

Panda update



And it appears yet again that we are being told that no news is good news.....

Simon Girling, Head of Veterinary Services for the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, said:

“We know it seems hard to believe after all this time, but Tian Tian, our female giant panda, is still continuing to show signs of being in the late term of pregnancy. Her behaviour has mellowed out over the past few days, which is a very positive sign and she has also started to produce colostrum.

“As pandas experiencing a pseudo-pregnancy also produce colostrum and behave just as a pregnant panda would, these signs are still not 100 per cent indicative of pregnancy, but while Tian Tian continues to show signs of late term pregnancy, we will continue to treat her in that way, which means allowing her to enjoy time off show while keepers monitor her around the clock.

“Yang Guang, our male giant panda, has been off colour for a few weeks. As with any other animal in our collection, we carried out some routine blood sample and imaging tests on Monday 16th September and thankfully nothing major was found. We believe he may have a minor metabolic disorder with reduced blood levels of calcium and since starting a regime of supplements he has shown significant improvement and his keepers are really happy with him. We expect him to recover in a matter of weeks.”

North Edinburgh Police Launch Stolen Motorbike Initiative



Police in North Edinburgh are currently carrying out an initiative to prevent youths riding stolen motorcycles and cars in the area.

This four week operation involves a variety of Police and Council resources who are working in the Muirhouse, Pilton and waterfront areas with a view to preventing the theft of motorcycles and youths riding around local estates.

As well as an increase in foot patrols, officers have been utilising hand held cameras to capture potential evidence and to identify offenders.

The police helicopter is also being utilised to provide a bird's eye view of the problem, enabling officers to get to the right locations quickly to ensure they can recover stolen vehicles.

The police have also enlisted the support of the City of Edinburgh Council's local Environmental Wardens who have been checking likely disposal areas as part of their patrols and specialist Roads Policing resources have also been drafted in to assist.

Inspector Mark Rennie of Drylaw Police Station said: "There has been a significant amount of concern in the local community over this problem and we've been working hard over the summer to ensure we can provide additional resources into the area to prevent it.

“Since the beginning of August we have recovered 40 stolen vehicles and charged 20 youths with related offences but our aim is to prevent this type of risk taking behaviour over the longer term. As well as talking with young people at local schools about the risks, we will be speaking with local youth groups and agencies with a view to making every effort to divert those involved into positive activities in their community.

“We’ve had great support from our community groups and elected representatives who can see the efforts being made and how the use of the helicopter is often quickly preventing any escalation on the evenings when the problems occur.

“I’d like to thank residents who have already called us with information and would ask anyone to call us immediately if they see what they believe to be a stolen motorcycle being used or hidden by youths in the area.

“To keep local people up to date we are putting out regular updates of our progress on our local twitter account and I’d encourage residents to follow it for additional information: @EdinNorthPolice.”

The City of Edinburgh Council’s Community Safety Leader, Councillor Cammy Day, said: “The theft of motorbikes and cars by young people has become a real problem in the north of Edinburgh and one that I know is a matter of great concern to the local community. I am very glad to see additional Police resources being used to tackle this extremely serious issue and by working with local people I am confident that the initiative will be a great success. I would urge anyone with suspicions that a vehicle that might be stolen to contact the Police so that they can respond quickly and hopefully stop this worrying trend.”

Anyone with information should contact Police Scotland on 101, or make an anonymous report through the charity Crimestoppers

on 0800 555 111.

Poppies on their way for November campaign

FIVE MILLION POPPIES DISPATCHED FROM POPPY FACTORY FOR NOVEMBER POPPY APPEAL

Five million poppies have been loaded onto trucks from Lady Haig's Poppy Factory this week for distribution to hundreds of volunteers across Scotland in preparation for the 2013 Scottish Poppy Appeal, organised by veterans' charity Poppyscotland.

The 40 veterans with disabilities who work at the Edinburgh-based Lady Haig's Poppy Factory hand-assemble five million poppies and 10,000 wreaths every year for the November campaign. The poppies are then sent to Poppyscotland volunteers who, with teams of collectors, organise public collections and ensure poppies are visible in shops, supermarkets, schools and businesses across the country.



The making of poppies and wreaths is a year-round process. However, the Factory is anticipating an increased demand for wreaths and poppies next year, as events get underway to mark the start of the First World War centenary commemorations. People organising special remembrance and commemorative activities in 2014 are urged to place their orders as early as

possible to ensure items will be available.

Factory Manager Charlie Pelling explained: “All Scotland’s poppies and wreaths are made by hand so it’s a time-consuming process. We expect an upsurge in orders for 2014 and beyond and our advice to people wishing to lay tributes at centenary events is to get their orders in as early as possible so we can fulfil the demand.”

Wreaths for 2014 can be ordered from the Factory online at www.ladyhaigspoppyfactory.org.uk



The 2012 Scottish Poppy Appeal raised £2.58 million. The money raised is used by Poppyscotland to provide vital support to veterans and their families living in Scotland, from all conflicts, who may suffer from financial, physical and psychological issues as they struggle to adjust to civilian life.

Our Dynamic Earth opening its doors to robots this month



This month there will be robots at Our Dynamic Earth.

An army of robots from some of the most famous film and television programmes of the past century will be storming Our Dynamic Earth this October. From 12-27 October, the iconic five-star attraction will be occupied by a 30-strong force of cyborgs, as part of the spectacular Robot1.1 exhibition.

The collection of model androids and automatons gives a snapshot of artificial intelligence on screen over the last 90 years, starting with Fritz Lang's iconic 1927 film Metropolis, right up to modern day super hero epic, Iron Man. This one-off retrospective is a rare opportunity to see the pieces at close quarters, with a chance to examine the craftsmanship and hard work which goes into their creation.

From classic cult programmes, such as Lost In Space and Red Dwarf, to blockbuster films including Terminator 2 and Star Wars, the exhibition is sure to fascinate adults and children alike.

Commenting on autumn's exciting exhibition, Eilidh Massie, marketing manager of Dynamic Earth said: "After the success of our alien and dinosaur exhibitions earlier in the year, we are extremely excited to be making room for Robot1.1 this half term. The breadth and depth of the collection means there is something for all the family, from kitsch 1960s robots, to smooth and sleek 21st century technology. Memories are bound to come rushing back for kids and adults alike, which I'm sure will make Robot1.1 an incredibly popular addition to the attraction."

Alongside the seasonal exhibit, Our Dynamic Earth includes a whole host of fascinating features, including Scotland's only permanent 4D cinema, a real iceberg, a bone-shaking earthquake and a tropical rainforest.

Robot1.1 will run for the duration of the Scottish half term, from 12-27 October 2013, and is free as part of admission to Our Dynamic Earth.

For more information on events and activities happening at Our Dynamic Earth, visit www.dynamicearth.co.uk or call 0131 550 7800

ESPC reports demand growing for flats in Edinburgh



LATEST FIGURES SHOW 56% INCREASE IN SALES OF FLATS

ESPC HOUSE PRICE REPORT: September 2013

Sales in and around Edinburgh have reached their highest level since 2007 according to a report issued today by property market leader ESPC. The ESPC House Price Report shows the total number of sales, recorded between July and September in Edinburgh, the Lothians and Fife, rose by 43.8% compared to last year's figure.

The increase in sales was particularly notable for one and two bedroom flats with rising activity from investors and first time buyers having fuelled demand. In Edinburgh there was a 53.3% annual rise in the number of two bedroom flats sold, while sales of one bedroom flats in the Capital increased by more than 56% annually.

The number of sellers coming onto the market also increased, though at the more modest rate of 11.8%. As a result market conditions have become more favourable for sellers than has been the case for a number of years.

With sellers in an improving position, the percentage of sales where the Home Report valuation is achieved has risen in most areas. In Edinburgh, 40.6% of properties sold between July and September achieved their Home Report valuation, up from 26.8% during the same period a year ago and from 23.4% in 2011.

David Marshall, business analyst with ESPC said:-“The market is showing encouraging signs with the return of first time buyers and investors, evident in the increase in sales of one and two bedroom flats in the Capital.

“The percentage of sales where the valuation is achieved or exceeded has been steadily rising as market conditions for sellers have improved, however the majority of properties are still selling for less than the Home Report valuation. On average, properties in the Capital are currently selling for 2.4% less than their Home Report valuation compared to 4.3% a year ago.

“For those looking to buy it’s important to note that there is a significant level of variance around this figure. Just over a quarter of properties sold over the last three months

achieved a selling price higher than the valuation, while one in 10 sold for more than 10% below the valuation figure.

“As you’d expect, the likelihood of a property achieving its valuation decreases the longer it spends on the market. Generally speaking, smaller properties are less likely to achieve their valuation than larger family homes and there are also significant variances across relatively small geographical areas, so it’s well worth speaking to your solicitor estate agent who’ll be well placed to guide you on what to bid.”

Key findings from the report include:

- **The number of homes sold in Edinburgh, the Lothians and Fife during the third quarter of 2013 rose by 43.8%.**
 - **Total sales during the third quarter were at their highest level since 2007.**
 - **House prices showed modest annual growth in most areas. In Edinburgh, a 0.3% increase took the average house price to £212,429.**
 - **There was an increase in the percentage of sales where the Home Report valuation was achieved, reflecting the improving market conditions for sellers.**
 - **In Edinburgh 40.6% of properties sold between June and September achieved their Home Report valuation, up from 26.8% a year ago.**
 - **The average house price in most areas showed a small annual increase.**
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Strange Theatre bring Couldn't Care Less to Edinburgh



Inspired by the experiences of carers “**Couldn't Care Less**” is a dark, surreal, funny and moving story of two women whose lives are disappearing. When Elspeth develops Alzheimer's, Lilly embarks on a journey of frustration, humour and ultimately love, as she learns to dance with the person who is, not the mother who was.

[Strange Theatre](#) is co-producing the play with [Plutôt la Vie](#) and we are performing the play as part of the Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival and Luminare: Scotland's Creative Ageing Festival. The play is funded by Creative Scotland and Age Scotland and is being created collaboratively by performers Liz Strange and Hilde McKenna, director Tim Licata, writer Morna Pearson, composer Daniel Krass, with designer Alice Wilson and choreographer Malcolm Shields.

The play is being staged at different venues in the city:-

Friday 11th October 7:30pm

Saturday 12th October 2pm

North Edinburgh Arts Centre 15a Pennywell Court, Edinburgh
EH4 4TZ

Box Office: 0131 315 2151 / admin@northedinburgharts.co.uk /
www.northedinburgharts.co.uk

Thursday 17th October 8pm

Friday 18th October 2.30pm

Friday 18th October 8pm (Live Streamed Performance)

Saturday 19th October 8pm

Traverse Theatre 10 Cambridge Street, Edinburgh EH1 2ED

Booking: 0131 228 1404 / www.traverse.co.uk

For those of you who can't get to one of the performance, the 8pm performance on Friday 18th October from the Traverse Theatre will be live streamed, so you can watch the play live online for free where ever you are in the world: <http://couldntcarelesstheplay.wordpress.com/watch-online/>

You can also help spread the word about Couldn't Care Less by inviting your friends via their [facebook event](#).

Vote for your favourite Edinburgh tapas restaurant



Edinburgh Tapas Titans in the running to be voted the UK's Favourite Tapas Venue

With just a few days left until the winner of a competition being run to find the UK's Favourite Tapas Venue is announced, Edinburgh's widely acclaimed restaurants El Quijote, Tapa, Malvarosa and Indaba are all staking a claim for the title and flying the flag for the capital.

The competition is being run by artisan Andalusian beer brand Alhambra with consumers asked to nominate or vote for their favourite all-round tapas venue. The final winner along with regional winners will be announced on the 12 October 2013, Spain's National Day.

Already receiving strong backing in the contest are:

El Quijote (EH3 9JS) was set up by a group of friends in 2003 and is proud to offer the finest Spanish ingredients cooked in the most authentic way. Not just providing the classic tapa we all know and love, the restaurant aims to take customers on a journey through some of the lesser well known but equally tasty delicacies.

Indaba (EH3 9QJ) is a quirky and unique tapas restaurant aiming to be a little bit different. With South African owner Charlton married to head chef Begoña, the restaurant serves up an array of classically Spanish dishes interspersed with some unusual but delicious South African tapa.

Malvarosa (EH15 2AT) is the first Spanish tapas restaurant in Portobello-Edinburgh and offers a selection of traditional tapa cooked using free range, organic local produce and served in a true Spanish style. Head chef James Benin produces mouth-watering classics such as Fabada, pil-pil prawns and calamares, plus specialities including Pescado Adobado and Albóndigas y Croquetas de Jamón y Pollo.

Tapa (EH6 6SW) opened in 2009 with the aim of providing an authentic Spanish tapas experience in vibrant surroundings and at a reasonable price. The restaurant has quickly made a name for itself and gathered a cult following using high quality traditional ingredients to create a scintillating selection of authentic tapas, washed down with a superb collection of Spanish Beers and Wines.

☒ Anyone lodging a vote will be entered into a monthly prize draw each month to win a £100 restaurant voucher and the winning restaurant will receive £2000. To vote or nominate visit www.facebook.com/CervezasAlhambraUK and follow the instructions.

Andalusia in Southern Spain is where the Alhambra beers hail from and is also thought to be the birthplace of tapas. Literally meaning "Lid", it is thought by many that tapas first came about in Andalusia when plates were placed on top of glasses to stop the fruit flies spoiling the sherry. Soon morsels of food accompanied the plates before bars started to compete with each other, offering their own speciality tapa. Today tapas is recognised as the quintessential cuisine of Spain and is celebrated and enjoyed around the world.

Restaurant Review: Vinyasa



Delicious Indian food in chic and contemporary surroundings

Situated in the heart of Edinburgh just off the cobbled streets of The Royal Mile, the recently opened [Vinyasa](#) offers delicious Indian food in a modern and trendy environment. The relaxed, stylish, chic and contemporary surroundings allow you to enjoy the finest food from India and Bangladesh with a sense of sophistication that is often lacking in other Indian restaurants. From the moment you enter you can tell that the staff take great pride in customer service. With Rumel on the floor and his grandfather in the kitchen, the family run team have over 65 years' experience combined.

Their reasonably priced menu featured a number of meat, fish and vegetarian dishes including Chef's Special King Prawn and Shashlik. As a starter the Murgh Chat with Puri, dried chicken cooked with masala and mango chutney, and the King Prawn Pathia with Puri, king prawns in a subtle sauce enhanced by fresh coriander were both delicious. When the food arrived the first thing we noticed was the attractive presentation, not easy to accomplish with curry! Both dishes were full of flavour and vibrant colours- a real delight for the palate. We had a break between the starter and the main course (as advised!) which meant we had time to really savour our fabulous first courses which were exceptional!





As a main dish I selected the Tikka Massalam, something I often have and this too was delicious. You could taste the fusion of fresh herbs and spices in this dish and it was clear it had just been cooked. It was a little creamier than others I have eaten, but just delicious. My reviewing partner chose the Vinyasa Special Murgh which was a barbecued half spring chicken off the bone cooked in a delicately flavoured sauce. He wanted something with a little kick and it was a Vinyasa Special, so he followed the house recommendation and he assures me that he will be returning soon to have the same dish again- he enjoyed it so much. A selection of breads, fluffy rice and relishes accompanied each course and mixed seamlessly with the rich flavours. Unfortunately like most curry evenings we didn't leave room for pudding but I did enjoy a hot water with lemon while James finished off his cold Indian beer.

The block coloured bar at the back of the venue boasts a carefully selected wine list to accompany your meal although if like James you would prefer a beer with your curry then there is a good selection.

Vinyasa have recently launched their Monday Curry Club where you can sample genuine and authentic home cooking traditionally prepared by their expert chefs. The menu changes every month so you will experience the colour and variety real home-made Indian food has to offer.

I can't recommend this Indian highly enough; first class food and service.

[Vinyasa](#) 34 St Mary's Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1SX

The Reporter Food reviewer, Celia Graham, is a partner in [The Lifestyle Company Scotland](#) you can follow the company and their lifestyle tips on [Twitter](#)

Police Scotland need your help in planning ahead

Police Scotland are launching a survey this morning which they need you to complete online, and which will help them prioritise their planning for the next three years.

The online survey aims to give people in Edinburgh the opportunity to shape policing in the Capital in the future.

The Edinburgh Policing Plan 2014-2017 will outline the approach that will be taken in communities across the Capital, based on local priorities.

Police want people who live and work in the city to have their say on the plan, and are making contact with community groups, businesses and other organisations in order to canvass views.

The consultation process gets underway today with the launch of the online survey, which can be accessed through the following

link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/EdinburghLocalPolicePlan2014-17>

There will also be a series of community sessions held across all city neighbourhoods later this year, as well as a

stakeholder summit.

Superintendent Matt Richards, from Police Scotland, said: “The policing plan will be fundamental to our approach to policing Edinburgh over the period 2014-2017, and it is vital that people play their part in helping to inform the content of the plan.

“The online survey is a great opportunity for people to have their say in how policing is delivered in the Capital, and we want as many as possible to get involved, so that we can shape our plans around what is important to local communities.

“Policing our communities and keeping people safe are enduring priorities for Police Scotland, and we are committed to ongoing engagement with those who live and work in Edinburgh as we follow a common path to make our communities safer and stronger.”

Cllr Mike Bridgman, Convener of the Interim Police and Fire Committee, said:- “We welcome the opportunity residents are being given to comment on the new plan. It is important now that we further develop partnership working with Police Scotland, particularly in the area of community policing.”

ExecSpace announce senior management appointment



Emma Little's booming conference and business accommodation vehicle ExecSpace is announcing a further expansion into

Aberdeen by a significant appointment of a new director today.

Edinburgh based ExecSpace, Scotland's leading conference and business accommodation agent, has announced its expansion into the North of Scotland with the pivotal appointment of Jess Atkinson, as Regional Account Director based in Aberdeen.

A finalist at the 2013 Highland Business Woman Awards, Jess was previously Business Development Manager for Macdonald Aviemore Resort, the flagship conference and leisure resort of the UK's largest privately owned hotel group. Whilst there, she was responsible for developing and implementing highly successful strategies to drive revenue and attract a broad mix of new clients.

Prior to that, she spent approximately 17 years with multi award-winning local radio station Moray Firth Radio (part of the Bauer Media Group "BMF") rising from Advertising Account Executive to a Senior Account Manager. In 2009, Jess won the accolade of BMF's top salesman in Scotland, becoming an ambassador for Bauer Media's Rainmaker Programme.

Emma Little, Managing Director of ExecSpace said:-"I am delighted that Jess has agreed to join ExecSpace to lead our offering in Aberdeen and the highlands and islands. This is an important step for us, expanding ExecSpace's footprint outside of the central belt where we began, into the North of Scotland and into Aberdeen which leads the way in Europe's energy generation. Not only does Jess have fantastic experience but her high personal values are totally aligned with those values which underpin ExecSpace, ensuring that we offer our clients the best possible customer experience every time. I am very much looking forward to working with Jess as ExecSpace continues to grow."

Jess Atkinson commented: -“I am thrilled to be joining ExecSpace at this exciting time. I believe that there is a huge opportunity for us to make a real impact on the conference and business accommodation market in Aberdeen and the North of Scotland, as customers understand what differentiates us from our competitors – namely our guarantee to provide outstanding standards of customer service. I am very much looking forward to being part of the future for this dynamic company and to working with Emma and her team.”

ExecSpace currently looks after 100 blue chip clients ranging from private companies to Stock Exchange listed businesses looking to host external events across the UK. It currently has annual revenues in excess of £5m.

The company sources appropriate meeting rooms. These can vary from conference and meeting style venues to seminars and training rooms and often come complete with AV equipment and catering functions.

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

The ExecSpace team places substantial importance on differentiating itself from its competitors in the current economic climate. It has achieved this by consistently going the extra mile for its loyal customer base and focusing on building strong, long lasting business relationships.

In July of this year, ExecSpace announced its first senior management appointment as Natalie Maynard joined the team as Regional Account Director for the West of Scotland.

In May 2013, ExecSpace received a substantial six figure investment from Bradenham Partners LLP and confirmed its plans to expand its new accommodation booking service in parallel with the company's already well established conference and events business.

Five things you need to know today



Increase in demand for office space – Wedding Open Day at the Castle – New Professor of Computing at Edinburgh Napier – Tolpuddle Martyrs Story – Register now for The Moonwalk 2014

Property advisers CKD Galbraith report significant signs of improvement in the commercial office sector as Edinburgh sees its strongest quarterly uptake in office space since the start of the recession in 2008.

The independent Scottish property consultancy found that overall take up in Q3 (July to September 2013) will be in excess of 270,000 sq ft – a 225% increase on the previous quarter (at approximately 120,000 sq ft).

Significant lettings in the city include

West Edinburgh

- 85,000 sq ft at 3 Lochside Avenue (whole building) to Sainsbury's Bank
- 33,000 sq ft to Jardine Lloyd Thompson at 7 Lochside Avenue.

Edinburgh City centre

- 55,000 sq ft at Capital House to Bank of New York Mellon
- 32,000 sq ft at Atria One to PwC
- Skyscanner have taken the remaining landlord space at Quatermile One.

Michael Clements, marketing agent at CKD Galbraith, said: "The level of uptake this quarter has demonstrated that there is a strong demand for high quality Grade A accommodation in the Edinburgh market.

"However, these recent lettings have further eroded the supply of this type of premium office space, which is now extremely tight in the city centre.

"With little new development underway and several larger requirements in the market, it is likely that supply will tighten further in the short term, which should result in increased rental levels, reduced incentives and potentially some further pre-letting activity on other schemes in the city."

He continued: "If this trend continues, we could shortly see the Edinburgh market flip back from being a tenant's market to a landlord's market."

If love is in the air and wedding bells are on the horizon, why not come to the stunning location of Edinburgh Castle and join us at our Wedding Open Day on Saturday 19th October

2013?

The Open Day will take place from 11:00 to 16:00 and will showcase Edinburgh Castle's four wonderful wedding venues.

These include St Margaret's Chapel, the oldest building in Edinburgh, dating back to the 12th century, perfect for anyone planning a small, intimate wedding and the stunning setting of the Queen Anne building, which can accommodate 120 wedding guests and up to 170 for an evening reception.

Exhibitors on the day to help you plan your perfect day include a florist, a photographer, a wedding cake specialist, a clarsach player and a wedding band.

Nick Finnigan, Executive Manager of Edinburgh Castle said: "Edinburgh Castle has to be one of the most romantic locations in Scotland. With its fascinating history, iconic setting and panoramic views across the city of Edinburgh, the castle is the ultimate wedding venue.

"During the Open Day, we will be offering booking incentives for all 2014 and 2015 weddings in the Queen Anne Building, The Gatehouse Suite and also the Jacobite Room. Come along and discuss your options with our Weddings Event Team who will be only too happy to offer advice."

All guests will be asked to pre-register in advance of the day on our website at www.edinburghcastle.gov.uk . You will be asked to give the lead name of the wedding party and how many will be attending the Open Day with you. On arrival you will be given free tickets in order to gain entry into Edinburgh Castle.

When you arrive on the Esplanade at Edinburgh Castle, please

cross the Drawbridge and make your way into the main entrance area.

Tickets are available for collection from 10:45 until 3:00 pm from The Gatehouse. This is accessed by entering the door immediately to the right as you have crossed the Drawbridge and up the spiral stairs and will be clearly sign-posted.

The Gatehouse is also the first point on the self-guided tour of our wedding areas.

Edinburgh Castle team members will be based in the Gatehouse on the day and will issue you with an Edinburgh Castle map of the wedding areas.

There will be four venues to visit:

The Gatehouse Suite – Suitable for religious, civil ceremony, civil partnership and humanist ceremonies. Maximum x 40 guests for ceremony & drinks reception, or x 20 for seated lunch / dinner.

The Jacobite Room – Available for evening receptions only. Maximum seated dinner capacity x 100. Maximum evening reception / dancing capacity x 150.

St Margaret's Chapel – Religious ceremonies only. Maximum capacity x 25 guests (or 30 with 5 guests standing at the back)

The Queen Anne Building – Religious, civil ceremonies, civil partnerships & humanist ceremonies. Maximum ceremony & wedding breakfast capacity x 120. Maximum evening reception / dancing capacity x 170.

A games guru, who helped create the Harry Potter™ and Disney Infinity™ computer games, has joined Edinburgh Napier University as a Professor of Computing.

Kenny Mitchell, who is head of research for [Disney UK](#), will split his time between lecturing students and working on research projects with the University's [Institute for Informatics and Digital Innovation](#).

At The Walt Disney Company, he has contributed to the recently launched Disney Infinity™ franchise, which includes video games and toys from Pirates of the Caribbean™, Incredibles™ and Monsters University™ properties. Previously, at Electronic Arts he was a highest ranked lead programmer on the Harry Potter™ franchise and contributed to Steven Spielberg's BAFTA award winning puzzle game, BOOM BLOX™.

Kenny, who attended Lanark Grammar School during its 800th year, then gained 6 Highers at Biggar High School, and completed his PhD at Edinburgh Napier, said: "I am thoroughly looking forward to engaging my knowledge and contacts with a new generation of talented innovators".

"Scotland has a well-earned reputation within the global games industry and the higher education sector is a very important part of that ongoing success story. Part of my role will be acting as bridge between academia and the industry to help improve commercial links at a local level."

Professor Mitchell specialises in high-end graphics technologies and has a particular interest in researching the commercial opportunities afforded by the Future Internet. One of these initiatives includes [this week's launch](#) of the Future Internet project by the European Commission, Disney and 17 other partners. It aims to encourage collaboration on new content for social connected TV, smart city services and pervasive, location-based games.

"As a graduate who holds some of the most senior research

roles in the UK, Kenny is a brilliant role model and an inspiration to our students,” said Professor Jessie Kennedy, Director of the Institute for Informatics and Digital Information.

“His academic ability and creativity allied to his extensive contacts in the entertainment industry, both in the UK and globally, make him a fantastic addition to the Institute. We are extremely pleased to welcome him back to the University.”



Gilmerton Community Centre and Arts South Edinburgh are hosting the production of **WE WILL BE FREE TOLPUDDLE MARTYRS STORY at the Gilmerton Society Hall** for one night only as part of their national tour.

The play was on at the Assembly Rooms during the festival and got [great reviews](#) (The Edinburgh Reporter gave it 5 stars!)

For more information phone Pauline Fordyce Community Learning & Development Worker on 0131 664 2220. Or tickets can be purchased or booked from Lilian at Gilmerton Community centre.

Gilmerton Society Hall

Thursday 24 October 2013

7.30pm

Tickets:£5 and £3.00 Centre users/con

Box Office Tel 0131 664 2335

Collect tickets from Gilmerton Community Centre

4 Drum Street Edinburgh.

Kapow! Entries for The MoonWalk Scotland 2014 are now open! Scotland's original and iconic night-time walking challenge will be held at Inverleith Park, Edinburgh on Saturday 7th June 2014.

Thousands of women and men wearing brightly decorated bras will enjoy the unique party atmosphere, as they take on a Power Walking challenge at Midnight, to raise money and awareness for breast cancer. "Superheroes" has been revealed as the thrilling theme for the Edinburgh event, organised by grant-making breast cancer charity Walk the Walk.

So – who's your Superhero? Wonder Woman or Superman? Robert the Bruce or Sir Chris Hoy? Mary Doll or Rab C Nesbitt? Walk the Walk is expecting some crazy creations, as walkers are inspired to decorate their bras, by people or characters who've inspired them.

The MoonWalk Scotland has raised in excess of £16 million over the last eight years, with most of the money staying in Scotland, to help improve the lives of people with cancer.

There is a Power Walking distance available at The MoonWalk for every age and ability, so now the whole family, the whole office or even the whole school class can join in the night of fun! Youngsters aged from just ten years old will feel "superhuman" when they complete the 6.55 miles New Moon, staged for the first time in 2013. People of all ages are being encouraged to sign up for the challenge, which has been introduced to help kick start fitness regimes and to offer the MoonWalk experience to a much wider group of people.

Walk the Walk's famous Half Moon (13.1 miles) and Full Moon (26.2 miles) are still available, as is the tough 52.4 miles Over The Moon challenge. Incredibly, dozens of women and men

bravely completed The MoonWalk Scotland's first ever Over the Moon in 2013, an amazing feat, worthy of a superhero!

Entries for The MoonWalk Scotland 2014 are now open [here](#)

The Edinburgh Reporter's Weekly Sports Roundup



This week we send our congratulations to Hibernian Ladies for reaching the Scottish Cup Final where they will face Glasgow City.

Rugby by John Preece

The Championship entered its seventh week with the top four teams within a point of each other. Heriots were the only local winners this week as they won at home, beating Aberdeen Grammar 21-18. Currie and Edinburgh Accies were also playing at home but both went down to heavy defeats. 48-15 was Glasgow Hawks win at Currie and Accies suffered an equally humiliating defeat, going down 30-8 against Gala.

Heriots now share second place in the table with Gala, courtesy of Gala's bonus point win, while Accies retain fifth place. Currie, meanwhile, seem to be stuck at the foot of the table with only the relegation play-off's to look forward to

at the end of the season.

Week seven of the National League saw a tasty match up at Meggetland as Boroughmuir welcomed Watsonians over the road to face their second defeat in a row, with a 32-25 win to cement their place alone at the top of the table. The other Edinburgh side, Stewarts-Melville had a narrow escape as Dundee failed to convert 80+ minute of pressure, leaving the Inverleith side with a 21-18 victory. (See match report on Edinburgh Reporter website)

Positions at the top of their table remain the same with Boroughmuir stretching their lead to seven points, with 34, over Watsonians in second with 27. Stew-Mel's win gives them their second step up the table in a row as they climb one place to fifth.

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

Rugby by Jonny Davis

Edinburgh Rugby will spend another week at the foot of the RaboDirect PR012 league table, following a 29-12 defeat to Cardiff Blues at the Arms Park on Sunday.

The return of captain Greig Laidlaw brought some much needed composure to the capital side, and at the midway point, the Gunners were well in the hunt, with the scores at 13-12.

After the break, Alan Solomons' side continued to show signs of improvement, putting the home side under some extended periods of pressure, but it was Cardiff who found the next score.

Despite some much improved defence from Edinburgh, they leaked a trio of penalties and were punished by the boot of British & Irish Lion, Leigh Halfpenny.

At 22-12, Edinburgh's infringement count continued to rise and replacement back-row forward, Cornell du Preez saw his

debut for the club marked with a sin-bin.

With a man advantage, Cardiff looked to turn the screw, and on the 66th minute, Halfpenny scythed through the Gunners' defence and sparked a flowing move allowing another Lion, Alex Cuthbert, to touch down for his second try of the day.

Unfortunately it's another loss for Edinburgh Rugby, against a very good Cardiff side.

Fans will be hoping that Alan Solomons' rebuilding project will soon start yielding some more frequent, and sustained glimpses of improvement, as the Heineken Cup gets underway next weekend, with Edinburgh taking on Munster at Murrayfield on Saturday.

Football

A bad day at the office for Hearts on Saturday. The Gorgie fans started the day in an optimistic mood, knowing that a win over St Mirren would reduce the deficit to six points and produce a massive confidence boost for the games to come, however a first half goal from John McGinn then another from Paul McGowan after the break following a mistake from Jamie McDonald secured the points for Danny Lennon's men. (See match report on Edinburgh Reporter website)

After the game manager Gary Locke urged his players not to feel sorry for themselves, telling BBC Scotland: "Unfortunately, we didn't take our chances. We've just got to raise the spirits of the players and hopefully we can get back on track in a fortnight's time. We had a couple of moments of slackness which gave them a wee lift. We still had chances even at 1-0 down. Callum Paterson's hit one over the bar. If that goes in, it's an absolutely different atmosphere around the stadium. With him missing that and them going right up the park and scoring the second goal, it deflates everyone. The boys have done great so far this season. It's a set-back for

us, there's no doubt about but one thing we can't do, we can't feel sorry for ourselves. We've just got to pick the heads up. It's a bad day at the office but we need to move. It was never going to be easy. We had a reasonable start to the season and recently we've not picked up the results that we need but we'll still keep going. I'll certainly not give up."

Hibs take on Partick Thistle at Firhill on Monday night.

The League Cup quarter final will be shown live on BBC.

Scottish Cup

Edinburgh City drew 4-4 with Fraserburgh.

City opened the scoring with a Peter Stenhouse 25-yard thunderbolt after just nine minutes, but the Highlanders equalised 10 minutes later through Scott Fowlie.

Fraserburgh were then awarded a penalty but Mark Cowie's effort was saved keeper Allan MacIntosh.

Just before half time Fraserburgh took the lead from a Graham Johnston shot then added a third seconds after the restart as Donaldson fired into his own net.

City hit back two minutes later from a Daryl Devlin header, but Johnston restored Burgh's two-goal cushion before Shaun Harrison pulled one back for City. With time running out, Donaldson made amends for his own goal with a last-gasp equaliser.

Elsewhere, Spartans lost 1-0 to Albion Rovers at Cliftonhill.

A sizeable Spartan Army headed to Coatbridge hoping for a cup shock and started off brightly against their SFPL 2 opponents with John Grant sending a dangerous cross into the Rovers box within the first minute.

The first clear-cut chance of the afternoon fell to Spartans

in the 39th minute when a Grant cross found the head of Keith McLeod but his effort was saved by Parry in the Rovers goal.

Rovers took the lead in the 56th minute when on-loan striker Mark McGuigan's miss-hit cross-cum-shot spun over the head of Spartan's keeper Bennett.

Whatley then went down in the box under the challenge of Kevin Nicol, and there were calls for a penalty from the travelling support, but instead the referee booked the midfielder for simulation.

With 12 minutes remaining Grant was sent off for a second bookable offence and the Ainslie Park outfit's chance to progress in the competition was lost.

Malt and Hops Man of the Match: Mark Whately

Spartans: Bennett, Cennerazzo, Main, Sivewright, MacKinnon, Grant, Brown, Whatley, Henretty, McLeod, Motion, Subs: Bremner, Anderson, Ross, O'Donnell, Beasley, Blaikie, Gilpin

Alex Jack Cup Semi-Finals

Stirling University 2 Lothian Thistle Hutchison Vale

Leith Athletic 6 Eyemouth United 1

East of Scotland League Premier Division

Craigroyston 3 Coldstream 1

Edinburgh University 1 Stirling University 2

Heriot Watt University 3 Civil Service Strollers 2

East of Scotland League First Division

Hibs 8 Berwick Rangers Reserves 0

Hibs continued their 100% record thanks to goals from Irish

youngster Gareth McCaffrey (3), Jay Doyle (2), Max Todd, Jamie Beaton and Scott Martin.

Women's Football

Congratulations to Hibernian Ladies who beat Rangers 5-4 on penalties to progress to the Scottish Cup Final. The teams were level 0-0 at full time then 1-1 after extra time. Joelle Murray tweeted later: "We left everything out on the pitch today, worked so hard and played with huge heart. Proud of every single one of my team-mates."

Hibs will face Glasgow City who beat Celtic 3-0 in the other semi-final.

Speedway

Edinburgh Monarchs grabbed their place in this year's Premier League Play Off Grand Final after disposing of Ipswich Witches 53-37 at Armadale on Friday night.

The Monarchs ended the campaign three points ahead of Workington Comets on 11 points.

Monarchs : Cook 14 points, Tabaka 11 points, Pijper 7 points, Fricke 7 points, Sneddon 7 points, Vissing 6 points, Carr 1 point.

Formula One

West Lothian's Paul Di Resta spun out and slid sideways into a tyre barrier in the middle of the race in Korea at the weekend.

It is now four successive races that the 26-year-old has failed to finish, and the last six in which he has failed to score a point, including the Singapore Grand Prix two weeks ago when he ploughed his Force India into a wall. (See race report on Edinburgh Reporter website)

Athletics

Good luck to 75 year old John Ross from Cannonmills who flies out to Utah this week to represent Scotland at the Huntsman World Senior Games for athletes over 50.

John has won over 400 medals in his illustrious career to date and this time he will take part in the javelin, 50 meters, 100 meters, 200 meters, 400 meters and 800 meters.

Cycling

City of Edinburgh's Katie Archibald won bronze in the individual pursuit at last week's British Track Championships then took silver along with Fife's Charline Joiner in the Madison.

Katie has been selected for the European Championships in Holland later this month.

Ice Hockey

Saturday 5 October Fife Flyers 5 Edinburgh Capitals 0

Flyers dominated the Capitals in this Challenge Cup group A match and booked their own place in the quarter finals.

Flyers took charge of the game in a first period where they built up a 3-0 lead. Matt Reber opened the scoring after 10.54 on the powerplay then Matt Nickerson scored at 12.07 before Danny Stewart made it three at 16.06.

Jordan Fulton made it 4-0 on the powerplay at 24.34 then Rok Pajic added a fifth at 50.01.

On Sunday, the Capitals took an early lead against the Cardiff Devils, however the Welsh side fought back to win 3-1.

Basketball

City of Edinburgh Kool Kats beat St Mirren West College 64-51

in the Senior Women's League on Friday whilst City of Edinburgh Kings lost 64-77 to St Mirren West College on Saturday in the Senior Men's League.

The Kings under 18s fared better beating St Mirren 75-58

Volleyball

In Division One Men, The City of Edinburgh beat Beacon Fire 3-0 away from home, 18-25, 15-25 and 23-25, whilst Edinburgh Jets beat Dundee 3-0 in Tayside, 22-25, 15-25 and 23-25.

In Division One Women, City of Edinburgh beat Kyle Team Ayrshire 3-0, 18-25, 14-25 and 7-25, Edinburgh Jets beat Aberdonia 3-0, 15-25, 12-25 and 12-25, and Edinburgh Jets II lost 3-0 to Troon Team Ayrshire, 25-9, 25-12 and 25-6.

In Division Two East, City of Edinburgh II beat Beacon Flame 3-0, 17-25, 25-27 and 17-25, NUVOC beat Bellshill Cardinals 3-2, 25-21, 22-25, 25-21, 21-25, 14-16 and Edinburgh Jets II lost 3-1 to Su Ragazzi II, 25-22, 19-25, 17-25 and 18-25

In Division Two Women, NUVOC beat South Ayrshire 3-0 20-25, 12-25 and 14-25.

Assault and robbery in Leith Walk

✘ *An assault and robbery which took place on Friday night in Leith Walk has resulted in the 61 year-old victim sustaining injuries to his wrist and ribs.*

Police in Edinburgh are appealing for witnesses to the incident which happened sometime between 11.30pm on Friday 4th and 1.30am on Saturday 5th October outside the Central Bar.

A 61-year-old man was walking past the pub when a male and female engaged him in conversation. The trio then walked in the same direction up a nearby side street as the man looked for a taxi home.

At this time the male threatened the man and demanded he hand over his possessions.

Following a struggle, the victim sustained fractures to his wrist and ribs and the suspects made off with his wallet and watch.

Officers are now conducting local enquiries to trace those responsible and anyone who can assist with their investigation is asked to come forward.

The male is described as white, balding and wearing a dark blue jacket, blue jeans and dark footwear. He was carrying a rucksack

The female is described as white with dark hair in a ponytail. She was wearing a blue-sleeved hooded top with grey hood, a purple body warmer, dark trousers and blue footwear The pair were also in possession of two pitbull type dogs.

Detective Constable Shiela Silvagni said:-“We are still trying to establish the exact time this incident occurred and are

keen to hear from patrons of nearby pubs and restaurants, or local residents who remember seeing anything suspicious.

“Similarly, anyone with information that can help trace the suspects is also asked to contact police immediately.”

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

Serious assault in Hailesland Grove

A man going out to the corner shop near his home was the victim of a serious assault on Friday afternoon.

Police in Edinburgh are appealing for witnesses following the incident which happened sometime between 2.30pm and 3pm on Friday (4 October 2013) in the Hailesland Grove area.

The 52-year-old man left his home address in Murrayburn Gardens and made his way to Michael's Corner Shop.

While somewhere in the vicinity of the store, the victim became involved in an altercation with two men who then attacked him.

Following the assault, the man made his way home before going to the Royal Infirmary at around 12.50am the following morning.

He has since been transferred to the Western General Hospital where he continues to be treated for serious injuries to his head and face.

Police were contacted following the victim's admission to

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

There is currently no description of the suspects.

Detective Sergeant Neil Spowart said:- “The victim has sustained a number of serious and painful injuries and we are trying to establish the exact circumstances surrounding this incident.

“Anyone who was in the Hailesland Grove area on Friday afternoon and witnessed the attack or saw anything suspicious is asked to contact police immediately. In addition, anyone with any further information relevant to this investigation is also asked to get in touch.”

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

Lothians MSP wants councils' views heard on local policing

ASSURANCES SOUGHT OVER COMMUNITY POLICE NUMBERS

Lothian Labour MSP Sarah Boyack has called on the Scottish Government to ensure councils' views are taken into account on local policing priorities.

Speaking during Question Time in the Scottish Parliament earlier this week, Ms Boyack raised the City of Edinburgh Council's proposal to withdraw £2m funding over the next four years due to concerns that the money it provides is not being used to benefit local communities. The move, if passed, will result in the loss of 12 local police officers.

Under the law brought in to create the single police force, Police Scotland is required to involve local authorities in setting local priorities and Ms Boyack called on the Cabinet

Secretary to investigate the situation in Edinburgh to ensure this was happening.

✘ Speaking following Question Time, Sarah Boyack MSP said:

“I supported the introduction of a single police force with assurances that local accountability to communities would be protected.

“However, the situation in Edinburgh raises questions over the extent to which elected councillors have a say on local policing priorities especially where it relates to council funded officers. The Cabinet Secretary ducked the issue of centralisation by saying that Stephen House would be visiting Edinburgh’s City Council to discuss the issue.

“I am disappointed that the Cabinet Secretary chose to pass the buck. Given the Scottish Government’s pledge on police numbers, we need to know if they’ll step in to fund additional officers if Edinburgh, or any other council for that matter, decides to withdraw funding.

“The news this week of proposals that police stations across the Lothians are to be closed to the public further erodes confidence that local accountability is being paid more than lip service.

“Senior police have already issued warnings that Police Scotland is facing a financial tipping point and that their hands are being tied by Government policy. It is clear that the closure proposals are not about policing but about saving money.”

The [draft budget](#) which is currently published for consultation spelled out about £500,000 of proposed cuts in the funds being available for Police Scotland. You can comment on the draft budget until 20 December on the council website, and it will be approved in its final form at the council meeting in February.

The Finance Convenor Alasdair Rankin wants you to take the time to do so:-

“Since the election in May 2012, we have demonstrated sound financial management, producing a balanced budget in the Council’s major service areas and across the Council as a whole. We are implementing our plans to achieve major savings in the Council’s buying of goods and services, property rationalisation and improved partnership working. We aim to ensure that we can maintain, and wherever possible, increase

investment in frontline services.

The Edinburgh Guarantee has been a successful Council initiative to help young people in particular into employment through apprenticeships and work experience and we will continue to do that despite our financial pressures. We also support the voluntary sector and continue to buy services directly from a range of third sector organisations.

We do really want to know people's views on how the Council spends its money. We are here to listen as well as to make decisions – decisions for which we are accountable to the people of the city. That is why we are consulting on our draft budget with residents, the voluntary sector, the business community and community organisations from this month through to 20th December. We will then analyse the responses we receive and take them into account in formulating our final budget proposals for consideration at a meeting of the full Council on 13th February next year. I encourage everyone to let us know their views. Every comment raised will be considered.

This is exactly what happened following our budget consultation last year. Some of our major budget decisions for this year, such as doubling spending on roads and substantially increasing our investment in education, were influenced by responses we received from the public. So I encourage people to speak to Councillors, email or use the feedback form at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/budget and let us know your views."

Rugby – Stewart's-Melville v Dundee

Stew-Mel manage to resist a overtime pressure from Dundee to take a narrow victory at Inverleith ❌

Inverleith was the venue for Dundee High School's trip to Edinburgh for the seventh round of this year's RBS National League. With both teams hogging the mid-table, a win either way would boost fortunes for the victors.

Right from the off, Stew-Mel looked the better side. Straight into the attack, they put the Dundee defence under a fair bit of pressure, rewarded after only five minutes with their first three points from a Mike Hanning penalty. And from the restart the hosts went on the offensive again, pinning Dundee back in their own half and forcing them to kick ball away. Their best chance came down the right as a string of passes put wing, Alan Whittingham, in the clear with one man to beat. He choose to stab the ball through with his foot, but the vagaries of the 'rugby ball bounce' took it away from him and the defender collected the ball cleared to touch. This gave Stew-Mel a line out near to the Dundee line and following the line out win, a couple of broken tackles left an easy pass to No. 8, Donald Sangster, who unfortunately couldn't hold on to the ball and the ensuing scrum went to Dundee. However, the referee deemed that the visitors had fouled at the scrum and awarded a free kick to Stew-Mel. Two quick passes saw the ball in the hands of Jonathan Hamblin who fended and hammered his way to the line for the opening try. Hanning scored the conversion and Stew-Mel were in the lead by 10-0 after just ten minutes of play. ❌

Another period of intense play by the hosts forced Dundee back again and another penalty awarded. This one was missed by Hanning, so the score remained the same. The visitors

then lost Chris Cumming to yellow, which seemed to tap the first nail in Dundee's coffin. But, rather than sit back in defence, the visitors went on the offensive and pushed the hosts back, deep into their own half. They were rewarded with a penalty which No. 9, Andy Dymock, scored to put their first points on the board, 10-3. The remainder of the half was fairly evenly matched – although Stew-Mel lost their scrum half to yellow for 'over-enthusiastic use of the boot' at a ruck – with both sides gaining and losing possession in equal measure until a minute or so from the break. Dundee were awarded a scrum in front of the posts which saw them retain the ball and a grubber kick through the defence from Dymock was grounded over the line by Stew-Mel. The subsequent five-metre scrum was won again by Dundee and this time, Dymock found a hole in the defensive line and dived over to give the visitors their try. However, Dymock missed the kick. Then a missed penalty from Hanning on half time left the score at 10-8 to Inverleith side.

With Stew-Mel's Strachan still off the field, Dundee took full advantage of the extra man from the start and five minutes in, scored their second try from a rolling maul on the hosts line, their No. 2, Neil Dymock, coming up with the ball. The other Dymock missed the kick, but Dundee were ahead 13-10. With Strachan now back on, the play swung back in favour of Stew-Mel and a series of penetrating attacks, held out by the visitors, culminated in another Hanning penalty in front of the posts. No mistake this time and it was 13-13. Less than five minutes later another penalty saw Hanning skew the ball miles wide, but Stew-Mel still appeared to be in the driving seat. However, that was lost on Dundee and the next five minutes saw the visitors pin Stew-Mel back against their line and the ball swung from side to side as they tried to break through. And break through they did, as the hosts failed to get enough men across to cover the left side allowing No. 15, Mike Brown to dive over for Dundee's third try. Again the kick was missed, leaving the score at 18-13 to the visitors.

A smart restart kick along the ground saw the hosts gather the restart, immediately putting Dundee on the back foot and defending desperately. Hanning broke through a couple of tackles to get Stew-Mel into the opposing 22, but a ruck near the line saw them lose the ball. The clearing kick was charged down by the hosts' Struan Allan, and the ricocheting ball was gathered up out wide by Whittingham, who dived over the line to draw the sides level 18-18. Hanning missed the kick, so the score remained level.

The next 15 or so minutes of the match were dominated by the Inverleith side, and only some frantic defending – which cost Dundee's No. 20 a badly pulled ham string – held them out and they had to be satisfied with another penalty from Hanning with just a couple of minutes left. And it was to be a couple of minutes that nearly won the game for Dundee. They had Stew-Mel pinned to their line in a repeat performance of their third try play, but keeping the ball in play through the 80 minute mark was to prove a step too far as Stew-Mel managed to hold up the ball in a maul, which was then awarded in their favour as it went to ground. The ref blew for full time and it was more a sigh of relief than a winning cheer that went round the stand. Final score, 21-18 to Stew-Mel.

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

F1 – Dominant Vettel grabs fourth consecutive victory



Sebastian Vettel made it four wins from four as he took yet another victory and inched one step closer to claiming his

fourth World Championship title in a row. His nearest rival, Fernando Alonso, could only manage a sixth place finish, meaning that Vettel will have the opportunity to win the title next week in Japan if he wins the race and Alonso finishes lower than eighth. It was another relatively comfortable race for Vettel, who didn't come under any real pressure for any of the 55 laps. Two safety car appearances – one for the tyre delamination of Sergio Perez's McLaren, the other for Mark Webber's Red Bull car catching fire – served to keep things tight as the pack were bunched up, but such was Vettel's speed that he managed to get away unchallenged on both occasions.

The two Lotus drivers managed to make it a double podium, with Romain Grosjean finishing third while team mate Kimi Raikkonen came from ninth to claim second spot. Grosjean might feel somewhat disappointed with his finish – the Frenchman had looked comfortable in second place throughout most of the race after an impressive overtake on Lewis Hamilton at the start, but he lost out after the second safety car when a small mistake meant that Raikkonen could jump him at the restart to snatch second place. Grosjean was encouraged by his team to try to take back the position, but in the end it proved too much.

The most exciting battle in the race was undoubtedly the scrap for fourth, fifth and sixth positions, with Sauber's Nico Hulkenberg putting in possibly his best F1 performance to date with a heroic defensive drive to keep Lewis Hamilton and Fernando Alonso behind him. The Sauber's superior traction and straight-line speed helped Hulkenberg, but the driver still had his work cut out for him as Hamilton pushed time and time again, looking to overtake. One of these occasions, Hamilton looked to have made the move, but Hulkenberg quickly retook the place and managed to hold on for a commendable fourth-place finish, equalling his previous best finish in Belgium last year. With the driver market still very much in motion, Hulkenberg's excellent drive will have certainly made

an impression on teams looking for potential candidates for 2014.

Elsewhere, Scot Paul di Resta's miserable run of form continued when he crashed out after 24 laps. It was the fifth retirement in as many races for di Resta, and he now faces an uphill battle to convince teams that he is still worthy of an F1 seat for next season. His team mate Adrian Sutil didn't fare much better, spinning into Webber after 50 laps and causing the fire which brought out the second safety car.

With the next race in Japan only a week away, it is a quick turnaround for the teams and drivers alike. Vettel seems to be on course to extend his championship lead even further and possibly even wrap up the title, but luckily for spectators, there is still plenty of action going on in the rest of the field to keep things interesting.

Race Results

1. Vettel (25pts)
2. Raikkonen (18pts)
3. Grosjean (15pts)
4. Hulkenberg (12pts)
5. Hamilton (10pts)
6. Alonso (8pts)
7. Rosberg (6pts)
8. Button (4pts)
9. Massa (2pts)
10. Perez (1pt)
11. Gutierrez (0pts)

12. Bottas (0pts)
 13. Maldonado (0pts)
 14. Pic (0pts)
 15. Van der Garde (0pts)
 16. Bianchi (0pts)
 17. Chilton (0pts)
 18. Vergne (DNF)
 19. Ricciardo (DNF)
 20. Sutil (DNF)
 21. Webber (DNF)
 22. Di Resta (DNF)
-

Five things you need to know today



Feeding the 5000 – Vintage Nation at the Corn Exchange – Petitions Committee to be reviewed – Cycling with Sky Ride – Tonight at the Queen’s Hall

Yesterday Edible Edinburgh, an organisation backed by the council, fed thousands of people for free in Bristo Square. If you want to know why then [read more here.](#)

Your advert could be here.

Click here for more information about advertising on The Edinburgh Reporter website.

There is a vintage event at the Corn Exchange today featuring not just old clothes but music, dance, tea in china cups, pop up beauty offering vintage hair styling, clothes and shoe customisation. Tickets are £5 and under 12s are free. [More information here.](#)

Scotland's biggest vintage event is on today! Vintage Nation @Ed_CornExchange hosted by @JudyVintageFair. <https://t.co/VaMY2iZEYJ> #Edinburgh

– Enjoy Edinburgh (@edinburgh) [October 6, 2013](#)

If you go along then do tweet us some photos!

As part of the council's overhaul last autumn, a Petitions Committee was set up and 22 petitions proposed with a total of over 7,500 signatures from Edinburgh residents. This committee is devised to offer the public a way to get their views across as to what the council should be doing.

But it now appears that a third of all councillors believe that this committee is very unsuccessful and must be reviewed urgently. Another 15% thought the committee was fairly unsuccessful while only 11% hold the committee in high regard. The focus groups consulted by the council as part of the same survey believed that the petitions process appears lengthy and cumbersome for the people presenting petitions and so needs to be streamlined. One suggestion is that youth petitions should be introduced to allow younger residents a voice at the City Chambers.

The Governance Risk and Best Value Committee will hear the results of the survey carried out to determine performance across the council when it meets this Thursday.

9 petitions have been considered by the Committee with the following outcomes:

- Kirkliston Public Transport Provision: Committee agreed to take further action – referred to Transport and Environment Committee.
- Dumbiedykes Bus Committee: Committee agreed to take further action – referred to Transport and Environment Committee.
- Crackdown on Legal Loan Sharks: Committee agreed to take further action –referred to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee.
- A safer mechanism for reporting Edinburgh Council mismanagement: Committee agreed to take further action –referred to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee.
- Princes Street for People: Committee agreed to take further action – referred to ‘Building a Vision for the City Centre’ consultation.
- Bedroom Tax: – Committee agreed to take further action – referred to Health, Wellbeing and Housing Committee.
- Remove religious observance from non-denominational schools: Committee agreed to take further action – referred to the Education, Children and Families Committee.
- Retain religious observance in non-denominational schools: Committee agreed to take further action – referred to the Education, Children and Families Committee.
- Ban cycling on City Centre pavements by cyclists over 12 years: Committee agreed to take further action – referred to Transport and Environment Committee

✘ Thinking of going out cycling today? If you need some encouragement or help to go a bit further afield then perhaps you will be interested in joining a Sky Ride, even if Sir Chris Hoy is not around to lead off!

At 2.00pm today there is a ride called Cramond Caper which starts at Morrisons at Waterfront Broadway. More details about this and also next week's cycle to the Innocent Railway and beyond on [the Sky Ride website.](#)

Tonight at the Queen's Hall the Ukelele Orchestra of Great Britain takes to the stage. [Details about buying tickets \(£20\) here.](#)

"The group that spawned a thousand ukulele orchestras and inspired millions of players return to Edinburgh after their sell-out Queen's Hall show in 2012.

From the North Pole to Sydney Opera House, via Carnegie Hall and the Royal Albert Hall, The Ukes of GB are touring planet Earth with their funny, stomping, toe tapping, all singing, all plucking obituary of rock'n'roll and melodious light entertainment. You'll hear music you love and music you simply didn't get transformed into a joyous, headlong stream of transcendent sounds featuring only 'bonsai guitars', a menagerie of voices and warm personalities. A world tour with only hand luggage."

Your advert could be here.

Click here for more information about advertising on The Edinburgh Reporter website.

Delays on Edinburgh to Glasgow trains this morning

✘ Owing to earlier over-running engineering works between Edinburgh and Glasgow Queen Street Scotrail report that train services running to and from these stations are returning to normal but some services may still be delayed at short notice. But there is also another reason for delays as there are train drivers who are not working Sunday shifts.

Disruption is expected until 10:45 this morning.

The 09.30 from Queen St to Edinburgh has been delayed.

Alternative transport is in place at Edinburgh, Falkirk High and at Queen St to supplement train services. Alternative transport will arrive at Croy at 09.45 and also at Falkirk Grahamston at 09.50.

The Twitterati have been complaining so whoever runs the Scotrail twitter feed must be keeping busy today, particularly as many of the runners heading for the Great Scottish Run in Glasgow are now going to be late....

Good luck 2 all in [@GreatScotRun](#) Pls allow xtra time2travel if ur routes affected by some drivers not working Sundays
<http://t.co/nmXJZzJyRs>

– ScotRail (@ScotRail) [October 6, 2013](#)

NEW: Delays of up to 45 minutes between Glasgow Queen St and Edinburgh via [#Falkirk_High](#) until further notice
<http://t.co/eyDQjzMm3S>

– National Rail (@NRE_ScotRail) [October 6, 2013](#)

Well [@ScotRail](#) there's 100s of runners late for the race in Glasgow, thanks for ruining everyones day. [#scotfail](#)
[#uselessfuds](#)

– Craig HP Neilson (@hpneilson) [October 6, 2013](#)

19 year-old woman missing in Edinburgh

Police in Edinburgh will issue a photograph later today of a 19 year-old woman who has been reported missing.

Meantime they are appealing for information to help find her.

Siobhan Taylor was last seen at her home address in Lower Gilmore Place at around 12.45pm on Thursday 3 October 2013 but has failed to make contact with anyone since.

Concern is now growing for the 19-year-old's well-being and anyone who can help locate her is asked to come forward.

Siobhan is described as white, 5ft 6ins tall with a medium build, medium-length brown hair and a fair complexion. She speaks with a Scottish accent.

Inspector Chris Scobbie said:- "Siobhan has not been seen or heard from by friends or family since Thursday and we are keen to establish her whereabouts as soon as possible.

“Anyone who believes they have seen Siobhan in the past couple of days or who knows where she is should contact police immediately.

“I would also ask that Siobhan comes forward if she sees or hears this appeal and let us know she’s safe and well.”

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

Heart of Midlothian 0 St Mirren 2

✘ SPFL, Saturday 5 October 2013 – Tynecastle Stadium

It was a game billed as the proverbial six-pointer. Bottom of the table Hearts, still operating in negative points mode thanks to the club going into administration in June – although this seems an age ago – against the team immediately above them, albeit St. Mirren were nine points ahead going into Saturday’s SPFL clash at Tynecastle. Sadly for those associated with the famous Heart of Midlothian the result was the one they feared – a defeat which leaves the Jambos an agonising 12 points behind the Paisley Buddies.

Hearts manager Gary Locke brought back Ryan Stevenson, now fully recovered from the injury he sustained against Hibernian at the beginning of the season. ‘Stevo’ replaced the luckless David Smith in attack alongside Callum Paterson.

Buoyed by another large and vociferous support, the Maroons started the game well enough although Dylan McGowan caused hearts to flutter when he was short with a passback after just

three minutes. Thankfully, keeper Jamie MacDonald was alert to the danger but the incident was a prelude to an afternoon of uncertainty from the Australian defender.

Hearts skipper Danny Wilson almost opened the scoring moments later but his header was pushed over the bar by Saints keeper Dilo. Then it was Callum Paterson's turn to put pressure on the visiting defence when he ran through on goal but his shot on goal was blocked by Dilo. Midway through the first half, the tireless Scott Robinson again ran at the Saints defence before his pass found Stevenson. However, the angle was too tight for the former Ayr United man and his shot at goal went wide. Stevenson's next effort on goal was closer but still only hit the side net. Jamie Walker then went down in the penalty box and the inevitable claims for a penalty from the Tynecastle hordes ensued. Referee Craig Thomson immediately sprinted into the penalty area – and promptly booked the Hearts youngster for diving.

If I'm giving the impression it was all one-way traffic towards the St. Mirren goal, this wasn't the case. The Buddies created several openings but seemed to lack a cutting edge in front of goal. McGowan and McLean both had efforts on goal, the latter from a free kick which Hearts keeper MacDonald pushed away. Callum Paterson then had a chance from inside the penalty area but his effort was high and wide. It was a missed opportunity he soon regretted as St. Mirren took the lead a couple of minutes before half time. Newton's deep cross was met by the unmarked McGinn who headed the ball past MacDonald to give the visitors a 1-0 lead at half time. The consensus of opinion, certainly in Section D of the Wheatfield Stand, was the goal had been coming.

Gary Locke replaced Robinson with Billy King at the start of the second half but the Paisley Saints knew the pressure was on their hosts to take the game to them and they seemed quite content to waste as much time as they could.

Ten minutes into the second half came the moment the game finally ran away from Hearts reach. Fine work from Ryan Stevenson on the right set the ball up perfectly for Callum Paterson to strike home the equaliser. Sadly, the young striker leant back when hitting the ball from ten yards out and the ball soared into the Roseburn Stand, much to the delight of the visiting support. They were ecstatic seconds later when, from the resultant goal kick, St. Mirren went up the park. Hearts keeper Jamie MacDonald couldn't collect a cross ball allowing McGowan to stroke the ball home to make it 2-0 to the visitors.

Hearts brought on Callum Tapping and Dale Carrick but it was to no avail. The second goal killed the game stone dead, a fact the players and indeed the despairing home support seemed to realise.

St. Mirren saw out the game comfortably enough and, it has to be said, fully deserved their victory. Their experience showed throughout the afternoon and the reaction of those in black and white at the end of the game told its own story. Saints are now 12 points ahead of Hearts and that's a substantial gap even at this relatively early stage of the season.

What was particularly worrying for this reporter was not so much the result, gut-wrenching as it was, but the fact the Hearts team looked like it had ran out of gas. It's been a tough start to the season for the youngsters and having such a small squad has meant manager Gary Locke has had little option but to play much the same team week in, week out. After a bright opening, Hearts faded badly and, Paterson's chance apart, never looked like scoring.

Locke admitted he was disappointed with the performance of the team:-"It's a reminder of how tough a challenge it is that we're facing. I'm not going to sit here and say we played well, because we didn't. That's the first time I can say that this season, but we have to put it behind us now. At 1-0, we

had a great chance to equalise, didn't take it, and they went up the park instead and scored. The boys are down in there, but they knew it was never going to be easy this season".

"We can't feel sorry for ourselves, we've still nearly halved our points deficit, but we weren't good enough on the day and that's why we lost, it's as simple as that".

The Hearts fans departed Tynecastle on a beautifully sunny autumn afternoon in rather a sombre mood. There was no rendition of 'We are the Hearts and We're Staying Up' at the end and there seemed almost an acceptance that their young team may find the 15 point deficit imposed on them this season too much of a handicap to overcome. A look at the league table shows Hearts are ten points behind Kilmarnock with three quarters of the season still to be played. However, in recent weeks Hearts have thrown away three points in Dingwall, were held to a goalless draw at home by Dundee United and, today, were found rather wanting by a much more experienced St. Mirren team.

Sadly, for those of the maroon persuasion, there's little to indicate their team will catch Kilmarnock, another experienced team, any time soon.

Hearts: MacDonald; McGhee, McGowan, Wilson, McHattie; Robinson, Holt, Hamill, Stevenson, Paterson, Walker.

St Mirren: Dilo, McGregor, Goodwin, P. McGowan, Thompson, Newton, Van Zanten, McGinn, Mair, McLean, Kelly.

Referee: Craig Thomson

Att: 14,769

Top man: Jamie Walker – although booked for diving in the first half, his trickery and eagerness to run at the defence caused St. Mirren problems all afternoon.

Thousands got a free lunch from Edible Edinburgh



In Bristo Square today the queue was quite long but people were happy enough. They were queuing for a free meal.

Top chefs served these free meals to thousands of people.

 The Feeding the 5000 event was organised by [Edible Edinburgh](#)  which is a group brought together by the council to transform the food we eat in the capital..

On the menu was good food sourced locally or food which might otherwise have been thrown away.

On the basis that there is no such thing as a free lunch however anyone who wanted to eat had to go through the education zone to learn about recycling and the benefits of eating in season from local producers.

So what can you do?

You are encouraged to love food and hate waste – the average household throws away £35 worth of food each month and use the Edinburgh Local Food Network to source good local food.

And if you are wondering how the chefs managed to cook everything today... here is the answer!



Taxi driver assaulted in Springwell Place

✘ A male taxi driver was assaulted and robbed of his takings in the early hours of this morning. Two men set upon him when he stopped to pick up a group of five passengers on Springwell Place. Police in Edinburgh are appealing for witnesses.

The 44-year-old victim was driving his black cab on Springwell Place at around 2.50am when he was waved down by a female, who was in the company of four men.

Two of the men then began assaulting the driver, who fled from his vehicle to a nearby petrol station forecourt. At the time one of the suspects has stolen a plastic money box containing a two-figure sum from the taxi before the group made off.

The victim sustained a minor injury to his shoulder and contacted police.

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

The suspects are described as male, white, late teens or early twenties. One was wearing grey and white striped tracksuit bottoms while the other had a dark coloured top with "Hollister California" written on it.

A Police Scotland spokesman said: "The victim was not seriously injured during the robbery but is understandably distressed at the theft of his money.

"Anyone who was in the area on Saturday morning and remembers seeing anything suspicious, or who has information that can

help trace those responsible is asked to contact police immediately.”

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

Edinburgh MP campaigns to Save our Royal Mail



Royal Mail privatisation – Is it the green light to move out of town?

Fears that the sale will herald a move away from the High Street to industrial parks on the outskirts.

According to local MP for Edinburgh South, Ian Murray, high streets across the country are likely to suffer a further blow as a newly privatised Royal Mail seeks to maximise the resale value of hundreds of local sorting and delivery offices and move them to cheaper industrial parks outside of town.

Royal Mail operates from around 2,000 sites including 48 mail centres. Approximately half are owned by Royal Mail Estates and in many cases are in areas of prime central real estate. A disposal plan could result in these become vacant and sold on with Royal Mail consolidating its collection and distribution facilities in out of town industrial parks.

Mr Murray believes this is bad news for customers who will find they have to travel several miles to collect parcels and other recorded items.

We met up with him outside the parcel collection office in Falcon Road West this morning where he had just spoken to the staff about his fears. The area was busy with people collecting their parcels and some of those who felt much the same as their local representative were happy to speak on camera. Unfortunately there were some who dissented from that view who were not happy to be filmed.

The sale of Royal Mail shares was announced in the House of Commons on 12 September by Michael Fallon MP in the following statement:-

This is an important day for Royal Mail, its employees and its customers. This morning my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State laid a written ministerial statement before the House reporting that the Government have made a formal announcement of our intention to float Royal Mail on the premium segment of the London stock exchange. This follows the report and the statement by my right hon. Friend to the House on 10 July setting out our plans to conduct an initial public offering of Royal Mail shares during this financial year.

The sale of shares will complete the final part of the Government's reform of the postal sector, which Parliament debated and decided over two years ago. The overall objective of our reform is to continue to secure the universal postal service—the six-days-a-week, same-price-goes-anywhere service—which is vital to our economy. We have already put in place a proper regulatory framework and given Ofcom stronger powers to take the action necessary to protect the universal service. We have taken on Royal Mail's historical pension liabilities, which were crippling the company's financial position.

Our reforms, together with the hard work of employees in modernising the business, have put Royal Mail on the road to

sustainable health. But under the restrictions of public ownership, its core mail business has lurched between profit and loss and has made a loss in five of the past 12 years. It has lost more than £1 billion, and during that period some 50,000 jobs were lost.

The sale of shares will give Royal Mail the commercial freedom it needs to succeed in a fully liberalised, competitive market. It will give the company future access to the private sector capital it needs for investment and to seize the opportunities for growth, such as increasing parcel volumes arising from the boom in online shopping, a market now estimated to be worth £76 billion. It will give Royal Mail commercial confidence, free from Whitehall interference.

As set out in this morning's announcement of the intention to float, shares will be made available to institutions and members of the public through intermediaries or via direct application to the Government. When the public offering goes ahead, 10% of the shares will be allocated to around 150,000 eligible Royal Mail employees for free through an employee share scheme. Through that scheme, the Government will be delivering in full on the commitment to employees that Parliament made two years ago. It will be the largest employee share scheme of any major privatisation for 30 years.

The Government will take forward the sale and Royal Mail will publish its prospectus in the coming weeks. We will retain flexibility on the precise timetable, which will be announced at a later stage, just as we will retain flexibility around the size of the stake to be sold, but we intend to dispose of a majority of the shares in the company, taking into account shares sold and the 10% of shares that will be made available to employees through the share scheme. The final size of the stake sold through the public offering will be influenced by market conditions, investor demand and our objective of ensuring that value for money for the taxpayer is achieved.

I and Royal Mail's management fully recognise and understand the work force's natural apprehensions about the sale. I have continued to meet the union regularly over the past year to discuss those concerns. I want to reassure employees that a change of Royal Mail's ownership will not trigger any change in their terms and conditions. The Communication Workers Union will continue to be their recognised representative and their pensions will continue to be governed by the trustees.

As part of a three-year agreement, Royal Mail is also prepared to give legally binding assurances on: the continuation of a predominantly full-time work force; a commitment to provide and enhance existing services to customers using the current work force, with no change to the current structure of the company in relation to those services; and no additional outsourcing of services. Royal Mail and the union are discussing those assurances, along with a new pay deal and reform proposals on the pension fund. I do not believe that industrial action will help the situation, and it will certainly not prevent the sale going forward.

Following last week's debate on the postal services in rural areas, I want to reassure the House once again that a change in Royal Mail's ownership does not, and cannot, trigger any change in the provision of the universal postal service.

As universal service provider, Royal Mail will continue to be obliged to deliver to urban and rural areas alike, six days a week, at the same affordable prices. Changes to the uniform nature of that service would require new primary legislation. The Government have no plans for any such changes. Changes to the universal service's minimum requirements, which include free services for the blind and services to urban and rural areas alike, can be made only by affirmative resolutions in both Houses. The Government have no plans for such changes. Any suggestion that the privatisation of Royal Mail will lead to changes in the universal service are therefore completely

unfounded.

I also want to reassure the House about the Post Office—the company that operates the network of post offices. The Post Office is now separate from Royal Mail, and it is not for sale. There will be no repeat by this Government of the closure programme that the Labour party implemented. Far from it; this Government are committed to ensuring a sustainable future for the Post Office. We are providing funding of £1.34 billion over four years to maintain a network of at least 11,500 branches and to ensure that 90% of the population live within 1 mile of a Post Office outlet. That is the largest investment in the Post Office's history, and it will also enable the modernisation of up to 6,000 branches.

This is a significant day for Royal Mail, and the sale of shares will complete our reform of the postal sector. We want Royal Mail to have the real commercial freedom that it needs to compete and to ensure the universal service that consumers and businesses rightly value. That is what our reform will deliver, and I commend this statement to the House.

It is not just in Westminster that this matter is being discussed. Following the recent claim at First Minister's Questions at Holyrood that the SNP government would reverse such a privatisation, Ian Murray MP said:—"This is yet another off the cuff, uncostered promise by Alex Salmond.

"His finance minister, on TV just 16 hours before, said he could not commit to renationalisation as he would not know the shape or format of the Royal Mail post privatisation and how much it would cost."

There is much debate about what the First Minister and the Finance Secretary actually said, but you can watch the video of FMQs below. No matter what the Finance Minister had said on

Newsnight the night before the First Minister has now led the government into the position where they have given an assurance on the reversal in the event of independence in 2014:-

F1 – Qualifying Report: Korea



Sebastian Vettel grabbed his fourth consecutive pole position and sixth of the season to qualify at the front of the grid for tomorrow's Korean Grand Prix. It was a comfortable and fairly anti-climactic end to qualifying for the three-time world champion, whose first flying lap was enough to see him set the fastest time. Lewis Hamilton, who topped both Friday practice sessions, had to settle for second place, while Vettel's team mate Mark Webber was third fastest but will start from thirteenth on the grid due to a ten-place grid penalty for accumulating three reprimands this season.

Elsewhere in the top ten, Romain Grosjean put together a good lap to claim fourth place ahead of the Mercedes of Nico Rosberg, while his team mate Kimi Raikkonen could only manage tenth, 1.3 seconds down on the Frenchman's time due to an error in his only flying lap. All drivers from Grosjean down to thirteenth-placed Ricciardo will be moved up a place on the grid thanks to Webber falling back.

It was a good session for the Sauber drivers, with Hulkenberg and Gutierrez claiming eighth and ninth positions respectively, just behind the Ferraris of Alonso and Massa.

Scot Paul di Resta made it out of Q1 by the skin of his teeth, with Marussia driver Jules Bianchi judged to have held him up near the end of his hot lap. Bianchi has been given a three-place grid penalty and a reprimand, which sees him start at the back of the grid. Di Resta went on to Q2 but was unable to make it into the top ten, instead having to settle for 15th place on the grid. Nevertheless, the Force India driver is still confident that he will be able to get into a points-scoring position during the race. He said:- "We were not fully optimised for qualifying because we've been focusing more on our race pace as we did in Singapore. Hopefully that will pay off for us tomorrow because our long run performance and tyre wear yesterday appeared to be very good. So I think we've got a good race car, possibly better than some of the cars around us, and points will be the target."

Full Qualifying Results

1. Vettel (1:37.202)
2. Hamilton (+0.218)
3. Webber (+0.262)*
4. Grosjean (+0.329)
5. Rosberg (+0.477)
6. Alonso (+0.836)
7. Massa (+1.021)
8. Hulkenberg (+1.035)
9. Gutierrez (+1.203)
10. Raikkonen (+1.620)
11. Perez (Q2)
12. Button (Q2)

13. Ricciardo (Q2)
14. Sutil (Q2)
15. Di Resta (Q2)
16. Vergne (Q2)
17. Bottas (Q3)
18. Maldonado (Q3)
19. Pic (Q3)
20. Van der Garde (Q3)
21. Bianchi (Q3)**
22. Chilton (Q3)

*10-place grid penalty, will start 13th

**3-place grid penalty, will start 22nd

Sighthill Bowling Club ladies raise funds for RNLI



At their annual fundraising event the Sighthill Bowling Club ladies section raised £640.00. for the RNLI Queensferry Lifeboat Station. Pictured handing over the cheque is the President Pat McDade to RNLI Queensferry Lifeboat Station Treasurer Liz Holmes (3rd from left) with in front row committee members

L to R. Vice President Eleanor Sutherland, secretary Andrena Lamb, Margaret Paton, Christine Paterson and Gerry Mackenzie pictured with some of the other members before their closing match of the season.

Five things Edinburgh needs to know today



Dogs and crocodiles – Male arrested following pet shop incident – Warhol goes to Holyrood – Feeding the 5000 – Pandas

Twitter was ablaze towards the end of yesterday afternoon with the report of the stolen crocodile from St Andrew Square. Snapping at the heels of the story which broke earlier in the day about vandalism to the recently repaired [Greyfriars Bobby](#) statue, it goes a long way to prove that most news outlets really are interested in the ridiculous and the scandalous.

The 12 foot long fibreglass crocodile called Dave which is owned by the National Library and was being used in St Andrew Square to promote their Explore Africa with David Livingstone exhibition must be around somewhere. Is it in your shed? The National Library are keen to get it back.....it cost £3,000 to make.

Our crocodile's been stolen. The police have been informed and we desperately want him back. Information anyone?
<http://t.co/AWeVNneUtn>

– NLS (@natlibscot) [October 4, 2013](#)

Any information on our missing crocodile welcome
[#returnthecroc](#) – NLS (@natlibscot) [October 4, 2013](#)

A helpful suggestion from Apex Hotels was rebuffed...

[@natlibscot](#) sorry to hear about your missing croc ! Hope no one thinks we were the culprits ! [#comeforavisit](#)
pic.twitter.com/hqUkUkoBqn

– Apex International (@Apex_Inter) [October 4, 2013](#)

[@Apex_Inter](#) We have carefully studied the photographs but have decided to eliminate you from our inquiries.
[#returnthecroc](#)

– NLS (@natlibscot) [October 4, 2013](#)

Also on the pet front the police issued this tweet following an incident yesterday afternoon in a pet shop in Leith:-

[#keepingpeoplesafe](#) Officers Arrest, caution & charge male following an incident at a local petshop – keeping people & Animals safe in Leith – EdinburghNorthPolice (@EdinNorthPolice) [October 4, 2013](#)

Thanks to the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament

Tricia Marwick and the support of the Carnegie UK Trust there is a new exhibition opens today at Holyrood of art by Warhol, some of which has never been seen outside the US before. The exhibition is entitled Andy Warhol: Pop, Power and Politics. It includes works of art showing former presidents Kennedy, Reagan and Jimmy Carter in a typical Warhol fashion.

As well as the artworks there are two photos by Glasgow photographer, Harry Benson, who has loaned two images of Warhol which are being displayed here for the first time.

The Edinburgh Reporter attended the press view yesterday and interviewed the Presiding Officer and the Chair of Carnegie UK Trust about the exhibition.

Tickets are free but will be tied to time slots so prior booking is recommended. Contact warhol@scottish.parliament.uk or phone 0131 348 5454 or in person at The Scottish Parliament, Horse Wynd EH99 1SP.

Later in the month, from 15 October there will be another exhibition about Andrew Carnegie, the man who left it all behind, in the main foyer of the Parliament building.

Later today in Bristo Square some top Edinburgh chefs will be [feeding 5,000 people](#) for free using food which would otherwise have been thrown out.

All of the food will be supplied by local allotments, Stirfresh, Kettle Produce and Skea Organics, while financial support is being provided by Zero Waste Scotland. Volunteers will prepare, serve and clean up, while a Food Information Fair with activities and stalls will take place at the same time in the Potterow Dome.

Visitors on the day will also get the chance to comment on a consultation to develop a Sustainable Food City Strategy for

Edinburgh. This is being managed by [Edible Edinburgh](#), which was formed to explore how healthy, sustainable and locally sourced food can be available for everyone.

On the is she isn't she front, there is an interesting article about panda conservation, panda diplomacy and the research into breeding on [The Conversation](#) by Martin Eve of the University of Lincoln who attended the panda symposium last month held at Edinburgh Zoo.

Gymnasts put on great show at opening of Tumbles in Portobello



YOUNG GYMNASTS SPRING INTO ACTION FOR EDINBURGH LEISURE

Official launch of a new £500,000 state-of-the-art gymnastics and soft play centre this morning.



Portobello's promenade was centre stage for the official launch of Edinburgh Leisure's largest soft play centre and the City's new state-of-the-art gymnastics Centre earlier today

when over 150 guests previewed the state-of-the-art facilities and enjoyed show-stopping gymnastics displays from troupes of young local gymnasts.



With a huge demand for gymnastics classes and some 200 children on waiting lists in Edinburgh and Lothians alone, Tumbles at Portobello officially opens to the public tomorrow, giving thousands of children, from beginners to elite athletes and gymnastics clubs, the opportunity to access state-of-the-art gymnastics equipment and coaching.



Edinburgh Leisure and sportscotland have invested over £500,000 in this new Centre with 20 new jobs created at Tumbles as a result.



Tumbles at Portobello will officially open to the public at 9:30am on Saturday 5 October with Commonwealth Games mascot Clyde on hand to meet visitors. 

PHOTOS courtesy of Rob McDougall – PHOTOGRAPHER & FILM MAKER

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Boys' Brigade anniversary celebrated at St Giles



130th Anniversary commemorated at St Giles' Cathedral

The United Kingdom's longest-running voluntary youth organisation, The Boys' Brigade (BB) is celebrating its 130th Anniversary today.

The occasion was marked with a service at St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh where BB members young and old laid flowers at the plaque in memory of the founder.

The Boys' Brigade was founded by William Alexander Smith in Glasgow on 4th October 1883 and quickly spread across the United Kingdom before becoming a worldwide organisation by the early 1890s.

Events are being planned for the Brigade's 130th Anniversary, including world record attempts, a giant sleepover and taking part in the Great Scottish Run.

Bill Stevenson, Director, Scotland, The Boys' Brigade, said:- "Since The Boys' Brigade's inception, much has changed. We started just seven years after the invention of the telephone.

"I am sure if William Alexander Smith were around today, he would be proud of the thousands of BB members and volunteers who are not only true to the original values of the organisation, but have evolved and moved with the times, keeping the BB still relevant today."



Sculpture stolen from St Andrew Square



Police in Edinburgh are investigating the theft of a 12ft fibreglass crocodile from St Andrew Square.

The sculpture, the property of the National Library of Scotland, is believed to have been stolen between the hours of 2pm on Thursday 3rd October and 8am on Friday 4th October from its position within the gardens of St Andrew Square.

It is then believed to have been removed via the west gate of the gardens and onto George Street.

PC Caireen Stewart said:= "This crocodile is the property of The National Library of Scotland and is very unique. Due to its size, it is believed that someone may have seen something regarding its disappearance. Can any person with information please contact the police on 101." (and make it snappy...? Ed)

