 Kelso United

Qualifying League Group B

Edinburgh University 2-0 Hawick Royal Albert

Stirling University P-P Duns

Qualifying League Group C

Craigroyston 1-2 Hibernian EOS

Heriot-Watt University 2-2 Leith Athletic

Qualifying League Group D

Coldstream 4-2 Easthouses Lily MW

Spartans EOS 5-0 Peebles Rovers

Women's Football

Hibs Ladies beat Hearts Ladies 8-2 in a pre-season friendly at Peffermill with the goals coming from Lizzie Arnott (3), Susan Fairlie, Kirstie Smith, Ellis Jenkins, Rachael Walkingshaw and Katey Turner.



Ice Hockey by John Preece

With only one game this weekend, against second place Braehead Clan, the Edinburgh Capitals could have a chance to draw breath and see if they could get their act together to, at least, finish the season on a high. This chance occurred on Sunday night at Murrayfield. Braehead finished the first period 2-0 ahead, but were not as dominant as their league position would have suggested. To emphasise their lack of dominance, Edinburgh hit back with three second period goals to take the lead going into the third. As full time drew near, a goalless third period hope was dashed as the Clan scored with seconds to go, while a man down, as the Capitals' defender and 'keeper had a bit of brain fade at the goal area and the puck was pounced on and stuck in the back of the net by a grateful attacker. A goalless overtime period meant the game would go to a penalty shoot-out, which the Clan took 2-1 to leave with the extra point.

Basketball

Dunfermline Reign SM 76-132 St Mirren West College
Scotland SM

Boroughmuir Blaze SM 64-78 Clark Eriksson Fury SM

Glasgow Storm 74-82 Troon Tornadoes SM

Glasgow Rocks SM 37-66 City of Edinburgh Kings SM

Stirling Knights SM 69-84 Glasgow University SM

Clark Eriksson Fury SW 64-78 City of Edinburgh Kool Kats
SW

Volleyball

Division One Men

Bon Accord 3 0 Dundee 25 – 22 25 – 21 25 – 14

City of Edinburgh 3 1 City of Glasgow Ragazzi 25 – 16 25 – 20

20 – 25 25 – 23

Edinburgh Jets 3 0 South Ayrshire 25 – 10 25 – 18 25 – 21

Beacon Fire 0 3 Glasgow Mets 9 – 25 26 – 28 15 – 25

Division One Women

Edinburgh Jets 3 0 QTS Kyle TA 25 – 10 25 – 16 25 – 14

Aberdonia 1 3 QTS Troon Team Ayrshire 8 – 25 26 – 24 19 – 25
12 – 25

City of Edinburgh 3 0 Su Ragazzi 25 – 14 25 – 22 26 – 24

North Lanarkshire 3 0 Edinburgh Jets II 25 – 9 25 – 20 25 – 16

Division Two East Men

City of Edinburgh II 3 1 NUVOC 25 – 12 24 – 26 25 – 22 25 – 10

Beacon Flame 0 3 Su Ragazzi II 4 – 25 14 – 25 8 – 25

Bellshill Cardinals 3 0 Edinburgh Jets II 25 – 11 25 – 13 25 –
21

Division Two Women

South Ayrshire 0 3 Su Ragazzi II 2 – 25 6 – 25 8 – 25

Glasgow International 2 3 Dundee 25 – 20 25 – 23 25 – 27 22 –
25 9 – 15

Photos by John Preece

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

Colinton Cottages offering sheltered accommodation



Colinton Cottages has sheltered accommodation for people of 65 and over

The cottages are situated in beautifully maintained gardens set between Redford Road and Thorburn Road in Colinton, Edinburgh. The complex consists of 41 cottages offering single and double accommodation with all the cottages having their own front door. The Society considers its' tenanted properties to be first stage sheltered housing accommodation.

Colinton Cottages are within walking distance of Colinton village and in easy reach of local shops. There is a good bus service into the city. On site there is a meeting hall which residents can use independently and where weekly activities are held for those interested. There is also a guest bedroom with en suite available for visitors.

The Cottage Homes are managed by a full time manager who is supported by a part time assistant and a full time gardener/handyman. All properties are linked to Hanover Telecare, who provide emergency assistance overnight and at weekends.

If you are resident in Scotland and aged 65 years or over then [you will get more information on the website](#) or contact the manager by email at office@colintoncottages.org or by phone on 0131 441 2502/2286. Your name can be placed on the waiting list before you reach the age of 65.

The Cottages are owned and managed by The Aged Christian Friend Society of Scotland which is registered with the Care Inspectorate and with the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR).

Re-living The Battle of Prestonpans



IT was in the gardens at Cockenzie House that the remnants of General Cope's army surrendered to the Jacobites on 21st September 1745, and so it was entirely appropriate that Arran Paul Johnston, author of Blood Stain'd Fields – The Battles of East Lothian, should on Sunday afternoon deliver an inspiring illustrated lecture entitled The Road to Defeat: Johnnie Cope's Last Campaign.

It is also entirely appropriate that The Battle of Prestonpans Tapestry should be on show at Cockenzie House over the coming months, give or take a mile from where the battle actually took place.

The theme continues on Friday 21st February with a Prestonpans Tapestry Film Night, 7.30pm to 9.30pm, a special showing of Stitches for Charlie, detailing the making of the Tapestry with lively animation bringing the images to life.

On Sunday 2nd March, from 4pm – 6pm, the artist Andrew Crummie will be giving a talk on how he created his iconic masterpiece.

All comers are also welcome to Cockenzie House on Sunday 23rd March 2014 from 11am until 4pm to witness Jacobites and Redcoats return to fight for Johnnie Cope's war chest. Presented by Allan Breck's Regiment this will be a fun day out

for all the family.

Submitted by [Roddy Martine](#)



At The Open Eye Gallery in February



At the Open Eye in February part of the works being exhibited will include paintings by Glen Scouller.

Scouller divides his time between Scotland and France. This exhibition of new landscapes explores the contrasts between the Western Isle of Colonsay to the region of Chamaret in southeastern France.

“The autumn and winter seasons are my favourite times for painting in France. It’s quieter then, with less tourists populating the hilltop and coastal villages plus the landscape takes on a more skeletal appearance with many of the trees and vines stripped of their leaves, making a more stark display against the dry Provençal soil.

For the past two years I have painted in the Drôme department of France mainly in and around the small village of Chamaret. In the autumn here the colours and light change from their summer intensity to softer hues. The skies are a paler, cooler blue. The trees are turning from green to gold and the air is filled with the aroma of garden bonfires, the main ingredient

being the heady mix of dried herbs and plants....truly intoxicating.

After this year's French trip I went straight to the island of Colonsay in the Hebrides, this was my first visit to the island and the landscape here couldn't have been a greater contrast with that of the south of France. As with France I much prefer the Scottish autumn/winter seasons for painting... I think the summer landscape just holds too much green for me.

On Colonsay the sky appears bigger with the Atlantic breeze making the cloud formations race across the landscape. This I found both challenging and exciting. One minute the sea and land would be lit by a burst of sunlight, a short time later it would be plunged into darkness by a sudden icy showerthis is the kind of challenge that someone like myself, who paints en plein air, enjoys painting in Scotland.

My only previous experiences of Colonsay were the landscapes of one of my tutors at the Glasgow School of Art, the late John Cunningham whose paintings of the raised beaches I had always admired for their immediacy and freshness. However I was pleasantly surprised to find that there is a lot more to the island than just it's dramatic coastline which Cunningham found so engaging. For its size, the island provides a large variety of natural habitats from woodland, moorland and peat bogs to cultivated farmland, meadows and rough pastures, in which can be found a wealth of indigenous plants that includes a number of rarities.

I was fortunate to stay in a cottage next to a beautiful secluded dense wood where plants and trees thrive in the warmth of the Gulf Stream. These included exotic palms, rare orchids and many other specimens plus the island is also a destination for numerous migratory birds which in turn makes it popular with ornithologists.

I feel I haven't started to scratch the surface of pictorial

possibilities on Colonsay and look forward to returning next spring to different painting challenges and a whole range of new seasonal contrasts.”

Glen Scouller, January 2014

Click below link for exhibition catalogue:

[Download Glen Scouller_Contrasts-Colonsay to Chamaret \(pdf\)](#)

Open Eye Gallery

34 Abercromby Place

Edinburgh EH3 6QE

Phone/Fax: 0131 557 1020

Phone: 0131 558 9872

Email: mail@openeyegallery.co.uk

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday 10am to 6pm

Saturday 10am to 4pm

Exhibition Colonsay to Chamaret from 24 February 2014

Rugby fan dies at Calcutta Cup game



A rugby fan died whilst watching the Calcutta Cup match between Scotland and England at Murrayfield Stadium yesterday.

A spokesman for Scottish Rugby said: “Scottish Rugby is

extremely saddened to learn of the death of a supporter attending today's Calcutta Cup match at Murrayfield.

"A 60-year-old supporter, who was watching the Scotland v England match with a group of friends, took ill.

"Paramedics were quickly on the scene and the supporter was transferred by ambulance to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary where he was pronounced dead."

Scottish Rugby Union President Donald Macleod said: "We are extremely saddened to hear of the death of a supporter who attended today's Calcutta Cup match.

"We extend our deepest sympathy to the gentleman's family and friends and we are standing-by to support in any way we can."

RFU President Bob Reeves said: "The rugby family has lost one of its members and on behalf of all the travelling England fans and the RFU we extend our condolences to the gentleman's relations and all those who knew him."

A statement from Police Scotland said: "Police Scotland can confirm that a 60-year-old man collapsed at Murrayfield Stadium at around 5:15pm today. He was taken to ERI where he was pronounced dead. Inquiries are still ongoing but it is believed there are no suspicious circumstances."

Rugby – Scotland v England

Poor Scotland lose in a miserable encounter at Murrayfield



Man-of-the-Match, Mike Brown takes the ball away from Scotland

Fans will feel cheated out of their ticket costs as Scotland and England played out a miserable match at Murrayfield. Scotland had no chance – and didn't look like they'd create one – of scoring a try and England could only hammer themselves to death against an, admittedly stoic, Scots' defence. Arguably, the 48-15 defeat in the U20 match the previous night was a closer game possession, territory and, crucially, skill wise. Pity about the scoreline....

England had the first chance to get points on the board when the first of many penalties is awarded for off-side. The normally reliable, Owen Farrell, stepped up but stuck his attempt wide, so a bit of a let off for the home side. However, following on from England winning another line out in the Scottish 22, finding his way blocked, Danny Care slotted home a neat drop kick from in front of the posts to put England ahead 3-0. Scotland then had, what was to be, a brief foray into England's half and won their own penalty out wide. Unfortunately, Greg Laidlaw didn't have enough in his boot to see the ball over and, what was to be, normal service was resumed.

Another couple of penalties were then given away by Scottish indiscipline, the second giving Farrell a chance to find touch deep inside the Scottish 22. England's Captain, Chris Robshaw, fed Care off the top of the line out and the scrum half then found Luther Burrell. With an almost clear run into the line, he swept past one flailing tackle, only to be grabbed round the ankles by Laidlaw. It all looked good, but his momentum, plus a bit of reach, meant that the centre just had to stretch a bit and the first try was on the board after 13 minutes of play (top). Farrell scored the conversion and it was 10-0 to England. Then straight from the kick off, Laidlaw was handed

another penalty chance, but it, unfortunately, went the same way as the first.

The next 15 minutes of the match were brightened up for the home spectators by another Farrell penalty miss, but the home side were doing nothing to lift the crowd. Lack of ability to break through the defence gave little option but to kick the ball away and allow England to set up more attacks. They had to be content with yet another penalty, however, and this one Farrell scored to make it 13-0 to the visitors. The half ended with Burrell, again fighting through the defence only to be, this time, pulled up short by Sean Lamont. The ref then blew up for time when the ball became trapped in the ensuing pile up with the score standing at 13-0 to England.

The second half was more of the same. Scotland appeared to be getting worse on the attacking front as the game progressed, with England just failing to deal the final blow on several occasions. Less than two minutes in to the half, however, after his umpteenth failed line-out throw, Ross Ford was cheered from the pitch – only exceeded in volume when Farrell missed yet another kick at goal – as the crowd seemed glad to get him off and replaced by Scott Lawson.

And so it continued. Penalty after penalty, missed pass after missed pass, etc until the ref had seen enough and carded Alex Dunbar for a breakdown infringement. This gave England the chance they needed and Mike Brown took full advantage of the missing man and went round the outside of the defence to score England's second try. With Farrell getting this kick, the score was 20-0 with just over 20 minutes of the match left. And it was a 20 minute period largely spent in the Scottish half, with just the occasional break to get the crowd going.

England, for their part, did 'the decent thing' and failed on numerous occasions to break down the Scots' defence. The game, thankfully, ended soon after to put everyone in the stadium out of their misery and just in time for the promised rain to fall and make a miserable afternoon even more so.

What can one say? It was a poor, poor match for an International fixture, with neither side doing themselves any justice whatsoever. Scotland appeared to have forgotten how to play, and England failed to find the killer touch to stick 50+ points on the scoreboard, which given the paucity of opposition, should have been well within their grasp. Summed up by one English supporter to his mates in the car park "I can't believe you guys made me pay to sit and watch that s***!" Succinctly put young man, succinctly put.....

A gallery of images from the match will appear [here](#) within the next few days. Whether anyone wishes to relive the agony is another question.

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



Hidden Door programme disclosed – Edinburgh Garden Partners – Today at The Filmhouse – Kitchen training at Edinburgh Community Cafes – NHS Lothian advice to pregnant women

Hidden Door is intriguing. It is a nine day spectacle of art,

music, theatre, cinema, bars and spoken word. The venue is Market Street vaults, disused until now. [So head over to the website](#) to find out more about this pop up arts event which is taking place at the end of March 2014 where you can now buy tickets.

[Edinburgh Garden Partners](#) is a charity set up in 2011 to run a garden share project which had already been running for about two years previously. The idea is that they pair up someone with a garden which they cannot manage to maintain with someone who wishes to do some gardening, but doesn't have a garden.

Simple idea which has been running in Liberton and Gilmerton as well as in the North and East of Edinburgh now.

If you would like to become a partner then you can [register your interest as a volunteer gardeners or garden owner here.](#)

The charity also runs some one-off sessions and you can join these SOS sessions to get a garden plot ready for someone. This is a team exercise which gets round those problems in gardens which can put off even the most experienced!

We very much want to see this film!

August Osage County is produced by George Clooney, stars our very own Ewan McGregor along with Meryl Streep, Julia Roberts and Benedict Cumberbatch (is there anything he is not in?) so you know already it could be a pretty good watch...

Here is a 'Live' Q & A with the producer and cast:-

It is showing today at the Filmhouse at 13.10 18.00 and 20.40.
The official trailer is below. If you fancy writing us a

quick review of this or any other film then we would love to hear from you! Email us at theedinburghreporter@gmail.com. Send us a 140 character review by Twitter or write a little more for us on Facebook. [Booking details for The Filmhouse here.](#)

We found this on the [Edinburgh Community Cafés' Facebook page.](#)

We have received a grant from the Community Food Fund to deliver free REHIS Food and Health training to café staff as well as give café staff the opportunity to take part in a cooking session with a chef.

*Following the free training events we will be celebrating by **holding a festival** where cafes taking part will put on an **event in their café during the first 2 weeks of April (1-14th)**.*

There will be training with a chef during the week beginning 17 February : the 3 sessions will be held **at Craigroyston Community High School 10-12pm (17th, 18th and 19th)**. Volunteers and staff are invited to attend 1 session during the week each.

NHS Lothian is encouraging women to make an appointment with a midwife as soon as they find out they're pregnant.

The message is part of a national drive to encourage the best start for pregnant women and their babies.

Pregnant women across Lothian are urged to book into their local maternity service before they reach twelve weeks of pregnancy in order to benefit from the full range of screening options and ensure their individual health needs are met.

New posters currently on display in GP surgeries, pharmacies and sexual health clinics in Lothian, encourage women to call a dedicated booking line on 0131 536 2009 to arrange an appointment with a midwife. Supporting leaflets also provide information on what to do next after finding out you're pregnant.

Frances McGuire, Clinical Midwifery Manager, NHS Lothian, said:

"We want to encourage women across Lothian to make an appointment with a midwife as soon as they find out they are pregnant in order to promote the health and wellbeing of mum and baby at the earliest possible stage.

"The foetus is most vulnerable during the first two trimesters of pregnancy, therefore an early meeting with one of our expert midwives ensures advice and support can be provided on lifestyle choices such as eating well, exercise, dental care, smoking and drinking."

More information and advice is also available on the NHS Lothian website – www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk/HealthInformation/Pregnancy

The Edinburgh Reporter interview – The Feeling



Indie rockers The Feeling returned with their fourth album, *Boy Cried Wolf*, last October and will commence a second

tour of the UK promoting the album next month. The Edinburgh Reporter spoke to bassist Rich ahead of their Liquid Room gig next month.

This is your first album away from Island Records – what's different?

It's different, there has been a lot more creative control over the album now with BMG as they pretty much allow us to do what we want. That's why the album was self-produced. This time we felt we could make a stronger album that way. It took us 18 months but it has been worth it in the end.

Your third album was unfortunately critically panned, especially by NME. Did the negativity in all of the reviews make you step up your game?

That NME review is hilarious. How can a publication be so vague about an album? No, it didn't really.

There has been a great critical response to the album, what have the fans thought about it?

They actually really dig it, they've always stuck by us and were even big fans of the last album even though it got those bad reviews. The fans are great, they are always telling us what they think of our material, it's really special.

You mentioned that your new album was self-produced and obviously you will feel more proud that it is wholly your work – was there a lot more pressure this time round?

Not at all, it was like going back to the first album when we produced it, although because we signed for Island Records that had to get to mixed and add overdubs. You get a lot more creative control when you are self-producing an album and nobody is dictating the sessions so you can sound exactly like you want to, and you don't have to worry about success as you already have some people coming to your shows and fans.

Were BMG quite lax?

They were, they just let us record the album in peace. When they signed us they said that they would just release it.

How do you think you are going to follow-up *Boy Cried Wolf* and when do you think it is going to happen?

We actually have some ideas floating around already which is quite exciting and it would be good to get the tracks laid down. It will probably happen after this tour or just before Summer. I don't know, we will have to see.

How does new material arise?

It usually starts with Dan sitting at a piano which can get a few ideas floating about or we start drinking which leads to us getting drunk and something fine might come out of that.

How are the new songs sounding in rehearsals?

The new songs are sounding great. We have already played a few of them during the last UK tour in October so it was really just nailing them for this tour.

Are you going to unveil any songs from the new album that you haven't played yet?

Em, possibly! I can't really answer that as of yet.

Some bands write a different setlist every night favouring in setlist variation. Have The Feeling ever considered changing up the setlist every night to get more out of your catalogue?

I know some bands do it, a lot of big bands mainly, but when you write a setlist, you have think if the fans are going to like some of the songs that you will play and it also needs to be consistent. Sometimes we will draft a couple of songs in but we don't really venture into that.

This is your first gig in Edinburgh, correct?

I'm not sure, we were here during the festival last year and saw some shows. That was great, but I think we've played Edinburgh before.

Are you looking forward to coming here and the whole tour?

Yeah, obviously it will be great to get out and play some shows again. We always love touring so yeah, very much looking forward to it.

Is there any differences in touring from seven years ago?

There are slight differences. We mainly drink single malt whisky now, at least one a show or nearly that.

Is there any festival appearances lined up this Summer – if so, which ones?

There were be a couple, some of which we cannot comment on at the moment but we are playing one in Scotland in Keswick. That will be good.

Your new single, 'Fall Like Rain' is out March 24th, is there going to be a b-side with a new song on it?

That is a good question. I don't know yet. Hopefully.

What do you think of your support act The Gentlemen?

We were looking for a support act and they came in contact. We listened to them, quite liked them and signed them up to the tour. I'm really looking forward to having them on tour and hanging out with them.

What modern music are you into at the moment?

I'm really into Bon Iver and I quite like the new Mogwai album. I bought that and put it on the car in Germany where we were doing some promotional things and it's great driving music.

The Feeling are playing Liquid Rooms on March 11th with support from The Gentlemen. Tickets can be purchased on [Ticketmaster](#) or all legitimate online ticket retailers and in-store at [Ticket-Scotland](#) on Rose Street. Tickets are £18.50, subject to service charge.

Football – Hibernian 2-3 Raith Rovers: Scottish Cup woe for lacklustre Hibs



Hibs twice came back from behind in a hard-fought Scottish Cup tie against Raith Rovers, but couldn't make it third time lucky as the Fife side went on to progress to the quarter-finals.

The home side got off to a horror start as Raith's Kevin Moon snatched a goal after only five minutes. Joe Cardle found it easy to skip past his marker and pick out his man, who calmly slotted home to send the Championship side into an early lead.

To Hibs' credit, the players didn't allow their heads to drop and instead looked to put pressure on Raith and search for an equaliser. Teenager Sam Stanton was in good form, but it was new signing Duncan Watmore, on loan from Sunderland, that really began to cause problems for the opposition's defence. The diminutive winger was direct and pacey, skipping past one player and then another with ease. His attacking play was rewarded early in the first half when he drew Callum Booth –

on loan at Raith from Hibs – into a foul at the edge of the box, winning himself a free-kick and earning Booth a yellow card.

The attempt from the resulting free-kick was blocked, earning Hibs a corner. When the ball broke to Stanton, the young midfielder made space for himself and unleashed a left-footed shot into the back of the net after thirteen minutes. The goal was Stanton's first for the club, and comes 37 years after the last Stanton scored for Hibs – Easter Road legend Pat.

Raith could have gone ahead again when a mix-up in defence gave Ross Callachan the chance to send a powerful shot towards goal, but it came thundering off the woodwork before Hibs were able to clear. Up the other end, Watmore continued with his trickery, offering Hibs a different dimension to their play as the 19-year-old ran at defenders. Greig Spence was the second Raith player to find himself booked as a result of bringing down Watmore.

A clash of heads between Jordon Forster and Reece Donaldson saw the Raith player come off worse, and he had to be stretchered off the pitch, replaced by former Hibs player Fraser Mullen.

Raith took the lead again just before half time in controversial circumstances. The linesman had raised his flag for offside before Raith player Dougie Hill latched onto a ball, smashing it high into the net of Hibs' keeper Ben Williams. Despite furious cries from the Hibs fans, the referee overruled the linesman's decision and allowed the goal to stand.

Despite, or perhaps because of, losing a goal in such circumstances, Hibs immediately went back on the attack. Five minutes of injury time were added on due to the lengthy delay at the head injury to Donaldson, but Hibs only needed one for their second equaliser of the game. A corner from Liam Craig

saw Michael Nelson demonstrate his power in the air, the centre-half nodding the ball into the back of the net to send both teams in at half time on equal terms.

Raith started the second half much brighter, and took the game to the home side. A double substitution for Hibs saw manager Terry Butcher replace James Collins and Alex Harris with Abdellah Zoubir and Notts County loan signing Danny Haynes in a bid to regain some control on the game. Only a few minutes later, Raith managed to put a spanner in the works by scoring a third goal. Cardle racked up his second assist of the game with a cross which met Grant Anderson, whose backwards header saw goalkeeper Williams flailing in an attempt to keep it out.

Watmore claimed Liam Fox as his third booking of the day when the Raith man brought down the speedy winger to prevent a break. Despite Watmore's liveliness, however, he couldn't conjure up that third goal that Hibs so desperately needed, and the clock was beginning to run down.

Paul Heffernan was brought on to replace Tom Taiwo in an effort to look for another equaliser, but the striker blew his best chance when he shot into the arms of the goalkeeper after being put through by Craig.

In the end, visitors Raith will feel they deserved their win, and will find out their quarter-final opponents in Sunday's draw.

Hibs manager Terry Butcher was angry at the performances of his players.

"I'm bitterly disappointed because we didn't deserve anything from our performance today, so fair play to Raith Rovers and I want to congratulate them for their display," he said. "They rubbished us at the back, they won second balls, they passed it well and stopped us from gaining any sort of momentum.

"I just can't believe we've turned in a display like that. We

worked so hard through the week to try and win the game. It's unbelievable.

"We showed a bit of character to get back twice and you're thinking let us score the next one and we'll see if they can come back, but second half they seemed to get a grip. We couldn't get anything going; we couldn't get the wide players on the ball."

The only silver lining that Butcher could take from the game were the performances of two of his youngest players.

"I felt sorry for Duncan Watmore and Sam Stanton. I thought those two were great but the rest were very poor," he said. "We conceded three unbelievably poor goals which were disasters from our point of view. There's a lot of work to be done so what team I put out next week is anybody's guess because every position is up for grabs and I mean up for grabs."

"With the history that Hibs has with the Scottish Cup, we've let the fans down badly today."

Hibs: Williams, Forster, Nelson, Hanlon, Stevenson, Watmore, Taiwo (Heffernan 71), Craig, Harris (Haynes 60), Stanton, Collins (Zoubir 60)

Substitutes not used: Grant, Robertson, Boateng, Maybury

Raith Rovers: Laidlaw, Thomson, Hill (Ellis 73), Donaldson (Mullen 42), Booth, Anderson, Callachan, Fox, Moon, Cardle, Spence (Smith 64)

Substitutes not used: Roberts, Vaughan, Matthews, Bates

Referee: Steven McLean.

Edinburgh tennis academy gets special award



Tennis Scotland Special Award 2013

Merchiston Castle School welcomed Ian Conway, Vice President of Tennis Scotland, to a school assembly last week to present the Tennis Academy with the Tennis Scotland Special Award 2013. He spoke about the achievements throughout the age groups in the Academy and how the boys had impressively fought their way into the national schools' tennis arena to become real contenders. Mr Conway also mentioned the esteemed career of Head Coach, Marcel du Coudray, who has worked with top ATP player Nikolay Davydenko since 2006, helping him reach his career high ranking of number 3 on the ATP world rankings. Marcel's level of professionalism and intensity is undoubtedly something that has contributed to the success of the Tennis Academy. Recently, achievements include: U15 team became National Schools Tennis Champions 2013 and Scottish Schools' Tennis Champions 2013. Merchiston says is delighted to receive this national recognition.

The Tennis Academy at Merchiston

Merchiston established Scotland's first Tennis Academy in 2007 with 12 boys and girls. Since then it has grown to around twice that size. These young players attend Merchiston and St George's Schools in Edinburgh (some boarding, some day pupils), where they pursue a full academic timetable while receiving a top class tennis programme, using Merchiston's facilities.

Students are invited to join the elite group within the Tennis Academy following a technical assessment. Pupils are provided with the best possible chance of making their tennis dream come true, and also gain a first-class education. The Tennis Academy is an integral part of the Tennis Scotland Performance Plan, the aim being to develop successful international tennis players. It is the first partnership in Scotland to provide specialised tennis training and a high level education with a specially adapted curriculum. For any aspiring sporting talent, there is always the challenge of balancing the dedication required for sporting excellence with the need to gain a strong education.

REVIEW – Little Comets @ Cabaret Voltaire



Cabaret Voltaire is the perfect place for an indie gig and with a line-up of Catfish and the Bottlemen alongside headliners Little Comets, the young and inexperienced crowd certainly put a smile on the bands' faces.

It was the first performance by Little Comets in Edinburgh since October 2012. Their last gig was just after the release of *Life Is Elsewhere*, and it seemed that the feedback from fans and critics had over-excited them just slightly. There was a form of arrogance on stage that made the experience a disappointment. But this time, things were a lot different.

There is a possibility that the band have matured in the last year and a half which seems the most cogent reason. Their new

EP features a more mellow and cultivated sound while their live presence seems a lot more comfortable and less elusive.

Catfish and the Bottlemen certainly warmed up the crowd amply with their melodic and heavy indie sound which just oozed originality. It kept fans patient for the headliners.

As soon as Little Comets opened with the first echoing notes of 'A Little Opus', the riotous crowd knew they were in for a treat. The audience bounced emphatically when needed and bopped their heads and bodies at the right time. The band were highly appreciative of the crowd and where they were at, often digging some jokes at them.

Fan favourites such as 'Joanna' and 'Jennifer' shook the brick walls of Cabaret Voltaire while 'One Night in October' had the fans still singing as they left the venue. The only disappointment of the night for the fans was Little Comets saying that they don't do encores as they would rather do it spontaneously.

Fortunately, Little Comets delivered an epic, coherent and tight 70-minute set ranging from their two albums and new EP.

Rugby – Scotland v England Under 20s

Young Scots outpaced by vastly more experienced England



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Gala's ground at Netherdale was the venue for the second round

match of the U20 Six Nations between Scotland and England and it was England who went on to win by a very comfortable margin.

Scotland were first on the board with points from a penalty in the first minute which Ben Chalmers knocked over to take a 3-0 lead, A lead that was to be very short lived as England hit back and, before eight minutes were on the clock, had scored two tries, with one converted, to go into a lead they wouldn't relinquish. The first from wing, Henry Purdy, who sliced through a gap in the Scots' defence to go over near the posts – this conversion was missed by Billy Burns – and the second a few minutes later by the other wing, Zack Kibirige, who just outpaced the defence down the line to score his first try of the night, Burns kicked this one and England were suddenly 12-3 ahead.

The next ten or so minutes of the match were dominated by Scotland, who pushed their opponents deep into their own half, and only a bit of desperate defence, helped by the odd, mistake kept the score as was. Until the 22nd minute, at least. Enjoying a bit of possession, the English backs got their hands on the ball and a couple of quick passes, a step past the missed tackle and centre Nick Tomkins was away for the third English try. Burns knocked the kick over and the score went out to 19-3.

But, then it was back to the grind for the Scots. A charged down kick by Tommy Spinks was followed up by the Scottish Captain, but his kick through was just a bit too solid and the dead ball line beat him to it. The drop out gave possession back to Scotland and off they went again. An attack up the right was stopped a few metres out, but quick recycled ball from the pack and front row, Sam James, was 'assisted' over the line for a try. Chalmers missed the kick so the score was now 19-8 to England with less than 15 minutes of the half left.

And it was 15 minutes that England used well to score their fourth try of the first half. Just before they did so, though, Scotland blew a chance of their own. Escaping a bit of sustained pressure and gathering a dropped ball, the Scots broke away. However, when only metres short, the final pass to Buchan Richardson, was a touch on the low side and the big flanker just failed to hold on to the ball for, what would have been, an easy gallop in. But, as it turned out, it was England who scored next with two minutes to go. Again, their backs tied the Scots' defence in knots and they forced a penalty out in front of the posts, which Burns kicked through to leave the half time score at 22-8 to England.



Right from the whistle, England were on the attack and, less than four minutes in, had scored their fifth try. Once again, when the backs had the ball, there was pressure on the Scottish defence. A couple of missed tackles left the way in for Tom Stephenson to score. Burns scored the conversion and England were now in an almost unassailable lead, 29-8. But,

Scotland weren't prepared to roll over just yet and, securing ball from their scrum, the ball was moved swiftly through the hands until, less than five metres out, 'all' sub, Chris Dean had to do was slip a tackle and slide over near the left corner. Another sub, Ben Cooper, scored the conversion and the score was now 29-15 and looking a bit brighter.

However, the shine was soon wiped off as England went on to dominate the rest of the half and score a further three tries to emphasise the difference in skill, experience and ultimate fitness between the sides. The first try followed on from a penalty award to Scotland and a shirt discussion on the rules between the referee and England's no. 6. Although Scotland had a few moments of possession, the young Englishmen soon got back with the programme and ran in their sixth, and Kibirige's second, try. Sam Olver converted and the lead had stretched to 36-15. But this time the Scots were really up against it and only some last ditch tackling stopped the flow – for 10 minutes or so, as the visiting forwards got in on the act and No. 4 Maro Itoje battered his way over. The kick was good and 43-15 was the score.

Scotland then rallied for a period and a series of penalties gave them possession and territory well inside the English 22, but not even a yellow for Kibirige, could give them the advantage and the drive to the line was eventually stopped by an accidental off-side, giving the ball back to England.



Man-of-the-Match award went
to Melrose's Damien Hoyland

But, it wasn't quite all over and the rest of the half culminated in a final minutes' try for James Chisholm which left the final score at 48-15 to England

Outclassed? For the second half – certainly. There were moments of brightness for Scotland, but the ultimate killer

punch was missing and the vastly more experienced visitors – players from Northampton, Bath, Saracens... you get the picture – were far too good for players from Edinburgh Accies, Boroughmuir, Melrose, etc.

A full set of images from the match will appear [here](#) in the next few days

Lewis Stevenson wins Hibs' Facebook player of the month



Hibs new Facebook player of the month Lewis Stevenson is hoping to upset his partner's family today when he takes on boyhood favourites Raith Rovers in the William Hill Scottish Cup at Easter Road.

Although he is sure that Julia will want Hibs to triumph, the same can't be said for her family who are regulars at Starks Park, as he was growing up.

Speaking at the club's weekly press conference, the versatile midfielder / defender who grew up in Kirkcaldy said: "I used to go to a few of the games. My school was just at the back of the stadium and we used to get tickets through that.

"I was at the cup final when they beat Celtic although I was only five or six. That was a good Rovers team. Our goalkeeping coach Scott Thomson played for them that day. I know a few of

the names and they pop up from time to time, like Danny Lennon. But I am a Hibs fan now although I still look out for their results.

When asked if he know the words of the Raith Rovers anthem 'Geordie Munro' which is about a young Fifer who wants to emigrate to America, but his girlfriend persuades him to stay by singing "Oh, no, no, no, no, Geordie Munro, No, no, no, no my wee laddie, I don't want to go to Idaho, I'd rather stay here in Kirkcaldy," Stevenson confessed that he had sung the song to his team-mates last year; "I used to know all the words to Geordie Munro, although I don't know if I could belt it out now," he said. "I have done it before though. It was actually during pre-season in Spain last summer.

"We all had to sing a song in front of everyone else and that was my one. I think I only managed the first verse, but it wasn't the worst, there were a few worse than me. It was the only song I could think of at the time. A few of the boys before me had got up and sung football songs, and that was the only one I roughly knew the words to. So I had to go for that one."

Stevenson is likely to be up against on-loan left back Callum Booth who moved to the Fife club in the summer after falling out of favour with former boss Pat Fenlon.

"I wish him all the best; I just hope he doesn't have his best game on Saturday. It's a strange situation, although having never been on loan myself I don't know what it's like. But you just have to focus on your own game.

"You can't really think you are playing against your parent club. You just have to do the best for the team you are playing for and I am sure he will. He's a good guy and a good professional.

"By all accounts, he has done really well there this season. I have spoken to a few Rovers fans and they said he has been

brilliant. So I am glad he is doing well. I just hope he is not in top form against us.

“I know Fraser [Mullen] and they have a few ex-Hearts boys I have played against, Jason Thomson, Calum Elliot and Gordon Smith. They have got a good team.”

It is a mark of how well Stevenson has done since the arrival of Terry Butcher that he was voted the club's first Facebook player of the month with 44.2% of the vote, beating James Collins with 30% and Liam Craig with 7.2%.

He said “I would just like to thank the fans, who voted for me. Getting recognition from the supporters is always special and hopefully we can give them all something to cheer about on Saturday.”

Photo by John Preece

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

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



Rugby – Granny Green's – Caltongate a new petition – University of Edinburgh get AHRC Grant – Travelodge Competition winner

The Calcutta Cup will be contested this afternoon at Murrayfield. We will have a match report later with the usual

lovely photographs from our rugby correspondent John Preece.


Meanwhile we understand the Edinburgh Rugby match to be played tomorrow at Rodney Parade has been cancelled due to a waterlogged pitch.

Are you going to the International? Send us your five word review later – either by email theedinburghreporter@gmail.com or through the wonderful medium of [Twitter](#)! We will then compile them into an article later.

The Scottish Rugby Union announced a new sponsorship deal earlier this week when Peter Vardy was announced as the provider of a fleet of vehicles for them to use.

“As part of the relationship Peter Vardy Ltd will provide Scottish Rugby with a fleet of Vauxhall vehicles. The cars will predominantly be used by coaching staff to assist in the development and growth of the game at club and school level across Scotland, from the Highlands and Islands all the way down to the Borders.

“The first presence Peter Vardy Ltd will have with Scottish Rugby will be at this weekend’s RBS 6 Nations Championship match against England, where a selection of vehicles will be on display behind the east stand and near the ticket centre. The array of cars, which will include Land Rover, Jaguar, BMW, Mini and Vauxhall models, will then become a permanent fixture on international match days.”

Granny Greens is a group of local crafters who meet  regularly over their knitting. Yesterday they were very visible out and about near Greyfriar’s Bobby. Read more [here](#) about what they were up to!

A huge presence at last month’s planning meeting over [the](#)

[future of Caltongate](#) showed that local people really do care about the city and what the planners decide. Now after the decision has been made to allow the development of offices and houses (but many say not enough houses) on the gap site a new petition has sprung up. This is how it is explained on the petitions website.

Dear Supporters of the 'Caltongate' Petition.

You will likely have heard that the Council have given planning consent to the 'Caltongate' development in the face of considerable opposition and controversy. The vote came close (8 to 6). The breakdown of the vote is given at the bottom of this email if you care to take the matter up with councillors.

In spite of this disappointment the petition managed to galvanise the support of over 5000 individuals in just 7 days which is a great tribute to the potential of the internet as a campaigning tool for networking and lobbying for social change.

✘ *Just before voting one councillor described the plans as "not hideous enough" to merit rejection while supporters argued that the site was formerly just a gas works and then bus depot (reflecting an older period in the City's industrial past), hardly meriting exceptional attention. However, the conservation value of the overall area and the magnificent location has inspired campaigners to envision an exemplar redevelopment worthy of the World Heritage Status.*

The Old Town is now in critical decline due to the ongoing favouritism shown by the Council for budget hotels, student accommodation, offices, chain shops etc. Not only does this threaten the long term liveability of the area but the very World Heritage Status itself.

Since the vote, the petition has attracted hundreds more

signatures showing that there is continuing support. This then presents an opportunity to develop and indeed broaden the campaign as there are other controversial developments across the City of national significance, particularly the considerable threat to Greenbelt land and the case of Craighouse. No doubt there are more contentious planning issues in the offing that will attempt to asset strip other valued public resources, such as the uncertainty over the Astley Ainslie hospital.

In light of the 'Caltongate' decision and contrary to the Council's commitment to "co-operation, fairness, accountability and responsibility" the process to date has been anything but this. Furthermore, Council Leader Andrew Burns pledged that this Council would, "listen to, and work with, local people. There needs to be strong process for looking at the quality of how the Council has reached decisions so that there is genuine scrutiny and questioning of the actions it has taken" and "conserve the City's built heritage."

With the Council's reputation arguably at an all time LOW and Our officials and elected representatives demonstrably beholden and enthralled to an unsustainable, discredited system of speculation and endless economic growth on a finite planet, if you would like to further add your support to challenging the 'Caltongate' decision and strengthen the case for reform in the planning system there is an opportunity to register an expression of NO CONFIDENCE in the Edinburgh Council's Planning Department:

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/no-confidence-in-the-city-of-edinburgh-planning-department>

If government rhetoric actually has any meaning there is hope that reform can be achieved through the Community Empowerment Bill which is currently being debated at the Scottish Parliament which affirms the fundamental democratic principle

that,


“Scotland’s people are its greatest asset, and best placed to make decisions about their future... Our belief in local self-determination, through a strong Scottish Parliament, strong local authorities and strong communities, is the key principle which underpins the proposals in this consultation document. At its heart, community empowerment is about communities taking their own decisions about their futures”.

With this in mind the petition recommends that Scottish Ministers embrace the ethos of community empowerment and call in the ‘Caltongate’ application in the hope that a fitting outcome can finally be realised.

Photo of the Caltongate site courtesy of [RCHAMS](#)

Edinburgh University’s Department of English & Scottish Literature and Professor James Loxley have been awarded an Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) grant for his project Palimpsest: an Edinburgh Literary Cityscape.

The project, a collaboration between literary and informatics scholars, aims to develop an interactive, mobile friendly website, called Palimpsest, that provides access to vivid, evocative and dramatic excerpts of a wide range of geolocated Edinburgh-based literary texts either through the web or via smartphones and tablets. [You can read more here.](#)

 [Our Travelodge competition](#) attracted loads of entries and this morning we are pleased to announce Sally Allen from Essex as the winner of a two night stay in one of the city’s Travlodges with theatre tickets. Well done Sally!