

# Iain Gray appointed new chair of Hibernian Community Foundation



The senior Scottish politician, Iain Gray MSP, has been appointed as the new chair of the Hibernian Community Foundation.

The charity aims to harness the power and passion of football to make a real difference to people's lives. It partners with other organisations to improve health, promote learning and enhance opportunity.

In the past year the Foundation's activities created more than 10,000 opportunities for engaging with people in the community. These activities range from courses to improve literacy and IT skills to projects to help fans with fitness and weight loss.

Iain is a lifelong supporter of Hibernian Football Club and a season ticket holder. After seven years as a teacher trying to support young people to make the best of their opportunities, and twelve years with Oxfam organising for social justice and against poverty around the world, Iain Gray stood for the Scottish Parliament.

Elected as MSP for Edinburgh Pentlands in 1999, he held four different Ministerial posts, including Enterprise, Transport and Lifelong Learning, alongside Donald Dewar, Henry McLeish and Jack McConnell. He also spent 4 years as a Special Adviser to the then Secretary of State for Scotland, Alistair Darling. The experience gave him a unique understanding of how devolution works.

He became MSP for East Lothian in 2007 and was Leader of Labour in the Scottish Parliament from September 2008 to December 2011. He is currently Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Finance.

Iain Gray said, "This is a great opportunity for me to build on the success that the Foundation has had in a relatively short period since it was created.

"The Hibernian Community Foundation has grown at a remarkable rate over the past few years and is now making a positive difference to many people's lives.

"I firmly believe that football clubs like Hibernian must now be about so much more than just the game on Saturday. They should be about how to improve the lives of people in the community 365 days a year.

"If we can use a love of football to channel youngsters into courses to help them into work, or children into homework clubs, or older fans into taking control of their own health and fitness then we should do it."

One of the main partners of the Foundation is Edinburgh College. Together, the Foundation and Edinburgh College deliver a range of courses at the Learning Centre in the South Stand at Easter Road.

The Foundation also includes the highly successful Hibernian Girls and Ladies Football Club, providing a model of development and premier league football for women in Scotland.

Previous chairs of the Foundation include the former Scottish Health Minister, Susan Deacon and the former Hibernian Chief Executive Scott Lindsay. The Chair of HCF is a voluntary, unpaid position.

At the moment, The Foundation are looking for participants for round two of the 'Still Game' programme which involves a wide

range of activities to get older fans together and having a good time in the South Stand at Easter Road.



The programme focuses on healthy activity and provides information about healthy diet, but also includes many other activities to keep people moving.

Participants choose from a variety of activities including exploring the history of Hibernian FC with behind the scenes look at Easter Road Stadium and Hibernian Training Centre, meeting club Legends and Q&A with former players, playing musical instruments through Music Box, personal safety and First Aid, internet use and other IT skills and wellbeing and positive mental health.

Glenn Milne from the Foundation told the Edinburgh Reporter: "I would recommend the Still Game programme to anyone interested in improving their health and wellbeing and learning new skills. Hibs fans in particular will get to meet some of the legends that they have watched over the years at Easter Road. The previous programme was very successful and enjoyed by everyone who took part. The programme is free to anyone over 60 and starts the week of 9 September and will run for 10 weeks. Anyone interested in taking part or who know someone who could benefit, should contact the community to register an interest at [info@hibernianinthecommunity.org.uk](mailto:info@hibernianinthecommunity.org.uk) or telephone 0131 661 2159."

Further information on the Foundation's activities in Health and Wellbeing; Learning and Education and Community Football can be found on the website at [www.hibernianinthecommunity.org.uk](http://www.hibernianinthecommunity.org.uk).

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# Open Eye Gallery remember John Bellany

 John Bellany CBE HRSA RA LLD 1942-2013

The Directors of the Open Eye Gallery and staff were saddened to hear of the death of their friend and artist John Bellany at seventeen minutes past seven on Wednesday 28th August 2013.

With his family by his side, he passed away in his studio with paintbrush in hand. His son Paul wrote to us; "His passion was life and he painted as if each day was his last". John was one of Scotland's most acclaimed and celebrated artists. The Open Eye Gallery has had a long established relationship with him since the 1970s when the Directors first met with him in Edinburgh.

We have fond memories of planning exhibitions in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Helmsdale and at the European Parliament in Brussels and in Barga, Italy. John was a generous, kind hearted and passionate man who will be sorely missed in the Gallery and by all in the art world, not just in Scotland but around the world. Our thoughts are with Helen and family at this very sad time.

Further information can be obtained from:

Open Eye Gallery, 34 Abercromby Place, Edinburgh EH3 6QE Open:  
Mon-Fri 10am to 6pm Sat 10am to 4pm

[www.openeyegallery.co.uk](http://www.openeyegallery.co.uk)

Like us at [www.facebook.com/OpenEyeGalleryEdinburgh](https://www.facebook.com/OpenEyeGalleryEdinburgh)

Follow and tweet with us [@openeyegallerye](https://twitter.com/openeyegallerye)



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# Council appoints developer for Pennywell housing project

The council has now approved Urban Union Ltd as the preferred bidder for the regeneration project planned for Pennywell. 700 affordable and private homes in the north of the city might now be built in a multi-million pound development there.

The new houses will include 356 council homes and an attractive outdoor space comprising a park with private and shared gardens.

Urban Union Ltd is a joint venture partnership bringing together three established construction firms; [McTaggart Construction](#), [Keepmoat](#) and [Robertson Group \(Holdings\)](#).

The new homes will form an important part of the regeneration of Pennywell and follow extensive community engagement in the development of the master plans.

The whole development also has the potential to create opportunities for community enterprise and a 'Co-operative Edinburgh' that will stretch well beyond the duration of the construction project.

The progress of the project will be reported to the Improving Muirhouse and Pennywell Group to ensure that local residents remain an integral part of the process.

☒ Housing Leader, Councillor Cammy Day, said: "This is fantastic news for the local community and will help us towards meeting the pressing demand for affordable homes across Edinburgh.

"Pennywell will be a substantial development and deliver a

high standard of modern, energy efficient homes as part of our commitment to make sure our residents are well housed and to regenerate the local area.”

The project is also expected to deliver further benefits by generating employment as part of a commitment to develop community enterprise. The construction will create 36 apprenticeships, 24 new entrant construction jobs and additional work placement opportunities.

Janice Belshaw, Urban Union’s project manager said: “This is a major opportunity to move forward with one of Scotland’s largest and most significant housing led regeneration projects.

“We look forward to building on the high level of community engagement which has already taken place in the development of the masterplan for the area. There will be opportunities for the community to be involved in the project particularly in terms of jobs and training opportunities, as well as creating a community enterprise.

The consortium has an established track-record in community led regeneration programmes. Urban Union is currently delivering the £90 million transformation of the Laurieston area in Glasgow with the first phase of affordable housing due to complete Summer 2014 and the next phase of houses for sale due to commence in Spring 2014.

Janice continued: “Our track record, most recently in Glasgow, demonstrates we are fully committed to community engagement and we look forward to developing strong local partnerships which will form the cornerstone of our development strategy.”

From the outset Urban Union work in partnership with the local community, ensuring their views and needs are reflected in the regeneration of their area, as Jimmy Mutter, chair of the Community Council said: “We have been consulted in the process every step of the way.”

“It is vital for a developer to listen to the local community and build something which fits the needs of the people, which is exactly the approach Urban Union has taken with us in Laurieston.”

Pennywell is the largest development to be undertaken by the ambitious 21st Century Homes programme, which aims to address the need for affordable housing in Edinburgh, regenerate brownfield sites, support jobs and deliver community benefits. It is anticipated that the programme as a whole will deliver more than 1,300 new homes for rent and sale throughout the city.

The first homes to be delivered by 21 Century Homes were in Gracemount in the south of Edinburgh, where 87 Council homes have been created, along with 12 shared equity properties. Phase two of this project has now begun with housing for sale currently under construction.

This coincides with the development of 94 new council homes now underway on West Pilton Crescent in the Muirhouse / Pennywell area and Greendykes in Craigmillar. Our photo below shows Councillors Bridgman, Child and Housing Convenor Cammy Day at the turf cutting ceremony in Craigmillar earlier this year.



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## Edinburgh Capitals announce

# two home exhibition games



Edinburgh Capitals have announced that they will be playing two home exhibition games as a warm up for the 13/14 season.

Hull Stingrays will visit Murrayfield on Sunday 1 September 6pm (doors open at 5pm), and Dundee Stars will visit on Tuesday 3 September 8pm (doors open at 7pm)

Ticket prices are £10 adult, £7 concessions, £5 child. All Season Ticket holders get a £2 discount on the relevant entry price

Meanwhile the Capitals have signed Jan Safar who will return to the club after spending a year playing in Kazakhstan.

Player Coach Richard Hartmann told the club website: "I have always seen potential in Jan and I think the year in Kazakhstan playing and training in a tough and disciplined environment will have developed and matured his game. Jan has already been training for a number of weeks and will be fit and ready to play from the start. The squad is taking shape and we are looking to add two very experienced players for the start of the season."

Jan said, "I am delighted to get this opportunity to return to Edinburgh as I really enjoyed playing and living in the city. I would like to thank Richard Hartmann and I am determined to help take the Capitals forward this season and to prove myself as a strong asset for the Capitals. I have really developed my game over the last season and I am looking forward to the challenge.

The Capitals start the season with a trip to Belfast on Saturday 7 September where they will face the Giants, then the following evening, they face Fife Flyers at Murrayfield.



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# Home League Cup ties for both capital clubs



Hibs and Hearts both have home ties against lower division opponents in the third round of the 2013/14 Scottish League Cup.

Hibs will face Stranraer at Easter Road, whilst Hearts play Queen of the South at Tynecastle.

The ties will take place on either Tuesday 24 or Wednesday 25 September.

The draw took place at Easter Road Stadium earlier today, and was conducted by Minister for Commonwealth Games, Shona Robison MSP, SPFL Trust General Manager, Billy Singh and SPFL Chief Executive, Neil Doncaster.

The full draw is as follows.

Hibernian v Stranraer

Dundee v Inverness CT

Celtic v Morton

Livingston v Motherwell

Hearts v Queen of the South

Falkirk v Aberdeen

Dundee United v Partick Thistle

Hamilton v St Johnstone

Hibs last won the trophy in 2007 after John Collins' side beat Kilmarnock 5-1 at Hampden thanks to goals from Rob Jones, Steven Fletcher (2) and Abdessalam Benjelloun. Hearts last victory was also against Kilmarnock in 1962 when a Norrie Davidson goal separated the sides.

Hearts of course reached last season's League Cup Final where they were narrowly beaten by St Mirren after a hard fought encounter at Hampden.

In other news, Hibs have been linked with former Ipswich winger Josh Carson who has been released by Mick McCarthy. The 20 year old has four Northern Ireland caps, and he is believed to be training at the club this week.

Across the city, the SPFL disciplinary tribunal have dismissed Kevin McHattie's claim of wrongful dismissal following his red card against Aberdeen last week and a one match suspension will be applied immediately which means that he will miss Saturday's trip to Inverness.

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## **New CEO appointed at ESPC**



ESPC, the leading property marketing company in East Central Scotland, today announced Ron McEwan will take up the position of Chief Executive from 9 September 2013.

Mr McEwan brings over 30-years of business experience having developed his career with Scotsman Publications, Mirror Group, Telewest/Virgin Media, Trader Media Group (Auto Trader) and Central FM.

He brings a strong commercial track-record that covers property, publishing, automobiles, advertising and change management, as well as significant overseas business experience.

Commenting on the appointment, Robin Stimpson, Chairman of ESPC said;

“We are delighted to welcome Ron to ESPC following a selection process that had a number of strong internal and external candidates applying. Ron brings a wealth of experience and expertise which will help the business.

“Having previously overseen work at Auto Trader and the challenges facing companies involved in publishing information, Ron offers a distinct skill set that will steer the company as it continues to grow.”

Ron McEwan added:

“I look forward to meeting with the membership, house sellers and buyers to look at how we can continue to move ESPC forward, building upon what is already a well-recognised and respected brand, held in high regard.

“Many of the pressures facing ESPC are similar to those from my days at Auto Trader where we addressed the impact of the

digital world and how a business can respond in offering online and offline services to their customers. I am swapping cars for property and will look to draw on the market expertise available from within ESPC and the wider membership.

“It is a challenge I will take on with relish and look forward to working with the team in the months and years to come.”

ESPC recently restructured with the controlling rights for ESPC Ltd, a company limited by guarantee, passing to the ESPC member firms who individually became £1 guarantors, earlier this month.

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## **UNITE continue action against blacklisting today**



Unite plan more action in Edinburgh today as part of their campaign for workers' rights. The union's bitter dispute with the BFK consortium on the Crossrail construction project is now entering its 11th month.

Unite and blacklisted workers will hold protests across Scotland's capital pressing BFK clients in both the public and private sector support the re-instatement of the dismissed

workers.

The BFK (Bam, Ferrovial and Kier) construction consortium is responsible for the dismissal of Unite shop steward Frank Morris and 27 other construction workers. Unite believe that the actions of the BFK consortium are tantamount to 'blacklisting'. Messages of support from unions and workers across the world have been received delivering a clear message to BFK that their illegal and atrocious blacklisting of trade union members must end.

Unite Scottish Secretary Pat Rafferty said:- "We remain resolute in our support of Frank Morris and the dismissed workers. BFK will not be allowed to ignore the rights of workers. They must take responsibility for their actions and it's time they atone for their wrongdoings. The BFK consortium can, at any time, end this dispute and I ask them to meet the reasonable demands of Unite and allow Frank to return to work on the Crossrail project."

The Edinburgh Reporter met Willie Thomson of Unite a few weeks ago to find out more about the campaign:-

Unite are planning action today on Lothian Road, at Edinburgh Airport and at Amey's office in Edinburgh.



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## Five things you need to know today



## **Finance Committee – Grassmarket – Broomhouse Street Party – Sunshine on Leith – Big Beach Busk**

The council's Finance and Budget Committee [meets today](#) with a huge agenda to cover. They are planning to put next year's budget out for public consultation within the next month as promised in the coalition agreement, but before then there is still some work to be done.

One of the items to be discussed is the future of the Water of Leith Flood Prevention Scheme. Phase 1 of the scheme will be completed by the end of this month and in certain areas such as Warriston there is now a lovely new wall and flood defence. The council is now addressing the cost and execution of Phase 2. This part of the scheme includes flood defence works at Murrayfield/Roseburn, Coltbridge, Damside, Belford and Edinburgh Sports Club.

The whole scheme was estimated to cost £63.539m but due to difficulties with Phase 1 there was an overspend which required mediation to agree the final amount payable of £29.132m.

In view of overall budget cuts (the council needs to slice £20m off its annual budget of £1bn each year for the next few years) it is clear that the council cannot afford the full extent of the project. Phase 2 is expected to cost £25.5m of which only £19.916 is available in the council coffers. So the council is planning to restrict its expense to the amount which it actually has, unless it can find the surplus needed in its budget.

One of the Green councillors, Nigel Bagshaw, suggested in May this year that the engineering works were scaled back by reliance on natural flood defences where possible, and this common sense approach is to be included in any plans for what works will be included in Phase 2.

In 2010 there were modifications made to the reservoirs at

Threipmuir, Harlaw and Harperrig which would improve the situation further downstream. The simple premise was that more storage in these reservoirs means that there ought to be less water coursing down the Water of Leith.

The council explains that it recognises that Murrayfield/Roseburn is the area most at risk (remember those photos of Murrayfield Stadium under water some years back?) and it is where most individual properties are at risk of flooding. The council is therefore recommending that a working group is set up to look at the plans and decide, in consultation with an independent consultancy firm, which parts of the project can safely be left out. The council is also planning to look at the cost of insurance against the risk of flooding in future. All of this is subject to the council's stated view that lessons have been learned from the completion of Phase 1 and that there will be improved governance, including weekly progress meetings, in future. They also promise better communication to all householders and others affected in the areas where the next flood defence work will be carried out.

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There is a lot going on down in The Grassmarket. First of all the organisers of The Grassmarket Festival Fair tell us that it will be "an exciting, hugely busy, vibrant and positive event providing visitors and locals with a wide range of high quality Scottish and globally made crafts, fashion, accessories, home wares, jewellery, arts, foods and drinks as well live acoustic music and light comedy, so creating a feel good chilled out atmosphere on Grassmarket that will be filled with thousands of festival revellers as well steeped in history every day!

A free public entry market/event that will house maximum 14 exhibitors selling, making and showcasing high quality crafted products in a vibrant atmosphere and high footfall location.

The market will consist colourful 3 meter x 3 meter gazebos supplied by [Hand Up Media.](#)“

As well as this there is a Business Improvement District plan now in place, although it is not universally accepted by all business owners in the area according to [The Scotsman.](#)

There is already a BID in the city centre which is run by Essential Edinburgh, recently voted back in for a second term by around 78% of the business owners. Briefly, they levy all business owners in the area and then organise cleaning of the streets, waste removal and projects such as the lovely plant holders in Rose Street as well as events in St Andrew Square like the open air films which took place earlier this year.

[Click here](#) for the BID business plan for The Grassmarket which runs for five years till 2018 and sets out the names of all office bearers and what the project aims to do.

There are plans to set up similar BIDs in Leith and South Queensferry at various stages of incarnation.

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The new film starring Peter Mullen will be released next month but we thought you might enjoy a little preview. Showing Edinburgh off at its very best there are loads of sites to spot here!

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[The Big Beach Busk](#) takes place on Portobello Prom this Saturday. The organisers are getting very excited it seems from their Facebook page. The event is made up of street



entertainers such as you might have seen on The Royal Mile over recent weeks, and you are invited to just pitch up and play – or pitch up and listen!

“No rules. Just Busking. You can be any kind of street entertainer you like from a one man band to an orchestra, a mime/robot, a choir, balloon modeller or magician. We’ve had brass bands and tenko drummers alongside salsa bands and some amazing singer songwriters.

A mile of promenade, a mile of buskers. Simple. No booking a place no buying tickets. Come along and play or come down just to see the spectacle. This is the Beach Busk.”

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## **Billy Stark names six Edinburgh based players in Under 21 Squad**



Billy Stark has named his six Edinburgh based players in his squad for Scotland’s second 2015 UEFA European Under-21 Championship qualifying match against the Netherlands on Thursday, 5 September, at the Stadion De Goffert, Nijmegen

Hibs’ Danny Handling has been called up to the squad for the first time, while Hearts’ Callum Paterson returns after his selection for the Portugal friendly last November.

The pair will be joined by Tynecastle quartet Jack Hamilton, Kevin McHattie, Jason Holt and Jamie Walker.

Following Scotland’s 3-0 win against Luxembourg in their

opening match at St Mirren Park in March, Stark's side are seeking to cement their first placed position in the group with a positive result in Nijmegen.

The full squad is as follows:

### **Goalkeepers**

Jordan Archer (Tottenham Hotspur)

Jack Hamilton (Heart of Midlothian)

Christopher Kettings (Blackpool) \*

### **Defenders**

Stuart Findlay (Celtic)

Jack Grimmer (Fulham)

Ryan Jack (Aberdeen)

Kevin McHattie (Heart of Midlothian)

Clark Robertson (Aberdeen)

### **Midfielders**

Stuart Armstrong (Dundee United)

Stuart Bannigan (Partick Thistle)

Fraser Fyvie (Wigan Athletic)

Daniel Handling (Hibernian)

Jason Holt (Heart of Midlothian)

Lewis Macleod (Rangers)

### **Forwards**

Dylan McGeouch (Celtic)

Ryan Fraser (Bournemouth)

Stevie May (St Johnstone)

Callum Paterson (Heart of Midlothian)

Jamie Walker (Heart of Midlothian)

Tony Watt (Celtic)

\*On loan to York City

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## **Hibs' Irish duo aim to make first team breakthrough this season**



Hibs have always prided themselves in giving youngsters a chance, but the numbers that have broken through from last years' under 20s is unprecedented. Alex Harris, Ross Caldwell, Danny Galbraith, Jordon Forster, Sam Stanton, Dean Horribine and Bradley Donaldson have regularly featured in the first team squads, however many of the fans who follow the under 20s believe that the current crop of teenagers are even better than their counterparts from last year.

Amongst the players who are already catching the eye are Irish pair Cody Mulhall from Athy Co Kildare and Gareth McCaffrey from Dublin who have both made an impressive start to their Hibs career, with Cody a regular name on the score-sheet whilst Gareth scored the winner in the Foyle Cup final in Derry last month.

Both are enjoying their time in the Hibs' Academy and the pair have ambitions to progress to the first team by the end of the season, like team-mate Jason Cummings who was on the bench at the weekend against Kilmarnock.

Cody has just returned to the club after his selection for the Ireland Under 19 squad where he was an unused substitute in the 2-1 defeat to Norway. Last year, he was an ever-present for the Ireland Under 17 side and featured in all ten fixtures, scoring against Azerbaijan in two games and again against Romania, and the youngster who turned 17 this week told Hibernian TV: "It was a proud moment to represent your country, but I'm happy to get in and hopefully stay in and make sure I'm there for the European Championships qualifiers."

When asked about whether he was enjoying his time in Edinburgh, Cody said: "It's great, I'm loving it here. It's different from over in Ireland. Over there we trained twice a week but full time football's much better over here. It's tough being away from your family though, but playing football and being in every day is much better than being at home and being here with Gareth is much easier than being on your own.

"Gareth and I have known each other for five years and playing out on the pitch you can see that some things just click. When he's homesick I can help and when I'm homesick he can help so it makes it much easier than being on your own.

"Our goal is to play in the first team if we can and be in and around the first team by the end of the season at least, and train with them as much as we can and play as much as we can hopefully."

Gareth echoed Cody's comments and said: "It's a big step up from Irish football, the tempo and everything is much better. We had nothing like the facilities we have here back home and I think the two of us as players have improved because of that

and having each other over here makes it much better dealing with homesickness and we are settling in very well.

“The Foyle Cup was an amazing experience and it was a great team effort as well. The lads put in the effort all week and luckily I happened to be the one who scored the goal which gave us the cup. To be even mentioned in the same sentence as the great Lawrie Reilly in the match report was an honour for me but as a team it was a great effort from everybody. A lot of my family were there so they were pleased with how I got on.

The pair revealed that it was Pat Fenlon who spotted their potential and enticed them across the Irish Sea.

Gareth continued: “I played for Shelbourne for a few years before Stella Maris and for the last two seasons I have played alongside Cody although through international football I have known him for five years so I am used to him by this stage.

“Pat Fenlon watched us play a few times for Stella Maris and I think he felt that we were good enough to come over and try and prove ourselves and we were on trial a couple of times and I think the club felt that we were ready to make the move to full time football.”

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## **Syria – Views from the First**

# Minister and others ahead of Westminster debate



Our Edinburgh MPs are making their respective ways back to Westminster tomorrow to take part in the debate over any action on Syria. When The Edinburgh Reporter met Sheila Gilmore MP the other day she hoped it might be delayed till Monday which is the day that MPs were due to return anyway, but the situation now seems to require a quicker response.

The Prime Minister David Cameron spoke in an interview about the chemical weapons attack yesterday:-

*The PM has given an interview about [#chemicalweapons](#) attack in [#Syria](#) – read the transcript: <http://t.co/fZSfYHcGwz>*

*– No. 10 Press Office (@Number10press) [August 27, 2013](#)*

Foreign Secretary William Hague made a statement earlier today in London but also wrote in The Telegraph about the need for a challenge following the apparent use of chemical weapons in Syria last week.

*The use of chemical weapons in [#Syria](#) is a moral outrage that cannot go unchallenged, writes [@WilliamJHague](#) <http://t.co/hqKJd2ilNg>*

*– Telegraph News (@TelegraphNews) [August 28, 2013](#)*

*Full Statement on Syria (LL) <http://t.co/xTiSV3E7r8>*

– FM Alex Salmond (@AlexSalmond) [August 28, 2013](#)

As the UK Government prepares to put a resolution to the UN Security Council on “authorising necessary measures to protect civilians” in Syria later today, First Minister Alex Salmond said:-“The Scottish Government condemns unreservedly the actions of the Assad regime over recent months and years. In particular, we condemn and deplore any use of chemical weapons by any party as a crime against humanity. If the findings of UN inspectors do point to this appalling attack having been perpetrated by the Syrian regime, Assad and those responsible should face the full accountability of the International Criminal Court.

“Any resort to military action should always be approached carefully, on an evidential base, and within a clear legal framework – and only after full consideration of the aims, objectives and consequences. At this stage, we consider that these criteria have not been met and therefore that the case for military action in Syria – or the UK’s participation in it – has not yet been made.

“The Scottish Government believes that the UN inspectors should be given the time and the full support of the international community to complete their investigations.”

*Welcome the recall of Parliament and the assurance that MPs will get a chance to vote on a substantive motion*

– Douglas Alexander (@DAlexanderMP) [August 27, 2013](#)

Labour’s shadow foreign secretary, Douglas Alexander expressed his party’s views when he said:-“I believe that ahead of any action involving the UK armed forces in Syria it is the

responsibility of the British Prime Minister to come to the British Parliament and to make his case, to set out the evidence he has seen, to explain his course of action that he wants to advance and answer the questions of politicians and of parliamentarians ahead of a vote in the House of Commons.

“We have not seen the evidence that the Government has seen. We are not clear as to the Government’s military objectives. Is it limited for example to trying to degrade chemical weapons facilities or is it a broader objective of trying to fundamentally alter the course of a civil war?

“I would not rule out the possibility of support for the government, but I think that it is incumbent on the government to set out its case, allow us to ask questions and then a judgement will be reached. I don’t think anyone is contemplating using ground troops from the UK or elsewhere as a response to what happened last week and I am equally unconvinced that the case has been made to arm the Syrian rebels.

“Tony Blair’s views on this have been well known for some time but we have taken a different course as the Labour Party today. While we are open to the government making its case to Parliament we think there is a real urgency to know more about the government’s military objectives

“I think the public would expect the opposition, and all parliamentarians to hold the government to account. I don’t think it would be appropriate for the opposition to write a blank cheque to the government. They have a job of work to do but so do we as the opposition. That is why we need Parliament to be involved in this decision.”

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# Creative Scotland award grants for Edinburgh arts and culture

New funding to improve Edinburgh arts and cultural facilities

Assembly Roxy, Stills, Edinburgh Contemporary Crafts, Drake Music Scotland, Take one Action Film Festival have received funding from Creative Scotland as part of a national programme which helps organisations carry out refurbishments and purchase equipment.

Assembly Roxy will use £30,000 funding to support building improvements and upgrading of equipment to create a permanent 200 seat theatre.

An award of £25,000 will enable Drake Music Scotland to purchase new music-making and IT equipment which will increase their capacity to deliver music-making opportunities for children and adults with disabilities across Scotland.

Take One Action Film Festival show films addressing issues of global and environmental concern through festivals and an outreach and rural touring programme. Funding of £13,375 will purchase new equipment to create a bespoke pop-up cinema tent.

Edinburgh Contemporary Crafts provides access to a high quality gallery space and workshop for new and established makers. Funding of £14,917 will enable them to offer improved facilities and equipment and expand their course programme.

An award of £10,833 will enable Stills centre for photography to purchase a range of equipment to offer enhanced facilities and resources for the development and creation of artists' work and to increase public access.

William Burdett-Coutts, Artistic Director of Assembly Theatre,

said:-“Assembly Festival is the longest running of the multi-venues at the Fringe – over 33 years of operation we have built a reputation for excellence. Year-round we are a Scottish charity keen on deepening our contribution to the arts ecosystem in Edinburgh beyond the festival, and we’re so pleased to have secured this funding to allow us to better support artistic charitable companies in Edinburgh and for those from further afield to present in Edinburgh”

Simon Bateson, Artistic Director at Take One Action – Scotland’s global and environmental change cinema project – said:-“Our pop-up solar cinema supported through Creative Scotland will bring incredible films about our shared planet to even more people across Scotland, creating wonderful opportunities for people of all ages to draw inspiration from cinema and those around them, and to go on and be the change they want to see in the world. We’re delighted to be taking this forward thanks to the Capital Fund.”

Ginnie Atkinson , Business Manager at Stills, said:-“We are delighted Creative Scotland is enabling us to continue to offer the latest level of technical support for the benefit of our resource users, course participants, creative practitioners and all our audiences,

Louise Smith, Founder and Director of Edinburgh Contemporary Crafts, said:-“I’m so pleased to be awarded Creative Scotland funding, as a new organisation it will make a massive difference and it’s very satisfying to feel that the huge amount of work it has taken to get to this stage and the generosity of our resident craftspeople and the general public, is being recognised. We will soon be supporting 25 resident makers, many more members and running 50 public courses a year- this funding will allow us to offer all the tools and equipment needed to work across: pottery, printmaking, textiles, upholstery, jewellery and metal. I’m really looking forward to seeing the exciting new work that will be developed as a result and can’t wait to open up our

amazing new facilities to the general public through our course program starting mid-September.”

Leonie Bell, Acting Director of Creative Development at Creative Scotland, said:-“The improvement of buildings and the purchasing of equipment that these awards will support will enhance the diverse and valued range of work being carried out by these organisations from across Scotland, from Orkney to Glasgow and will help ensure audiences, participants, artists and creative practitioners have access to the best possible facilities.”

Assembly Roxy, Stills, Edinburgh Contemporary Crafts, Drake Music Scotland, Take one Action Film Festival represent five of twenty-two Scottish arts and cultural organisations who have received a total of over £700,000 today, Wednesday 28 August 2013, through Creative Scotland’s Small Capital Programme, to assist in the improvement of facilities across Scotland.

Funding has also been awarded to organisations across the country including Eden Court and Feis Rois in the Highlands, Gable End Theatre in Orkney, the old Dumfermline Fire Station and Kirkcaldy Old Kirk in Fife, Edinburgh Contemporary Crafts and Stills in Edinburgh, Tron Theatre and The Glue Factory in Glasgow and Horsecross Arts in Perth.

Projects across country range from new centre for creative activity at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary; new music making and ICT equipment for children and adults with learning disability across Scotland; development of a new retail area to house a selection of high quality photography; a new performance space for Scotland’s national youth dance organisation and new equipment for community choirs are among the initiatives that will take place as a result of funding support.

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# Police donate unclaimed bikes to charity



Unclaimed bicycles due to be sold at auction are instead being gifted to charity under a trial scheme being undertaken by Police Scotland Edinburgh Division.

Bicycles and bike parts, which would otherwise have been sold at police auction, are being donated to Edinburgh-based charity the Bike Station.

The charity, which aims to promote cycling to everyone, offers cheap second-hand bikes for sale, and carries out cycle repairs at a reduced rate, using second-hand parts.

Sergeant James Sinclair, from Police Scotland, said: -“We decided that instead of selling on unclaimed bicycles at police auction, we would donate the recovered bikes and bike parts to the Bike Station.

“The charity provides a valuable service to the community, repairing bicycles and selling them on at an affordable rate, thereby encouraging people who may not have been able to afford a bike into cycling.

“At present this is a trial scheme that will run for a period of three months, and if successful we hope that the arrangement can be made permanent and if possible, rolled out to other areas.”

Rodney Service, Warehouse Manager at the Bike Station, said: “I would just like to say thank you to Police Scotland for donating the bikes, they will be a great benefit to the local

community.”

These bicycles are not stolen property, but found bicycles which have not been claimed by their owners.

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## Stockbridge Photography Club Photo of the Week



This week's photo is a slightly different view of the Dean Village and comes from Carson Ralton. Carson is a Data Analyst, and outside of photography enjoys football, gardening, DIY, spending time with wife Karin, his 5 children and friends.

Football and photography go hand-in-hand for Carson as weekends are spent as the matchday photographer for Spartans FC. This isn't the first time his work has featured on The Edinburgh Reporter (albeit in different sections!)

"Most of the photographs I took previous to joining the club were football action shots of Spartans FC," said Carson. "Since joining the club I have been encouraged to widen my photography horizons and take a variation of photographs from landscape to portraiture. It is extremely enjoyable spending time with like-minded people swapping information and tips and helping each other improve as we progress along our photographic journey."

The Stockbridge Photography Club is a non-profit photography club that aims to operate in a different way from the traditional photography club mould. They have informal monthly

meetings where they discuss their photos over a cup of coffee and learn about the month's theme – this month they are meeting in LifeCare, Stockbridge.

Outside of this, they arrange photowalks and trips to various locations and landmarks in and around Edinburgh, providing their members with something interesting to photograph, whilst always having someone on hand to answer any questions.

Currently they are preparing for their upcoming exhibition as part of [Stockfest](#), which will be taking place in Rosie McKenzie Art on St Stephen's Street. Everybody is welcome!


More info about the club, and their upcoming exhibition, is [on their website](#).

Submitted by [Stockbridge Photography Club](#)



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## Craig Levein puts his weight behind Foundation of Hearts

 The Foundation of Hearts today announced that former Hearts player, Craig Levein has given his full support to the campaign to secure supporter ownership for Heart of Midlothian Football Club.

A highly successful manager at Tynecastle between 2000 and 2004, and former club captain, Craig was in Gorgie this afternoon to promote a final call for supporters to set up direct debits ahead of Monday's official first draw-down.

The Foundation backed bid sees Edinburgh business provide the

up-front capital, through BIDCO, and then enter a binding contract with FANCO to sell the club, at no personal gain, in a controlled manner.

Former Hearts and Scotland manager Craig Levein said:-“I’ve asked a lot of searching questions over the last few months of the Foundation’s team, and I am impressed by the answers. They’ve clearly done a huge amount of work to create a sustainable platform for Hearts to rebuild.

“What they’ve done to make this a genuine possibility now is remarkable. They combine business capital, and expertise with the passion of the Hearts support.

“The supporters have been absolutely magnificent. I can’t stress that enough. The way they have rallied to support the club, time after time, is incredible. The fact Hearts even exists today is down to them. Hopefully the Foundation of Hearts can give the fans the fresh start they, more than anyone, deserve.”

Ian Murray, chairman of the Foundation of Hearts added:-“We’re delighted to receive this public show of support from Craig Levein. He was a very fine player, captain and manager for this club. He’s hugely respected by the Hearts support, and he’s not offered this backing without considering some of the key detail.

“Supporters continue to sign up to the Foundation of Hearts in their numbers, and we cannot thank them enough. Together we can create the greatest supporter movement in Scottish football history.”

Supporters, who are able to do so, are encouraged to set up their direct debit and help create history at [www.foundationofhearts.org](http://www.foundationofhearts.org)

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# Lothians MSP criticises Scottish Ministers over transport statistics



Alison Johnstone, Green MSP for Lothian and co-convenor of Holyrood's cross-party group on cycling, says statistics released today show Scottish ministers' failure to make the right choices on transport.

The publication of the annual Scottish Household Survey shows the volume of traffic on Scotland's roads has risen to over 43 billion vehicle kilometres, against a drop across the UK, while rates of walking and cycling to work and school have remained worryingly low.

Cycling still only accounts for two per cent of journeys to work; the Scottish Government has a target of ten per cent of all journeys in just seven years' time.

The reasons people gave in the survey for not cycling to work were: too many cars (14 per cent), speed of traffic (12 per cent) and inconsiderate drivers (9 per cent).

The Scottish Government recently launched a half a million pounds marketing campaign called The Nice Way Code which has been widely criticised by cycling campaigners for enforcing stereotypes.

Alison Johnstone said:- "A rise in vehicle traffic and no rise in rates of walking and cycling. Can there be a clearer sign that Scottish ministers have utterly failed to make the right



choices?

“Instead of shovelling billions towards dual carriageways, bypasses and bridges, and frittering precious funds on ill-conceived adverts, the Scottish Government should be investing meaningful sums in dedicated cycle infrastructure, clearer junctions and safer streets. There is some small hope as Edinburgh pushes ahead with more 20mph zones; I’d urge other local authorities to do the same as it is clear we cannot expect any action from Scottish ministers.”

At yesterday’s Transport & Environment Committee meeting the City of Edinburgh Council agreed to consult on extending the pilot scheme tried out in Marchmont where the speed limit on certain roads was reduced to 20mph. This is in an effort to reduce not just speed but also encourage other forms of transport such as walking and cycling. The roads are made safer by reducing the speed of motor traffic and this encourages people to use more environmentally friendly means of transport. The surveys carried out during the pilot showed that the average speed only dropped by about 2 mph but this is enough to increase safety margins. Where traffic travels more quickly it is the opinion of The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents that this “turns near misses into crashes”.

The Transport Statistics which Ms Johnstone refers to are from Scottish Household Survey:

<http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/files/documents/reports/j281378/j281378.pdf>

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# Travel – Places in Spain that are worth a visit



Spain is a great holiday destination, both in the middle of the always busy tourist season, and particularly when it comes to off season holidays.

We're coming up to the time when the kids are back at school, which means holiday prices drop sharply to entice people to visit popular destinations. And Spain is no different.

Having long been an extremely popular destination for tourists from all over Europe, there are plenty of places to visit in Spain. Here's our pick of just some of the great cities that are worth travelling to for a couple of weeks of sun, sea and relaxation.

## Barcelona

Barcelona is one of Spain's most popular cities for some very good reasons. Stunningly beautiful and a cultural catalyst, there is so much to see. Taking a walk down La Rambla is a must. One of the most famous streets in the world it is packed with dancers, buskers, artists and tourists and is the heart of Barcelona. If you are only in the city for a short amount of time, walking down La Rambla is guaranteed to entertain you. Another must see in the city is the world famous architecture of Gaudi. The still unfinished Sagrada Familia is

at once beautiful and extremely weird. You can see the different scenes from Christ's life in the mish mash of styles and designs on this vast gothic cathedral. And when you have had your fill of culture and tourist attractions, there are plenty of amazing restaurants and clubs to take you into the night.

From one of the most famous cities to one of the lesser known regions of Spain – Murcia.

## Murcia

It's a small region and not as touristy as many other areas, but is extremely diverse, friendly and full of interest. [Murcia](#), has absolutely stunning coastline in the Costa Calida but is far less touristy and very much cheaper than the more traditional Spanish resorts nearby.

The weather is gorgeous all year round and the region remains relatively unspoilt, when compared to the Costa del Sol or Costa Blanca. Everything in the city that is worth seeing is walkable, making it really accessible and enjoyable to discover. The cathedral is particularly glorious, standing as it does in the Cardenal Belluga Square along with the 18th century Episcopal Palace.

With churches, convents and museums galore, there is plenty in Murcia for even the keenest culture vulture, all set among beautiful scenery and in a friendly atmosphere. Cheap flights to Murcia are also [very easy to find and book online](#), meaning

it's a perfect destination for some Spanish holiday time.

## Madrid



A visit to Spain isn't complete without a trip to its capital city. If you travel in the height of the summer you'll find that many hotels and bars are closed as it's the traditional holiday time, but there are still plenty of sights and spectacles to enjoy. It can also be extremely hot during this time so it may be better to go slightly off season, but if you are there in the summer make sure you get a hotel with a pool so you can while away the hot days before hitting the city and its famous nightlife in the cool of the evening.

Featured article

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## ExecSpace is five!

Edinburgh based conference and business accommodation agent ExecSpace is today riding high as it celebrates its fifth anniversary.

Founded in 2008 by Managing Director, Emma Little, ExecSpace has grown to become Scotland's leading business in this area, with 100 blue chip clients and annual revenues currently in excess of £5m. The Company has customer service at the heart

of its offering and guarantees to deliver an exceptional customer experience every time.

To coincide with today's anniversary, [ExecSpace](#) is today officially launching its new brand and website. These will support the company as it moves into the next phase of its development, and follow an announcement earlier this year about a six figure investment from Bradenham Partners LLP to fund ExecSpace's future growth. This confirms ExecSpace's plans to expand the company's new accommodation booking service in parallel with the already well established conference and events business.

✖ Founder and Managing Director, Emma Little said:-“I am absolutely thrilled to be celebrating five years since I set up ExecSpace. When I founded the business, I had an idea about the type of company that could be successful in the conference and events booking space. I wanted to build a business which was different from other companies in this marketplace, delivering a top quality tailored service for our customers; a company that cared about people and what they needed and wanted.

“The last five years have been the hardest and the best of my life. I am proud to be building a business which has gained traction and respect in the industry. The market itself has changed during that period. When I started out in 2008, only 27% of events and meetings were outsourced to specialist agents such as ExecSpace. Today that percentage is approximately 67% with the prospect of growing further as companies understand the benefits of outsourcing their conference and events requirements.

“Importantly, I also have to thank my clients without whom ExecSpace would not be here and my loyal team for their hard work and support as we have grown. Their dedication to the business inspires me.

“I am now very much looking forward to the next five years and the exciting opportunities which lie ahead for ExecSpace, our clients and the team.”

ExecSpace sources appropriate meeting rooms for its clients. These can vary from conference and meeting style venues to seminars and training rooms and often come complete with AV equipment and catering functions. ExecSpace’s clients range from private enterprises to Stock Exchange listed companies looking to host external events across the UK.

Alongside this, ExecSpace offers business accommodation booking services, negotiating the most competitive rates.

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## Five things you need to know today



### Edinburgh’s Hogmanay – Tennis – Charity Fashion Show – National Museum of Scotland

Yes folks the Festival Fireworks have not yet taken place but here is Edinburgh’s Hogmanay news already!



Organisers of Edinburgh’s Hogmanay are delighted to announce that **Pet Shop Boys**, one of the most successful UK acts of all time, will headline the Edinburgh’s Hogmanay 2013/14 ‘Concert in the Gardens’. Unique Events on behalf of City of Edinburgh Council announce Pet Shop Boys’ only UK performance, ending the pop duos hugely successful ‘Electric’ world tour which has performed 45 shows and festivals in 25 countries throughout 2013 attracting rave reviews and ecstatic

audience reactions.

The band will be performing a set of greatest hits along with tracks from their critically acclaimed twelfth album '*Electric*' in West Princes Street Gardens. This exclusive UK performance celebrates a landmark 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary for Edinburgh's Hogmanay and is the long awaited return to the capital for Pet Shop Boys following the cancellation of New Year celebrations across the UK in 2006/07. Edinburgh's Hogmanay is a signature event of the Year of Homecoming Scotland 2014, launching a packed programme of events throughout the year.

With over 50 million records sales worldwide Pet Shop Boys are listed as the most successful duo in UK music history by [\*The Guinness Book of Records\*](#). Three-time [Brit Award](#) winners and six-time [Grammy](#) nominees, since 1985 they have achieved 42 [Top 30](#) singles and 22 Top 10 hits in the [UK Singles Chart](#), including four number ones: '[West End Girls](#)', '[It's a Sin](#)', '[Always on My Mind](#)' and '[Heart](#)'.

At the 2009 BRIT Awards, Pet Shop Boys received an award for [Outstanding Contribution to Music](#). The band's latest studio album [Electric](#) was released July 2013 and reached number 3 on the UK Albums Chart –their highest album position since the release of [Very](#) in 1993.

Pet Shop Boys will bring in the New Year at the world famous Edinburgh's Hogmanay joined by some very special guests to be announced shortly.

Neil Tennant, Pet Shop Boys said "We are delighted to bring this show to Scotland on New Year's Eve. We've always felt we've had some unfinished Hogmanay business in Edinburgh after the weather put a stop to the planned 2006 show and this is going to be a fantastic way to see in the New Year!"

Cllr Steve Cardownie, Festivals and Events Champion for the

City of Edinburgh Council, said: "This year, we are celebrating 21 years of Edinburgh's Hogmanay and, of course, the Year of the Homecoming Scotland 2014 and I am delighted that we have an act of the Pet Shop Boys' calibre to help us bring in the New Year. Like Edinburgh's Hogmanay, the duo continues to stay fresh and exciting, thrilling audiences year after year."

Pete Irvine, Artistic Director of Edinburgh's Hogmanay, said "The Pet Shop Boys are on top of the world at the moment, and with Edinburgh's Hogmanay being the only UK appearance of their spectacular new show, they are the perfect band to help us celebrate our 21st Anniversary at the very cusp of Scotland's *most* eventful year."

Revellers can purchase tickets for Concert in the Gardens from 10am Friday 30 August at [www.edinburghshogmanay.com](http://www.edinburghshogmanay.com), by calling Edinburgh's Hogmanay Box Office on 0844 573 8455 or by calling into the Hogmanay Box Office at The Fringe Office, 180 High Street, Edinburgh.



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With Andy Murray back on court it may be time to pick up your racquet again...at Joppa Tennis Courts. Councillor Maureen Child tells us about them.

One of the first acts of Portobello Community Council when it started in the 1980s was to take over the running of Joppa Tennis Courts from the then Edinburgh District Council. The Courts have continued to flourish and are very much a



community led and community run facility. They have open sessions during the summer, but the backbone is its loyal members who have fundraised, maintained and improved the courts over the years. Annual membership is only £35 for an adult and £60 a family. Coaching is also available through Andrew Haw, Rolling Ball Coaching on 0781905422 [spin@rollingballtennis.com](mailto:spin@rollingballtennis.com) Joppa Tennis Courts Contact: 07905 705 279 or look at the website for more information. <http://www.lta.org.uk/Places-To-Play/Details/Overview/?p2p=1-MG8RVC>

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Budding fashionistas from the north east of Edinburgh are coming together to hold a charity fashion show for adults with learning disabilities.

The event, which will take place in South Leith Parish Church Halls on the 29 August has become a popular annual event held by the North East Edinburgh Community Arts Group.

Organisers (NECAG) are hoping to build on the success of last year's show which helped to raise funds for the group which holds weekly classes for adults with learning disabilities.

The costumes have been donated by the charity shop, All Together Edinburgh and will be modelled by service users. This year the outfits will be inspired by themes such as music, science, comedy and TV, with makeup and hair styling provided by volunteers.

The fashion show is being held at the South Leith Parish Church Halls at 7:00pm. Doors open from 6pm and tickets cost £4 on the night. There will also be a variety of stalls selling gifts and refreshments.

Convener of Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Ricky Henderson, said: "Community groups like NECAG do a fantastic job of bringing local people together and if last year's show is

anything to go by, this event will also be a tremendous success."

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**The Mary, Queen of Scots exhibition runs at the National Museum of Scotland until 17 November 2013**

Exhibition Gallery 1, Level 3

Cost: Adult £9, Concession £7.50, Child (12-15) £6, Under 12s free, National Museums Scotland Members free, National Art Pass holders receive 50% discount.

Arguably one of the most enigmatic figures in Scottish history, the story of Mary, Queen of Scots can still arouse strong emotions: was she betrayed by those she trusted, condemned to die a Catholic martyr, or a murdering adulteress with her husband's blood on her hands? This major exhibition, only showing in Edinburgh, provides a unique opportunity to re-evaluate much that has been written and speculated about this charismatic monarch, drawing together surviving relics intimately connected with Mary and wider Renaissance material, such as documents, portraits, jewellery, furniture and textiles.

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Although August is not yet finished, our viewing figures are already more than double what they were in January this year. We hope this is a result of you liking what you find here. If there is something you would like to read about or you have a story for us then please get in touch.

If you have a story then you can submit that through Submit your Story with photos resized to no greater than 600 pixels wide. Or you can email us [theedinburghreporter@gmail.com](mailto:theedinburghreporter@gmail.com)

As well as our website here there are other ways that we try to engage:-

[Scoop.it!](#) – this is a magazine of stories which are written by other news outlets and which are just too big for us to research in time, but we think you might like to know about. Our magazine Today's Edinburgh News has attracted 16,700 views.

[Facebook](#) – We need to do some work here! Only 815 likes...Would you like us today? We post interesting things from other Edinburgh sites there as well as posting our own updates.

[Twitter](#) – 13,633 followers and 28,846 tweets to date tell their own story. We love Twitter!

[Flickr](#) – we post some of our photos here and we try to remember to update our Blipfoto account [here](#). Then some of our photos are shown on our [Tumblr](#) page...

[Bambuser](#) – some of our unedited video shot on an iPhone will end up here

[Tout](#) – other little videos which are also shot live and unedited are here

[YouTube](#) is used for longer or edited video

We use [Audioboo](#) for our audio reports

If you would like to submit your work for inclusion in The Edinburgh Reporter then feel free to pitch a story or an idea to the editor Phyllis Stephen by emailing here:- [theedinburghreporter@gmail.com](mailto:theedinburghreporter@gmail.com)



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# Clydesdale Bank recognises community spirit in Edinburgh

✖ Some twenty four community groups across Scotland, including three in Edinburgh, have been selected to share a funding boost of £175,000 to make a real difference in their local areas.

Clydesdale Bank's Spirit of the Community Awards announced the substantial donations to voluntary groups at an awards ceremony in Glasgow, to recognise the charities and not-for-profit organisations which are going the extra mile.

Water of Leith Conservation Trust has been awarded £10,000 to support its community and volunteer development programme which aims to target new groups and extend existing partnerships. The funding will be used to increase the hours of the Community and Volunteer Officer, purchase additional equipment such as litter picks, produce a volunteer guidance pack and cover staff training costs.

Pilton Equalities Project, which aims to enhance the quality of life for older and other vulnerable adults in North Edinburgh, has been awarded £5,000 to expand its literacy programme, combining both literacy and employability skills.

National Trust for Scotland has been awarded £5,000 to assist with its 'Beyond the Gate' six month pilot project which will deliver weekly events at the Hailesland Child & Family Centre in Wester Hailes, Edinburgh. National Trust will work in collaboration with the centre staff to deliver a gardening programme focused on growing food and promoting healthy eating as well as outdoor learning.

The awards, which launched in January this year to mark the Bank's 175th Anniversary, were open to a range of organisations across the third sector which could demonstrate their support for the local community. Groups were invited to enter the awards scheme under one of three categories; education, employability and environment.

Three winners have been selected in each category, securing a funding boost of £10,000. An additional five winners in each category have been awarded £5,000. A further £10,000 was awarded to one charity whose contribution to the community the judges felt was outstanding meaning one organisation received £20,000.

David Thorburn, Chief Executive of Clydesdale and Yorkshire Banks, said:- "Clydesdale Bank's Spirit of the Community Awards aim to recognise and support the vital contribution that voluntary and charitable organisations make to their local communities. It has been inspiring to see the great work which is being done at grass roots level across the country.

"Water of Leith Conservation Trust, Pilton Equalities Project and National Trust for Scotland are extremely deserving winners which have been recognised for their community spirit with these awards from Clydesdale Bank."

The recipients said they were delighted to receive the awards. Helen Brown, Trust Manager at Water of Leith Conservation Trust, said: "As a small charity this kind of investment in our work and that of our volunteers means an enormous amount. We work to keep Edinburgh's river clean, green and full of wildlife. Thank you to Clydesdale Bank for recognising our work and choosing to support us."

Theodora Hidalgo at Pilton Equalities Project, said: "This award will help us to provide support to people with low literacy skills."

David McKinnon, Corporate Business Manager at National Trust

for Scotland, said: “This award will make such a difference to the children and parents of Hailesland Centre, enabling them to grow their own food and giving them the opportunity to experience the richness of Scotland’s landscapes.”

Clydesdale Bank’s sister organisation, Yorkshire Bank has also announced 12 successful recipients of £75,000 as part of the [Spirit of the Community Awards](#) initiative. This brings the total funds awarded to 36 community groups up and down the country to a quarter of a million pounds.

Submitted by [CLYDESDALE BANK](#)

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## Where’s the Salt ‘n’ Sauce then?



Edinburgh is well known as the home of salt ‘n’ sauce.

The latest fishy [story](#) over the last day or two is that one of the city’s fine takeaways has decided to charge for tomato sauce although not for the chip shop sauce which is still free, and the establishment has been branded ‘racist’ by one of its customers.

To go for a fish supper and ask for salt’n’sauce designates you as someone who hails from the Capital. If you like vinegar or tomato sauce, curry sauce or heaven forbid, mayonnaise, as your preferred condiment then clearly you are from elsewhere, and perhaps a very far flung place at that.

In the first place salt’n’sauce means that you adorn your fish supper with more than just a sprinkling of salt and then load

it with brown chip shop sauce which is said to be a mix of malt vinegar and sauce... But what else can it mean?

There is a [Salt 'n'Sauce Forum](#) where most of the chat is about football, including both Hearts and Hibs. You can also follow them on [Twitter.](#) Their [Facebook](#) page is a little less populated.

There is a holding page for a [Salt'n'Sauce website](#), clearly held by someone wishing to cash in at some stage on the fact that they own the domain which some chippie might be after.

Tommy Sheppard who has run the Assembly Rooms Fringe and Spiegelterrace on George Street this year and last has a company called Salt'n'Sauce Promotions which is well known to those interested in comedy, as it started off with The Stand venue in Edinburgh. It is familiar now to those following the Fringe in the city centre. Sheppard said at the launch of this year's Assembly Rooms Fringe that he wants the heart of the Festival to come back to the city centre.

Edinburgh Sauce were supplying brown and red 'chippy sauce on Amazon and eBay where each bottle retailed for under a fiver plus postage and packing earlier this year, although it is not quite clear if they are still in business or not.

The Federation of Fish Friers tell us that fish and chips originated in 1860 either in London or Manchester, and had an hoonourable mention in Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities in the previous year.

So how do you like your fish and chips and where do you get them from?

Some of the fine establishments where you can get your hands on the national dish in Edinburgh are listed here and shown on the map, but if we have forgotten yours then do tell us! We would like this to be the comprehensive list of salt 'n'sauce!

Franco's Chip Shop 5-7 Comely Bank Road T 0131 332 3557

Gorgie Fish Bar 136-138 Gorgie Road T 0131 337 5199

Pacific Fish Bar 61 Mayfield Road T 0131 668 3890

Tailend 14 Albert Street T 0131 555 3577

Deep Sea 2 Antigua Street T 0131 557 0276

Benes Chip Shop 162 Canongate T 0131 557 1092

City Restaurant 33-35 Nicolson Street T 0131 667 2819

The Newington Traditional Fish Bar 23 South Clerk Street T 0131 667 0203

L'Alba d'Oro 7 Henderson Row T 0131 557 2580

Cafe Piccante 19 Broughton Street T 0131 478 7884

The Chip Inn 234 Oxbgangs Road North T 0131 441 1940

Rapido Fish Bar 77-79 Broughton Street T 0131 556 2041

Carlos 227 Portobello High Street T 0131 669 3010

Clam Shell 148 High Street T 0131 225 4388

Gold Sea 243 Ferry Road T0131 554 2195

Salvatore's 16 Roseneath Street T 0131 299 4087

Aquamarina Fish and Chips 3 Yeaman Place T 0131 229 3981

L'Aquila Bianca 17 Raeburn Place T 0131 332 8433

Angelo's 8 Lochend Road South T 0131 661 7706

The Codfather 305a Sciennes T 0131 629 6492



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# Foundation of Hearts – Open Letter from David Southern

Hearts Managing Director David Southern is now in a position to offer his full support to the bid by Foundation of Hearts, and has written an open letter to fans urging them to pledge their support too.

Foundation of Hearts now has preferred bidder status and it is looking increasingly likely that the club will be owned and run by the supporters in future in what Southern hopes will be a more stable future for the club.

[Foundation of Hearts, David Southern, 27th August 2013](#)

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## Five things you need to know today



**Fringe enjoys record year – Transport & Environment Committee – National Museum of Scotland today – Forth Bridge viewing platform – Virgin Money Fireworks Concert**

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2013 has just come to an end. There were 45,464 performances of 2,871 shows, making it the largest ever arts festival in the world.

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society announced that by

yesterday afternoon, with hundreds of performances still to take place, an estimated 1,943,493 tickets had been issued for shows and events in 273 venues across the city, reflecting the continuing popularity and cultural significance of the Fringe. This is 5% more than the overall number of tickets estimated to have been issued by the same point last year.

Kath M Mainland, Chief Executive of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society said:-“Our loyal and enthusiastic audience has once again been treated to the most amazing cultural experience and has been both challenged and entertained by a programme of spectacular work across all artforms from all around the world.

“Over the past 25 days, audiences from Edinburgh, Scotland, the rest of the UK and across the globe have been inspired by world-class performers, writers and artists in the largest celebration of art and entertainment in the world. I would like, on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of people who visited the Fringe this year, to thank them for showing us their incredible talent and courage by bringing so many extraordinary shows and events to our capital city.”

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The council's Transport committee meets this morning at the City Chambers.

The committee will be discussing plans to roll out the 20 mph limit to all residential streets, main shopping streets and streets in the city centre or those with lots of pedestrians and cyclists. This scheme has been piloted in South Central Edinburgh and the council believe it has been a success both in terms of residents being encouraged to walk or cycle and for reasons of road safety.

The council pilot has cost £213,542 for signage, staff costs and various surveys and has been based on findings elsewhere in the UK where 20 mph zones have also proved successful in

creating 'liveable streets'.

The meeting will also consider the proposal first put to the council 3 years ago for a surface pedestrian crossing to be installed on Calder Road at Parkhead. The cost then was estimated to be £150,000 to install traffic lights and the necessary infrastructure to take the place of the subway there. Although the local community would like the subway to be replaced it does not appear that this will be possible as there is no budget for it at present.

Any member of the public can attend this meeting if interested and the papers can be accessed [here.](#)

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### **Edinburgh International Festival: Movements**

27 August, 14:30 – 15:30

Auditorium, Level 1 (entry via Chambers Street)

Cost: £6, book in advance at [www.eif.co.uk/series/movements](http://www.eif.co.uk/series/movements)

As part of the Edinburgh International Festival *Movements* is a series of talks and events, presented in association with National Museums Scotland, exploring how artists have kept pace with technology over the centuries and how technology in turn influences artists. Specialist contributors include musicians Brian Eno, Irvine Arditti and Simon Kirby and

subjects include 300 years of the piano, the autonomous and emotional robot band Cybraphon, and the phenomenon of Deus ex machina.

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Network Rail plan to install a viewing platform at the top of [the Forth Bridge](#). What do you think? Would you go up there for a wee look or would you be too scared?

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The annual Virgin Money Fireworks Concert takes place this Sunday 1 September 2013. There are plenty of vantage points from Inverleith in the north to Salisbury Crags on the other side of the city where you can watch the display which starts at 9:00pm accompanied by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. This year's centrepiece is Musorgsky's dazzling orchestral showpiece Pictures at an Exhibition. Its vivid musical depictions of Russian paintings, conveyed in virtuoso playing and barnstorming brass fanfares, are promised to be the perfect match for an astonishing display of pyrotechnics.

It appears [from the website](#) that there may still be tickets for Princes Street Gardens although you will have to check with The Hub.



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# Visitor centre planned for the top of the Forth Bridge



Network Rail plan to allow the public on top of the Forth Bridge by the time of its 125th anniversary in 2015.

A feasibility study has identified two concepts to provide access to the bridge – a visitor centre and viewing platform linked by a lift in North Queensferry, and a smaller base to coordinate guided walks to the top of the south tower in South Queensferry.

The North Queensferry proposals would see a discreet building created under the northern Fife Tower offering education and exhibition facilities alongside catering and shopping. The centre would be connected by a step-free ramp to two lifts on the eastern side of the bridge. The lifts would offer access to a viewing platform at the top of the bridge, 110m above sea level.



On the south side, a pod-style building is proposed to coordinate guided walks on the structure for groups of up to 15 people. The building would be developed on Network Rail owned land underneath the southern approach span, just a short walk from Dalmeny Station.

The walk will permit access along the south approach span on a pre-existing walkway underneath the track, followed by a climb to the top of the southern Queensferry Tower using a walkway within the top cantilever.

The two concepts would cost an estimated £12-15m to deliver.

David Simpson, route managing director, Network Rail Scotland said: "After 10 years spent restoring the bridge to its full glory, and in advance of the application for world heritage listing, these plans will offer the public the chance to visit the bridge and see it 'close-up' for the first time. We are hugely excited by these proposals and believe that they have the potential to be developed into an important new visitor attraction for Scotland.

"While these plans are still at development stage, we believe that the options we have revealed today can be delivered without impacting the well loved view of the bridge. Any infrastructure on the bridge will be less visible than the existing scaffold platform and all buildings designs will be of premium quality.

"It's an ambitious target, but we'd love to see these plans at least partially realised by 2015 to coincide with the bridge's 125th anniversary. Any profits from the two facilities would be reinvested into the upkeep of the bridge. The bridge remains a key part of Scotland's railway infrastructure, linking Edinburgh with Fife and the north, and carrying over 200 trains per day.



"We are committed to working with communities, local authorities and relevant government bodies to develop plans that have a sustainable positive impact on the area. While we expect that visitor numbers will be high, we're committed to encouraging as many of those visitors as possible to travel by rail and we will develop plans alongside train operators to incentivise that option."

Transport Minister Keith Brown, commenting on behalf of the Forth Bridge Forum, added: "I welcome Network Rail's exciting and ambitious plans to combine an historic and vital part of

Scotland's transport network with a breath-taking attraction for visitors to enjoy. One of the key roles of the Forth Bridges Forum of which Network Rail is an active partner is to promote the Forth bridges and the surrounding area as a globally unique attraction for visitors. This announcement by Network Rail is the first stage of that aspiration."

Local councillor Norman Work who represents the Almond Ward said:-"When Network Rail were repainting the Forth Bridge they offered some visits on to the bridge as raffle prizes. People bid massive amounts of money to go up there and so they already know there was great demand. The Forth Road Bridge do the same thing. They have offered raffles and auction prizes in the same way for trips up the towers there and again the demand is amazing.

"Now that work has finished on the Forth Bridge there is no longer the infrastructure in place to allow such trips to take place but the demand is still there. Many people have been asking about organising trips and I think this will be a very popular attraction and look forward to it coming to fruition.

"I have been up both towers of the Forth Road Bridge but never been on the Forth Bridge so I can't wait!"

Network Rail will now begin the process of developing designs in consultation with the relevant authorities and local communities.

Charities, which have benefited to the tune of over £2million during the last 10 years from abseil events on the bridge, will continue to be accommodated as part of the plans.

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# Feeding The 5 Million: Nourish Scotland 2013 Conference

Nourish Scotland Conference 2013 , Queen Margaret University,  
3-4 September 2013

“Feeding the Five Million: What would it take for everyone in Scotland to eat well and sustainably? ”

This conference will be an active enquiry rather than a conventional conference. Nourish wants to use this conference to work in partnership with individuals and organisations from a variety of sectors (Food, Agriculture, the Environment, Community and Anti-Poverty Work, Health and Economics), to devise an ambitious yet achievable blueprint for Scotland's food system.

Pete Ritchie, NOURISH SCOTLAND Executive Director, says:-“This is an exciting time for Scotland when many visions of the type of country that we want to live in are being formulated. For our part, Nourish is committed to coming up with of ways that Scotland can rise to the challenge of feeding all its citizens in a healthy, sustainable and fair way.

Scotland is a small, wealthy, well-governed country blessed with some productive soils and plenty of water, with skilled farmers and fishers, world-leading science and a strong social fabric. It is simply unacceptable (or should be) that we also see more and more people dependent on food banks for their basic needs and a population which dies on average four years younger than the European average, with huge inequalities across the country. Scotland's food exports are strong – we export £12bn of food every year, while we only eat around £9bn worth ourselves. But our food system is failing in some major ways. This conference will help us change that and show how



exactly we can move closer to a Scotland which feeds all of our people healthily, sustainably and fairly.

[The conference](#) will take the form of a two-day enquiry. Teams from different backgrounds will work together to explore these issues and produce a report which will subsequently be edited, published and presented to government and other bodies. Teams will have access to a variety of witnesses including people from all parts of the food system and academics from a variety of fields.

Key witnesses will include:

Katherine Trebeck, Policy and Advocacy Manager for Oxfam's UK programme and author of the recent "Our Economy: Towards a new prosperity" [report](#).

[James Withers](#), Chief Executive of Scotland Food and Drink

[Annie Anderson](#), Professor of Food Choice and Director of the Centre for Public Nutrition Research, University of Dundee

[Geoff Tansey](#), Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust "Visionary for a Just and Peaceful World"

On the evening of Tuesday 3rd September, there will be a panel discussion chaired by Lesley Riddoch on "Ending food poverty in Scotland". This discussion will feature Rachelle Faroul, from Just Food in New York and Robin McAlpine, Director of the Jimmy Reid Foundation and initiator of the Scottish Common Weal project.

This will be followed by a dinner prepared by the chef at QMU using local organic ingredients.

Submitted by [Graham Burgess, Communications Manager, Nourish Scotland](#)

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# Celebrating 30 years of Edinburgh International Book Festival



## EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 30 YEARS WITH A HEADY COCKTAIL OF FACT AND FICTION

The Edinburgh International Book Festival finished the public programme of events today with appearances from William Dalrymple, Margaret Atwood and Neil Gaiman and, fresh from reporting for the BBC in Egypt, Jeremy Bowen. Over the last 17 days, the Book Festival has welcomed 800 authors from 40 countries taking part in 700 events including Salman Rushdie, Andrew Marr in his first public appearance this year, US statistician Nate Silver who predicted a No vote in the Scottish Independence referendum, five of the authors longlisted for the 2013 Man Booker Prize and some of the world's leading graphic novelists and illustrators. Margaret Atwood, David Peace, Simon Sebag Montefiore, Alfred Brendel, DBC Pierre and Daniel Rachel all launched their brand new books and Alan Warner and Tanya Harrod were announced as the winners of the University of Edinburgh's James Tait Black Prizes.

On the final Sunday evening authors and audience members joined together to celebrate the life and work of Iain Banks in an emotional event hosted by Ian Rankin, Val McDermid and Ken MacLeod with readings of Iain's work by Valerie Edmond. Book Festival organisers confirmed during the event that one of the paper sculptures anonymously donated during the

Festival, a black crow celebrating Bank's *The Crow Road*, will be gifted to the University of Stirling who will be the beneficiary of the Iain Banks Archive.



Nick Barley, Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival, said "In this, the 30<sup>th</sup> year of the Book Festival, we have looked back over the explosion of culture and the arts in the last 30 years and looked forward to where we think we will be 30 years hence. It's about so much more than the numbers. We have welcomed an extraordinary array of writers, thinkers, politicians and poets to discuss everything from the representation of women in the arts to the question of Scottish Independence. We have enjoyed lively and informative debates, extraordinary life stories, and touched the heart of the Egyptian revolution by bringing the music and poetry of Tahrir Square from Cairo to Edinburgh with Amin Haddad and Eskerendella. It really has been a wonderful two weeks."

In the popular Baillie Gifford Children's Programme Judith Kerr celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with a look back over a remarkable career, Illustrator in Residence Barroux was joined in a Big Draw by children of all ages and Robert Muchamore, Darren Shan, Julia Donaldson and Children's Laureate Malorie Blackman all spoke to entranced, and sell-out, audiences. Almost 3,000 primary school children from 40 schools across Scotland will visit the Book Festival tomorrow for the Baillie Gifford Schools Gala day to enjoy events, activities, workshops and readings from authors including Julia Donaldson, James Carter, Joan Lingard and Joanna Nadin.



Stripped, a new strand for 2013 supported by the Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund, celebrated graphic novels and comics and the people that create them with over 40

events across the adult and children's programme. World renowned graphic novelists including Grant Morrison, Joe Sacco, Chris Ware and Melinda Gebbie spoke about their work, and other events included reading workshops on Batman, illustration workshops with Sonia Martinez and Gary Northfield and the announcement of the winner of the inaugural 9<sup>th</sup> Art Award. (Stephen Collins with *The Gigantic Beard That Was Evil*)



The Book Festival's late night Jura Unbound events included a comics edition of Literary Death Match featuring Neil Gaiman and Dawn O'Porter, poetry from Iraq, the Bookshop Band and an evening of music from members of Fife's Fence Collective including King Creosote and James Yorkston.

42 debut novelists were included in the 2013 Book Festival programme including authors from as far afield as Australia, South Africa, Ireland and Iran. Readers and visitors to the Book Festival are invited to vote for their favourite in the First Book Award, sponsored by eBooks by Sainsbury's. Voting is open through the [Book Festival website](#) until the end of September



With around 225,000 visits this August Charlotte Square Gardens was busy with visitors attending events, visiting the Bookshops and cafes and relaxing in the sunshine. Ticket sales were up nearly 6% on 2012 and sales of books in the Book Festival's two bookshops also increased by 6%.

The 2014 Edinburgh International Book Festival will take place from Saturday 9 to Monday 25 August and the programme will be announced in June. Audio from events in the 2013 Book Festival are now available on [the website](#) with more to be released over the coming months

And here is our little time lapse from last week....

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# Fenlon determined to improve home results



Hibs boss Pat Fenlon is determined to improve results at Easter Road after watching his team produce another fine performance away from home which saw Hibs pick up their first win of the new campaign against Kilmarnock at Rugby Park on Saturday. He also revealed that half time consisted of a 'more of the same' pep talk rather than a hairdryer approach despite the fact that the team were trailing at the break, and praised the character of the team and in particular the contribution of goalscorer Liam Craig and Rowan Vine in the victory.

Speaking to Hibernian TV, Fenlon said: "Since I've been at the club, the results have been good at Rugby Park, but as I've said to the players in the dressing room, we need to make sure our own place is a happy hunting ground for us. That's the key to this; making sure that we improve our results at home. I thought we showed good character and we played well in patches. In the first half we've gone a goal down which we probably didn't deserve, but in all fairness it was a fantastic strike, and we showed great character to win the game. It was a big three points for us.

"The players have showed great character and gone out in the second half, played well and scored two good goals. I'm delighted for them, I'm delighted for the supporters as well that have come through because it has been a tough week for everybody. When you've gone a goal down to a strike like that, you can come out in the second half a little bit deflated, but we came out on the front foot and got a good goal. We scored a

goal early in the game that I'd like to see again, but the linesman gave it as offside. I told the team at half-time: Just keep believing and doing what you're doing."

"I thought Rowan's performance was really good for us and he can drift into wide areas and put in real decent crosses, and I think probably for Liam over the last few games I've probably asked him to do too much and he hasn't been at that back post enough. Against Kilmarnock, he was and it was a good finish from him. It looks an easy goal but he's got a lot to do there and it was a fantastic header from him.

"I'm delighted for him because obviously he has a reputation of scoring goals at St Johnstone and he has come here and it probably hasn't happened for him at the start, but he has got two today so that's him up and running."

Hibs face bogie team Ross County on Saturday and no-one at Easter Road need reminding that they haven't beaten the Staggies in a competitive fixture. Fenlon is determined to end the 'hoodoo' although he accepts that it will be a difficult task, particularly after the highlanders emphatic 3-0 win over St Mirren in Dingwall at the weekend.

Fenlon continued: "I think we lost every game to them last year so that is something that we want to put right, but they are a good side and they have brought in some decent players as well and it should be a decent game."

Meanwhile Scott Robertson is desperate to regain his place in the team, after he suffered a hip problem after scoring the equaliser against Dundee United.

The former Blackpool and Dundee United midfielder said: "I've just had a bit of slight pain in my hip. I spoke to the physios and the manager about it last Thursday. We decided the best course of action would be for me to rest over the weekend and to not aggravate it for this coming weekend. That will stop it from becoming a long term problem and hopefully it

will be cleared up for this weekend. I'm feeling a lot better now and hopefully I'll be 100% fit for this weekend.

"It was very frustrating to get injured straight after scoring – it was possibly my goal that caused the injury. The technique for the first shot was a little bit awkward and that was where I was experiencing pain with that motion when I was trying to strike the ball. Now we want to keep the momentum going – we've got our first point followed by our first win at the weekend, so hopefully we can use that as a springboard to get a few more wins."

Photograph by [www.jcmackintosh.co.uk](http://www.jcmackintosh.co.uk)

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# **Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2013 REVIEW – Secrets of the Elders of Zion \*\***

Secrets of the Elders of Zion

Paradise in the Vault, Edinburgh (until Aug 26)

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One hundred and ten years after The Protocols of the Elders of Zion alleged a Jewish conspiracy to dominate the world, Hayden Cohen, a 27-year-old further education teacher from Leeds, in West Yorkshire, northern England, seeks to debunk the notorious anti-Semitic publication in what is surely a first for the Fringe.

As Hayden notes in his flyer, he's always wanted to be an Elder of Zion, "a secret organisation controlling the world sounds great, he's Jewish and he thinks like a pensioner" – so he has formed the UK branch of the Elders of Zion himself.

Welcome to the new members' open day.

Great. Unfortunately, the show failed to live up to its satirical expectations, primed by his rap-influenced paeon to geekery, "Age of the Geek", last year. After a promising start, in which he sings a eulogy to Israel, while "This Land is Mine", the animated short by Nina Paley, in which hordes of ancients chop each other to bits, is projected onto a back-stage screen, there's a tangible dip.

A potted history of anti-Semitism is interspersed with a mixture of witty observations and rather limp jokes, and while it's historically interesting, it could do with tightening up and a bit more attention to stagecraft. There are plenty of good ideas fizzing around, not least those involving a musical bagel, but I won't say any more. Hayden wanted it to be a secret.

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## **Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2013 – REVIEW – Hal Cruttenden: Tough Luvvie \*\*\*\***



**Hal Cruttenden: Tough Luvvie, Gilded Balloon 10pm, until 26 Aug, £13 (£11 concessions)**

With a convincing performance in the play '[Making News](#)' at this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe, [Hal Cruttenden](#) stages his solo stand-up in the Gilded Balloon's Wine Bar, with its near-deafening air-con. Fortunately his storytelling and dramatic outbursts rise above it, with a welcome apology and



explanation for the delay on the night, which is rarer than you might think.

Cruttenden is quick to discuss Fringe 'etiquette', in that any show which is being flyered by a man dressed in historic attire, bellowing ye-olde-English, is always going to be 'sh\*t', an observation that brings about the discovery that acting is where his heart truly lies, with this being the case for many years before stand-up. The way in which he uses his theatrical disposition to bolster his set is advantageous.

Topics pondered include his family dynamics with his Northern-Irish wife and with his two daughters, both of whom regularly question his camp persona. Cruttenden doesn't shy away from their remarks and uses them to comedic effect proficiently.

The Royal Family and politicians are contemplated in depth, leading onto 'that' topic of the Scottish independence referendum. Unlike some of the higher profile stand-ups at this year's Fringe, Cruttenden actually dares to speak more than just one sentence about it, explaining his viewpoint and possible ramifications of either result.

He does in fact manage to weave his views on numerous topics throughout the hour while addressing a range of regional stereotypes, much to the horror of one heckler who evidently caught Cruttenden unawares but was swiftly dealt with in a professional manner, where many other acts may have floundered.

Segments featuring Cruttenden's critique of 'life quotes' and Facebook statuses, and experiences where he has had to portray his 'tough' side, were highlights of a set that featured many observations and anecdotes that you may have already experienced if you have seen some of his televised material.

Having said this, fresh injections, combined with a

consistently well-paced delivery, make this an amusing endeavour. Cruttenden's sensitive yet sharp-edged calibre and dramatised sequences make him captivating and topical.

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# Referendum Bill makes progress



Parliamentary committee endorses Referendum Bill

The Scottish Independence Referendum Bill has cleared its first parliamentary hurdle following the endorsement of the general principles of the Bill by a leading Holyrood committee.

In its Stage 1 Report published today, the Referendum (Scotland) Bill Committee concluded it is confident the Bill should provide a suitable framework for next year's referendum.

Referendum Bill Committee Convener Bruce Crawford MSP said:- "The Committee took evidence from a wide range of witnesses, and considered many specific aspects of this detailed and important legislation.

"While we identified some issues that require clarification or amendment, the whole Committee was able to agree that the Bill provides an appropriate foundation for next year's referendum.

Indeed, the Electoral Commission told us it was "a strong piece of legislation" able to deliver a referendum "that truly puts the voter first".

“Although Committee members clearly differ on what the outcome of the referendum should be, there was a high degree of consensus on how it should be conducted – and I am pleased that almost all the report’s conclusions were unanimous.”

The report includes the following findings:

On campaign spending limits – The Committee recognises that any approach to spending limits needs to meet the test set out in the Edinburgh Agreement of securing “rules that are fair and provide a level playing field”, while at the same time protects free speech and encourages wide participation in the debate. The Committee concludes that the Electoral Commission recommendations (reflected in the Bill) achieve as good an overall outcome as is likely to be possible, and that a combination of public scrutiny and the oversight of the Electoral Commission should be capable of preventing spending power alone, on either side, unfairly affecting the outcome.

On ‘purdah’ (restrictions on publications in the final 28 days before the referendum) – The Committee accepts the Deputy First Minister’s view that there is no reason to doubt the good faith of the UK Government’s commitment (under the Edinburgh Agreement) to observe purdah restrictions equivalent to those imposed on the Scottish Government in the Bill.

Nevertheless, there is an asymmetry, and we invite the UK Government to indicate whether it would be prepared to put the purdah restrictions to which it is committed on a statutory footing (Note: four Members dissented from this last sentence).

On the implications of ‘purdah’ for the Parliament – The purdah period is to begin on Thursday 21 August 2014. The Parliament has now agreed recess dates that include a period of recess from 28 June to 3 August 2014 (inclusive) and another from 23 August to 21 September 2014 (inclusive). As a result, there will be a 2-day overlap between the purdah period and a period of Parliamentary business. The Committee

draws this to the attention of the Parliamentary authorities.

On information from both Governments post-referendum – The Committee acknowledges the Electoral Commission's recommendation about providing voters with general information about the process that would be followed post-referendum, either in the event of a Yes vote or a No vote. The Committee is encouraged to hear that the Scottish Government and the UK Government are discussing these matters, and would welcome further information about the nature of those discussions, and regular updates on progress.

On 'Declaration of results' – the Committee endorses the approach taken in the Bill, which allows local results to be made before the national result, and gives discretion on exact timings to the Chief Counting Officer. Nevertheless, we would expect the Chief Counting Officer, in practice, to authorise counting officers to announce local results without any unnecessary delay, and we would welcome further clarification from the Electoral Management Board as to how these decisions are likely to be made in practice.

On donations – The Committee is generally satisfied with the rules on donations. However, it invites the Scottish Government to consider further whether a lower threshold for reporting donations would be merited, and whether there should be greater public access to information about donations during the referendum campaign, in the interests of transparency. The Committee would also welcome further clarification on how, in practice, permitted participants are to check donors' eligibility by reference to electoral registers other than the one register to which they are to be guaranteed access.