

# The Edinburgh Reporter's Weekly Sports Roundup



This week, The Edinburgh Reporter sends our congratulations to Spartans for winning their first trophy in two years and also Hibs for retaining the East of Scotland Shield against Hearts at Tynecastle.

Commiserations go to Spartans Women who lost out to a strong Glasgow City side in the final of the Scottish Premier League Cup.

## Rugby by John Preece

It was announced this week that Scotland's new head coach will be Vern Cotter. The New Zealander is currently the head coach at French Top 14 club, Clermont Auvergne. Cotter was signed up several months ago, but out of respect to Clermont, the capture of one of the World's top coaches was not announced until after the season's end. However, Cotter is still contracted to Clermont for the 2013-14 season and will not join formally the Scotland set-up until the end of the coming season. As a result, Scott Johnson will continue in the role as interim head coach before he takes on the role of Director of Rugby. Not ideal, but not a bad sub.

It's the Women's turn this weekend to fight to retain their FIRA (the International Federation of Amateur Rugby. It's French!) Grand Prix status in their Sevens Tour. They have to finish in the top ten of both of the upcoming tournaments – Brive, then Marbella two weeks later – to retain their place and their 2014 ranking, and World Cup qualification, will depend on their final placings.

Edinburgh have lined up two English Premiership teams for

their pre-season warm-up matches at the end of August. For the really keen, the first match is against Northampton Saints at Franklin Gardens on the 23rd August. Last season, the Saints travelled up to Murrayfield (photo) and hammered Edinburgh 54-3, so it would be reasonable to expect a similar scoreline for them at home. Here's hoping Edinburgh can get off to a better start this time around.

The second match is against Newcastle Falcons a week later at 'a venue to be confirmed', according to Edinburgh Rugby. This match may well be played at one of the Borders' clubs, with Murrayfield being held 'in reserve' if nothing comes of the plan. Newcastle have recently been on a recruiting drive in anticipation of promotion to the Premiership (successfully anticipated) and a number of former Edinburgh and Scotland players will be returning home, so to speak.

Looming large on the horizon is the draw for the 2013-14 Heineken Cup. Edinburgh will enter the draw in tier three. The tier for each team is determined by maths too probably complicated to go into, but is based on performance over the last four years in the Heineken Cup and Amlin Challenge Cup. The draw will take place on the 5th June at 2:30pm and will be streamed live on [www.ercrugby.com](http://www.ercrugby.com) for the terminally dedicated. Edinburgh went through to the semi-finals two seasons ago, but failed to win a match last year. Hopefully, the new coaching team and new players will be able to inspire a better performance in this year's tournament.

## **International Football**

Six capital youngsters, Bradley Donaldson, Ross Caldwell, Danny Handling and Alex Harris from Hibs and Jordan McGhee and David Smith from Hearts have been selected for the Scotland Under-20 squad for the SDO Den Haag youth tournament.

The Scots started the tournament in style with two goals from Handling in the first three minutes against Brazilian club

side Cruzeiro at the Kyocera Stadium and eventually ran out 3-1 winners.

The youngsters then played two games on Saturday, losing 1-0 to FK Senika before drawing 1-1 with Club Brugge to set up a semi-final with Mexico.

## **Edinburgh Football**

Hibs amazing record in the East of Scotland Shield continued on Friday night at Tynecastle as the Easter Road Under 17s convincingly beat city rivals Hearts 3-0 to win the old trophy for the ninth consecutive season.

A sizeable crowd saw Hibs take the lead on the half hour mark thanks to a well taken volley from striker Lewis Allan. Jordan Sinclair added a second with a 25 yard free kick before substitute Dominic Docherty sealed victory with a header.

The following day, Hibs fans beat Hearts fans 3-0 in a charity match at Tynecastle.

Off the field, Hearts confirmed that out-of-contract Lithuanian international Arvydas Novikovas will leave the club in the summer. The 22 year-old, who has been capped 12 times, scored three goals in 37 appearances last year, and joins Darren Barr, Danny Grainger, Gordon Smith, Mehdi Taouil, Fraser Mullen and Denis Prychynenko on the list of players who will be seeking pastures new as manager Gary Locke continues his rebuilding programme.

Former Liverpool player Danny Wilson has signed a three year deal with the Gorgie club, and former Rangers star Kris Boyd has confirmed that he has spoken to Locke about the possibility of a contract. Speculation regarding Blackburn Rovers striker David Goodwillie joining Hearts on loan continues.

The club hopes to hear whether Andy Webster will accept a new

deal after his contract ran out on Friday.

Earlier in the week, the club unveiled the new home strip for next season which will be made by Adidas. The maroon top is complimented by white bands on the sleeves and the shorts and socks will be all maroon.

Across the city, Hibs confirmed that Welsh international Owain Tudor-Jones has joined the club on a two year deal from Inverness Caledonian Thistle, and on-loan full back Ryan McGivern has accepted a two year contract after being freed by Manchester City.

The pair will join their team-mates when pre-season training resumes on 17 June, only 22 days after the Scottish Cup Final. The club will find out who their European opponents will be when the draw is made on 24 June.

Hibs have announced a four year deal with sportswear brand Nike as the clubs Official Technical Partner.

## **East of Scotland Football**

Congratulations to Spartans who secured their first silverware in two years after beating Berwick Rangers Reserves at St Marks Park on Saturday in the final of the Kings Cup.

Rangers took an early lead when Kenny O'Brien scored from the edge of the box, and although the linesman raised his flag, he was over-ruled by the referee and the goal stood.

Spartans equalised in the 35<sup>th</sup> minute thanks to an Ally MacKinnon header from a Kevin Motion cross, then three minutes later Rangers' Grant McNicol was sent off for a foul on Andy Martin.

The Ainslie Park side took the lead just after the break when once again MacKinnon got onto the end of a Motion cross and headed the ball home from two yards.

With 13 minutes remaining, Jack Beesley found Keith Macleod unmarked on the penalty spot and the striker took a touch before spinning round and firing the ball into the corner of the net.

Berwick had the chance to get back into the game when they were awarded a late penalty, but Josh Morris's powerful effort struck the post and ended up in the arms of keeper Iain McTurk, who was playing his last game for the club before heading to America to play college soccer.

## **Women's Football**

Commiseration to Spartans Women who lost in the final of the Scottish Premier League Cup to on-form Glasgow City on Wednesday night at Recreation Park Alloa.

A hat-trick from Ruesha Littlejohn combined with a fine header from Suzanne Lappin and a penalty from City captain Leanne Ross secured the trophy and maintained the Glasgow sides 100% record this season.

The Reporter sends out congratulations to Hibs' players to Claire Emslie, Caroline Weir and Siobhan Hunter who all won their first caps in Scotland's 3-2 win over Iceland.

## **Boxing**

Lochend boxers Aston Brown (75kg) and Josh Taylor (64kg) travelled to Minsk with Team Scotland to participate in the AIBA Elite Senior European Championship, arguably one of the toughest boxing tournaments in the world.



## **Hockey by John Preece**

Not so much a round-up as a heads-up. Scotland Men's and Women's teams will be in action at Peffermill in Edinburgh on a variety of dates starting on 10 June 2013. Wales, Ireland,

South Africa and England 'B' (Photo Scotland v England 'B') are all coming up to play in some sort of tournament/friendlies/something-not-particularly-well-announced-by-Scottish-Hockey. Fixture details can be sought out [on their website here](#) and it is likely that entry will be free, but, again, that has not yet been announced by the SHU. For a fast, exciting, end-to-end sport, it is hard to beat International standard hockey. Only 35 minutes each way, play barely stops moving, and, with the ball travelling at up to, and occasionally over, 100mph, rolling substitutes are essential.

## Speedway

The Scotwaste Monarchs lost 5-4 to eventual winners Somerset Rebels in the semi-finals of the Premier Pairs on Friday night in Somerset. This was the first time the Monarchs had reached the semi-final stage since 2002.

The Armadale based team are at home to Redcar Bears on Friday 7 June then return to Somerset the following Tuesday.

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# SDL take part in memorial service at Scottish Parliament



The Scottish Defence League laid flowers and held a minutes silence in memory of soldier Lee Rigby who was murdered two weeks ago in Woolwich. The far right organisation held their

service outside The Scottish Parliament at 1.30pm on Saturday while United Against Fascism held a counter-protest at the same time also outside the Parliament.



Around 150 SDL members turned up on the day and there were around 300 members of the UAF group. Both sides stood chanting at one another, and both sides waved a variety of flags. Prior to the SDL event starting at 1.30pm The Edinburgh Reporter spoke to Graham Walker, SDL spokesperson and event organiser and you can hear this interview below.


[listen to 'Graham Walker' on Audioboo](#)

The gallery of photographs from the day can also be seen [here](#).



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## Five things you need to know today

 **Guerrilla opera in Edinburgh – Edinburgh MP out to lunch – Leith Neighbourhood Partnership – Cycle for Quarriers – At the National Gallery**

Catch a glimpse of beautiful romance in surprising spots as the Edinburgh International Festival's guerrilla opera series returns

From **Tuesday 4 June to Saturday 15 June 2013**, the *Love in a...* series of opera performances will be popping-up in various

public spaces around Edinburgh, as part of the Festival's year round public engagement programme.

In 2012, the inaugural *Love in a Library* series charmed unsuspecting audiences with a moving story of unfolding feelings between a librarian and a reader. Building on last year's pilot project, this June love spreads beyond just libraries, with performances exploring new stories in unexpected places.

*Love in a...* will enchant with a repertoire of exquisite songs performed by soprano Emma Morwood and lyric tenor Chris Elliott, accompanied by pianist John Cameron.

Exact dates, times and locations will be announced a couple of hours ahead of each performance on their [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Keep an eye on the Festival's social media profiles for further hints and romantic reminders.

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Sheila Gilmore MP will be attending the Dumbiedykes Big Lunch today to celebrate 50 years since Holyrood and Lochview Courts opened in 1963.

The Big Lunch is a nationwide event for communities to get as many people as possible to have lunch with their neighbours once a year in a simple act of community, friendship and fun

At the Big Lunch Sheila Gilmore MP will present awards to two residents who have are the longest serving tenants in the high rise properties since they opened.



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It is one thing to cycle 50 miles. It is another to cycle it at night....

[Here is the link](#) where you can join in the night time cycle for Quarriers. If only we had not already committed to cycling in Pedal for Scotland...

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The Art Cart is on this afternoon at the National Gallery for ages 4-12.

Free drop-in art activities for all the family led by artists Tessa Asquith-Lamb and Paula Flavell. Each month there's something new to create inspired by different works from the collection or exhibitions.

Supported by the Friends of the National Galleries of Scotland.

[More information here.](#)

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# Woman in hospital following

# alleged assault

An investigation has been launched after a woman was taken from the Carlton Highland Hotel to the Royal Infirmary at round 6.30 am this morning.

Police Scotland have confirmed they are involved in an investigation following an incident during which a female was allegedly assaulted.

A source close to the hotel told The Edinburgh Reporter:- “The incident didn’t happen at the hotel, but the injured woman is one of our staff members. I am not sure how she is or what happened.”

A Scottish Ambulance spokesperson said:- “We attended the Carlton Highland Hotel at around 6.15 am this morning and transported a female to the ERI for further treatment.”

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## Woman suffers smoke inhalation after Telford Road house fire

A woman was treated for smoke inhalation after a fire broke out in a ground floor flat on Telford Road on Saturday.

It is understood the fire broke out in the bedroom of the property and crews using breathing apparatus and a hose reel extinguished the fire.

A neighbour however required treatment for the effects of smoke inhalation.



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# Obituary – Andy Mackie 1972 – 2013

✖ We have had some very sad news this week. One of The Edinburgh Reporter's journalists, Andy Mackie, died suddenly and unexpectedly last weekend.

Andy's brother James wrote: -*"Andy was born on 23rd December 1972 (i'm sure meaning a sleepless Christmas for our parents!!) in Edinburgh.*

*The family moved to Poltonhall when Andrew was 5 and he lived there for the majority of the rest of his life.*

He had a life long love of music, in particular Bruce Springsteen & Bon Jovi whom he saw on numerous occasions over the years.

He was a member for 20+ years of Liberton Rugby Club where he served as player, 2nd Team Captain & Committee member. He forged many friendships at the club which exist to this day.

Andy also helped organise the bi-annual trip to Wales to visit Liberton's "sister" club Llandaff North, again a place where he had many friends.

Also Andy enjoyed a great debate about a wide variety of topics from sport (he was a keen follower of Heart of Midlothian), politics, music & many more.

A funeral service will take place at 12 o'clock in the main chapel at Mortonhall Crematorium on Friday 7 June 2013, to

which all friends & family are invited.

The procession will stop briefly outside Liberton Rugby Club on route to Mortonhall.

Andy was a member of Liberton RFC and they have their own tributes to him on their Facebook page. In addition Landaff North have an article on their website to publish their own thoughts [which you can read here.](#)



Andy playing the sport he loved

Phyllis Stephen said:-“I first met Andy at Edinburgh Napier when I went to talk to the journalism students there about The Edinburgh Reporter and how they might help out. Andy quickly offered to write political articles for us. He arrived at the office with a really small notebook and pencil, but loads of ideas about who to interview and how to get the story. He had a real gift for writing and a bright future ahead. I am very shocked at the news of his untimely death. Very typical of him is this line from one of his emails to me ‘Just finished my exams today. I can try and grab someone to talk to tomorrow morning.’ He is a real loss to us.”

Fellow student, Gavin Harper, said:-“Firstly, Andy was someone who took time out his day to speak to, and make friends with, everyone on our course and his guidance helped a number of us through tough times.

Secondly, as a budding sports and political journalist, his breadth and depth of knowledge were extraordinary. Whether it be local by-elections of the mid 80s or the Rugby World Cup just past, Andy knew it all.

He was, simply, a great person. A ‘people’s person’ if you will, who will be much missed by us all.”

Another classmate, Steven Robson said:-“Andy was one of the ‘good guys’. Never one to complain about work, but a leader who took pleasure in helping others.

“Having spent a lot of time with him in lectures and also at some social functions outside university, his breadth of knowledge and expertise in a variety of subject areas was simply mesmerising.

“The way he led our year as editor of our magazine was wonderful, always one to keep everybody on board whilst keeping the magazine at heart.

“Andy will be missed by many people from many different places; for me, I will miss speaking to him, learning from him, and having a laugh with him.”



Andy making a ‘thank you’ speech as editor of Napier University magazine, Impulse 2012

Andy was a mature student at Edinburgh Napier University due to graduate this summer. He edited the 2012 edition of the magazine, Impulse, where he wrote [this final post](#) when the magazine was finally ready for publication.

A video of him was made by fellow student, Steven Robson, at the time:-

“Andy was a gentle, thoughtful student who was respected by students and staff. During his final year his ambition and clear-headed approach to his future often lead him to opt for key editorial roles, never shirking responsibility, and always leading by example. I have no doubt that Andy would have gone on to report Scottish politics and would have revelled in covering the independence debate. He will be missed by everyone who knew him.” Diane Maclean, Subject Group Leader, Journalism and Publishing, Edinburgh Napier University.

“Andy’s considerable and unique range of qualities; commitment, enormous talent, gentleness, humility, intelligence, kindness and wit will, I’m sure, continue to inspire the Journalism staff and students at Edinburgh

Napier University. Particularly so in his own classmates, the class of 2013. His humour and hard-working humanity were his hallmark traits. It is of comfort, though, that he concluded his degree, towards which he had worked so hard. All our thoughts are with his family.” Kate Smith, Journalism Lecturer.

It was a pleasure knowing Andy. Genuinely the nicest bloke you could hope to meet. He always gave the time to chat about music and sport and has given indispensable advice and guidance to me and our peers over the past few years. He has had a great influence on my life. Sean McLennan, BA (hons) Journalism, Class of 2013.

As journalists, we depend on words to put our story across, to convey emotion and to describe events. In this instance, words are insignificant. They could never fully describe the impact that Andy had on us. He was a good friend, classmate, and someone we all looked up to and respected. He will be sorely missed by so many people, but he left each and every one of us with something to treasure – our memories of him. Karen Rafferty, BA (Hons) Journalism, Class of 2013.

The news of Andy’s passing came as a shock to all of us. He was a hard worker, a talented journalist, and a figure of guidance and help to all of us classmates. But most importantly, he was a kind, patient, and decent guy. Because of his previous work experience, he began this degree a foot ahead of everyone else. While most people would have kept their knowledge of the field to themselves, to carry on with their degree and achieve great marks, Andy was always willing to lend a hand and share his experience with all of us. He never missed out on important celebrations. He always made sure he attended birthdays and parties when we celebrated university group achievements, so we all got to know him and learned to appreciate him as a friend. On June 27 when we all graduate, his absence will be noticed and it will feel wrong. Journalism has lost a talented man, and the people who knew

him lost an incredibly decent guy, one of the good ones.  
Giulia Mattei, BA (Hons) Journalism, Class of 2013.

Andy's work can be seen on The Edinburgh Reporter and also [on his own website here.](#)

Thanks to Gavin Harper and James Mackie for the photos.

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# Police praise Edinburgh public for support



Police forensic officers search the area in Willowbrae. (Picture: Cameron McHenry)

Police Scotland has praised the overwhelming support from the public, a week on from a murder in Edinburgh.

Mohamed Abdi, 25, died as a result of injuries he sustained after being shot in Abercorn Avenue on Sunday 26th May.

A major investigation is underway to identify those responsible for Mr Abdi's death and police continue to provide a high-visibility presence in the local area to engage with the community and offer reassurance.

As a result of the continued interaction with the community, officers have received over 130 calls from members of the public across Scotland. The information provided is currently being progressed by the enquiry team.

Officers welcomed the level of support for this investigation

and remain keen to speak with others who may be able to assist with their enquiries.

Detective Superintendent Gary Flannigan from the Police Scotland Major Investigation Team said: "Since our investigation into Mohamed Abdi's murder began on Sunday 26th May, we have expanded the focus of the enquiry from Willowbrae to other areas across the city.

"On each occasion that we've appealed to the public for assistance with a new line of investigation, they have responded and furnished us with numerous pieces of information that we are currently going over.

"The information we have received has come from various communities, not just within Capital, and demonstrates the national interest in helping solve this crime.

"We are extremely grateful for all of the assistance the public have given in the past week and would urge anyone else with information relating to this investigation, who has yet to contact police, to come forward."

Chief Inspector Mark Paterson said: "Community officers continue to provide a presence in areas of interest to this investigation and have spoken with many local residents to offer reassurance, while at the same time trying to obtain information that may be of use to the enquiry team.

"The level of calls we have received is vindication of our commitment to community engagement and the public can rest assured that local officers will remain in these areas to offer further assistance wherever it may be required.

"I would invite anyone with information about this investigation to approach an officer on patrol, contact Police Scotland on 101 or alternatively, make a report via the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

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# Traverse on the Edinburgh Fringe

The Traverse is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year and has just announced its Fringe line-up which includes four world premieres, five UK premieres and one Scottish premieres.

*The Traverse presents four productions by acclaimed writers David Harrower, Tim Price, Sabrina Mahfouz and Douglas Maxwell*

✖ *The Traverse Fifty will be celebrated with a special presentation of 50 Plays for Edinburgh*

*From Monday 29 July – Saturday 31 August, 2013*

The Traverse will host in total eighteen shows and events: with four World Premieres, five UK Premieres, one Scottish Premiere, and a special presentation celebrating The Traverse Fifty.

Continuing its long established tradition of innovation and risk taking, The Traverse presents this carefully curated Festival of ground-breaking new work across five weeks this summer.

During this most significant year, Artistic Director for the Traverse Theatre, Orla O'Loughlin commented, "Embodying the spirit of the Festival all year round, The Traverse continues to be a unique landmark on Edinburgh's cultural landscape and is the beating heart of new work in Scotland. During August we celebrate this milestone in the way we know best, by producing and programming the finest new work from around the globe for

our dedicated festival audiences. This year we've carefully curated some of the most compelling challenging, world-class work on offer. This is a body of work deeply bound up in the political realities of 2013: by turns personal and societal, local and international, intellectual and emotional."



One of the five Traverse Theatre Company productions presented this Festival is the World Premiere of *Ciara*, by award-winning playwright David Harrower. A co-production with Datum Point Productions, *Ciara* reunites one of Scotland's greatest writers with one of our finest actresses, Blythe Duff, following their recent collaboration on the internationally successful Traverse production *Good With People*. Directed by Traverse Artistic Director, Orla O'Loughlin, it is bound up in the landscape of Glasgow, an epic story of our times. *Ciara*'s father Mick, kept her as his treasure. He wanted his only daughter shielded from what he did. Now Mick is dead and his legacy must be faced, and *Ciara* stands on a threshold, (1-25 Aug).

The Traverse's second World Premiere this Festival, *I'm With the Band* by Tim Price, is a Traverse Theatre Company and Wales Millennium Centre co-production. Directed by Traverse Associate Director, Hamish Pirie, it reunites writer Tim and Hamish, who were Olivier-nominated for their last collaboration *Salt Root and Roe*. Featuring live music, it is a vivid, playful and timely exploration of the break-up of an indie band, comprising an Englishman, a Northern Irishman, a Scotsman and a Welshman, which just happens to be called *The Union*. Performed as part of the British Council Edinburgh Showcase, (2-25 Aug).

Theatre at breakfast is back on the menu this Festival. Back by popular demand are two acclaimed Traverse Theatre Company productions which were developed last year as part of the Herald Angel award-winning Dream Plays series: *A Respectable Widow Takes to Vulgarly* by Douglas Maxwell, recently nominated for a CATS Award for Best New Play, (13, 15, 17, 20, 22 & 24 Aug), complemented by the razor-sharp *Clean*, by award-winning poet and playwright Sabrina Mahfouz, (14, 16, 18, 21, 23 & 25 Aug).

As well as honouring its illustrious past, The Traverse continues its commitment to the next generation of playwriting talent. In celebration of their 50th anniversary they have invited fifty emergent playwrights to work with them over the course of their birthday year. In January these 50 Plays for Edinburgh were premiered altogether, and this Festival the Traverse will re-stage these extraordinary plays over two thrilling nights, (30 & 31 Aug).

✖ Another of Scotland's greatest writers, David Greig, returns to The Traverse with the World Premiere of *The Events*, directed by Ramin Gray, with music composed by John Browne, and featuring local choirs. An Actors Touring Company, Young Vic Theatre, Brageteatret and Schauspielhaus Wien co-production, this daring new play explores the impact of a horrific, politically motivated crime on a small community and delves into the nature of forgiveness, reconciliation and understanding, (31 Jul – 25 Aug).

The Theatre's main house, Traverse One, also plays host to writer, director, actor and Fringe First award-winning Omphile Molusi with the UK Premiere of this political and personal drama *Cadre*. A South African tale of transition from one state of governing to a new order, it is a story of dreams and change, (29 Jul – 25 Aug). Making its Traverse debut, acclaimed company Theatre 0 presents the World Premiere of *The Secret Agent*, prior to a London run at the Young Vic. Inspired by the classic Conrad novel, and created by Matthew Hurt and the company, this political conspiracy tale is set at a time

of social upheaval and growing disparity between rich and poor , (6 – 25 Aug).

Fresh from winning the coveted 2013 Ted Hughes poetry award, performance poet and spoken word artist Kate Tempest presents Brand New Ancients, an epic spoken word performance blurring the lines between poetry and theatre, accompanied by live music. A Kate Tempest/Battersea Arts Centre co-production, developed alongside audiences through the Scratch process, it is being performed for the first time in Scotland as part of the British Council Showcase season, (20 – 25 Aug).

The Theatre's studio space, Traverse Two, plays host to two shows from Irish companies. Ireland's national theatre company, The Abbey Theatre, presents Quietly by Owen McCafferty, a powerful story about truth and forgiveness. Nominated for an Irish Times Theatre Award for Best New Play, it will make its UK Premiere this Festival, directed by Jimmy Fay, and starring Declan Conlon, Patrick O'Kane and Robert Zawadzki, (1 – 25 Aug). The innovative Dublin based Brokentalkers will make its Fringe debut with Have I No Mouth, devised by Feidlim Cannon and Gary Keegan. A highly theatrical, funny and heart-breaking documentary theatre performance written and performed by real life mother and son Ann and Feidlim Cannon, it explores the changing nature of their relationship in the aftermath of a family tragedy, (1 – 25 Aug).

Scottish company Fire Exit makes its Traverse debut with Long Live The Little Knife, written and directed by multi award-winning 'theatrical maverick' David Leddy. It began life as a mini-commission for the Royal Shakespeare Company in the British Museum and was so well received the characters return for this full-length escapade. An absurd and uplifting theatre piece about forgery, castration and blind drunkenness, it stars Wendy Seager and Neil McCormack. Presented as part of the Made In Scotland programme, (1 – 25 Aug).

The internationally-acclaimed theatre performance company Ontroerend Goed return to The Traverse with *Fight Night*, by Alexander Devriendt and the cast. This UK Premiere, presented by Belgium's multiple Fringe First-winning company and Border Project, puts the power in the hands of the audience each night as it makes elections a theatrical game, (1 – 25 Aug). The Gate Theatre, Notting Hill makes its Festival debut with *Grounded* by George Brant, and directed by Christopher Haydon. Starring Lucy Ellinson as The Pilot, *Grounded* won the 2012 Smith Prize from the National New Play Network in America, and targets our assumptions about war, family, and what it is to be a woman, (1 – 25 Aug).

Engagement and debate remain key this year at the Festival: Playwrights' Studio, Scotland will present TalkFest 2013, a series of inspirational discussions with leading writers and theatre-makers involved in this year's Festival. TalkFest 2013 is presented as part of the Made in Scotland showcase, (12 & 19 Aug).

A unique collaboration between the University of Edinburgh, Traverse Theatre and the Playwrights' Studio, Scotland, Pre-View, will result in four readings from four brand new plays by four emerging writers from across Europe (12 & 19 Aug). The Traverse will also play host to the James Tait Black Prize for Drama, judged by students and academics of Edinburgh University, as well as representatives from the National Theatre Scotland and Traverse Artistic Director, Orla O'Loughlin, (5 Aug).

Fringe First, Herald Angel and Spirit of the Fringe award-winning, political, Theatre Uncut return with a brand new collection of short plays which aim to get people talking about and tackling the issues facing us today, (5, 12 & 19 Aug).

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# Poppyscotland featured charity at Gardening Scotland



Poppyscotland, the organisation that supports veterans and their families, is gearing up for Gardening Scotland this weekend as the official charity partner of the 2013 show.

Poppyscotland already has an association with Scotland's leading gardening event having been involved with a number of exhibits at previous shows and this year the charity will be using the opportunity to remind visitors that its work continues all year round.

A Poppyscotland stand will offer visitors a wealth of information about the charity's work and how to get involved while veterans with disabilities from Lady Haig's Poppy Factory will demonstrate the art of poppy-making.

Although best known for organising the annual Scottish Poppy Appeal, the charity needs to raise funds throughout the year to meet the demands on its services from veterans who can struggle with a multitude of complex needs, from physical injury and mental illness to finding secure employment and housing.

Colin Flinn, Head of Fundraising at Poppyscotland said: "We are delighted to be the official charity of Gardening Scotland this year. It gives us an ideal opportunity to tell people that our work in supporting Scotland's veterans goes on all year round, not just in November. Sadly our services show no sign of diminishing and we must raise money all year round in order to continue to deliver our services. Poppyscotland will

indeed be in full bloom at the show and we hope that visitors will stop by our stand to show their support and learn more about our life-changing work.”

Gardening Scotland is the country’s biggest gardening and outdoor living show, attracting 40,000 visitors and more than 400 exhibitors every year. This year’s show runs until Sunday 2 June at The Royal Highland Centre.

Poppyscotland supporters Olivia and Matthew are pictured with the giant panda in one of the show gardens – Five Senses of the Orient Garden, by Ray Howie for Gardening Leave, sponsored by turf firm Turffit.

**Photos supplied by Mark Davison / Pro Lens Photo Agency/ PLPA**



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## **Forthcoming Album by Edinburgh Youth Gaitherin’**



Young musicians have been spending a year investigating and responding creatively to recordings and photos found in the School of Scottish Studies Archives at the University of Edinburgh. The seven participants are now raising money to record an album of the music they have developed.

This archive project is a collaboration between the School and *Edinburgh Youth Gaitherin*, and is supported by Creative Scotland. The aim is to inspire new people to use the

Archives and break down barriers young people and the wider community might have with visiting or using them.

The School of Scottish Studies, established in 1951, houses a treasure trove of fieldwork recordings including traditional songs, music, folklore and stories. The resource is an important asset to Scottish heritage.

Cathlin Macaulay, Archives curator at the School of Scottish Studies said:-“We are keen to bring new users into the Archives, especially young people, and welcome the opportunity to collaborate with Edinburgh Youth Gaitherin.”

Whilst taking part in the project, the participants have been learning about what is involved in being musicians: developing skills such as writing music; playing in a group; teaching; promotion; recording and learning how distribution works. They have also been seeking to take an innovative approach to heritage, whilst also developing a meaningful understanding of the content of the Archives and the context of the recordings.

This approach has taken several diverse forms from creating big arrangements for younger musicians to play; writing songs inspired by anecdotes and recollections of the way people used to live; to experimenting with traditional singing styles and writing new versions of these using words from Gaelic stories.

Participant Paduig Morrison, 16, who studies at St Mary's Music School in Edinburgh, and plays accordion and piano said:- “I have been playing a lot of traditional music and was very interested in learning lots of older stuff as well as newer stuff, and this project gave me the ability to access it”.

He added: “This project is inspiring as younger musicians understand where our music and traditional music comes from and [because] the oral tradition doesn't exist to the same extent [...] and it's important as these were related to the songs of our forefathers”.

He believes the project is an excellent way of passing on the traditions. That through composing new material which is inspired by the old stories, melodies and recordings, ensures it evolves, keeps it and alive, and promotes an understanding of culture.



As traditional music is all about transmission, part of this project has involved transmitting music discovered in the Archives. This has been achieved by teaching it to younger musicians, EYG's Big Band. The album being recording will involve a track performed by the Big Band.

As part of the transmission process the participants have also been keeping [a blog](#) about what they have been doing. They hope their journey will inspire others.

The album is being recorded in collaboration with acclaimed musicians and producers Mike Vass and Matheu Watson. They still have money to raise in order to bring quality of recording to the album they feel it deserves. Therefore they have embarked upon a [crowdfunding campaign](#), offering pre-orders of the album .

The album will be launched at the new arts complex at Summerhall on 29th September of this year. Tickets can be bought through their box office or [online](#).

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## Five things you need to know

# today



## **Cyclist case to be reviewed – Scots Guards – Boroughmuir High School – Proposed Local Development Plan – Gardening Scotland**

The Crown Office have confirmed that they will be making an appeal against the sentence handed down to driver Gary McCourt who was convicted of causing the death of cyclist 75 year-old Audrey Fyfe . Mrs Fyfe was cycling at the junction of Craigentinny Avenue and Portobello when McCourt's car clipped the back of her bike. Mrs Fyfe died two days later. The sentence of 300 hours community service and a driving ban of five years caused an outcry among cycling groups, particularly when the court was told of a previous offence when McCourt collided with cyclist George Dalgity who also died.

They issued this statement:-“Following careful consideration of the facts and circumstances of the case against Gary McCourt by Crown Counsel, the Crown will be lodging an appeal against the sentence on the grounds that it was unduly lenient.

The family of Mrs Fyfe have been kept advised of this decision and we will continue to update them as to any significant developments in the appeal process.”

More than 5000 people have signed a petition demanding a review of the sentence.

Typical of the discussion around the case is this entry on [CTC Scotland](#).

Separately, the council have announced that they will trial the proposed two-way arrangements for cyclists on George Street, and a one-way system on Princes Street. They say that improvements for pedestrians and cyclists will be the

centrepiece of the trial which will take place over 12 months.

This has sparked fierce opposition from many businesses according to The Cockburn Association. They have issued a response to the proposals to the city centre changes [which you can read here.](#)

*The changes aim to create a more accessible, welcoming and attractive City Centre area as part of wider efforts to revitalise the heart of the Capital.*

[The main proposals to be considered](#) by councillors in a report to next week's Transport and Environment Committee, include:

- Temporary extension of the footway of George Street and Princes Street
- Accommodation of a two-way cycle route on George Street
- Implementation of a one-way system for general traffic and buses in an east bound direction on George Street
- Implementation of a one-way system for buses, taxis and cycles in a west bound direction on Princes Street
- Minimising loss of parking spaces on George Street, in response to feedback

The developments will sit alongside other improvements taking place elsewhere in the city centre, including the Royal Mile and Waverley Bridge, and initiatives to support extended shopping hours and the move to allow cafes and restaurants on Princes Street. If approved, the changes are scheduled to be introduced shortly before the tram service begins running.

A monitoring and evaluation group will be set up to oversee the 12 month trial. Evaluation will focus on footfall, passenger use and business revenue as well as satisfaction with the additional space. The group will regularly review the impact on residents, visitors, business and movement in and around the City Centre and assess the quality provided by different use of space.

Transport Convener Cllr Lesley Hinds said: "The consultation we did showed a clear desire for change but no obvious agreement about the best way forward. I would have been delighted if that was the case but we didn't get that. However, the status quo is simply not an option. We need to show leadership and create a vision for how the heart of Edinburgh will work in the future and this trial will help us to do that."

Planning Convener Cllr Ian Perry said: "One clear theme to emerge was that people supported the idea of both streets being more pedestrian-friendly. We also want to improve facilities for cyclists. The changes we're looking to make are temporary, don't involve any significant infrastructure works. I remember that opinion was split before we pedestrianised part of the High Street but that too was trialled and has been a great success."

Economy Convener Cllr Frank Ross said: "We know there are concerns from the business community, among others, about how this is going to be implemented and the potential impact on trade. It's important to stress that this will be a trial that aims to see how this will work in practice. We have agreed there will be a monitoring group, which will include local stakeholders, to see what lessons we can learn from this trial before making any lasting changes. However I'm sure we can all agree that we need a vibrant City Centre that shows off Edinburgh at its best, attracting residents and visitors and competing with other major cities."

A range of consultation methods were used over the six week period to gather views from stakeholders and users. More than 2,000 people contributed to the process.

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The 1st Battalion Scots Guards were awarded the Freedom of the City yesterday on a sun drenched Royal Mile.

The Edinburgh Reporter made a video of the event:-

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The council plans a new high school beside the canal, only 500 metres away from the existing school building on Viewforth. The plans have been issued and now there is a consultation period for the public to have their say.

**Public meetings:** A meeting for the school community will take place in St. Oswald's Hall on Tuesday 4 June at 7.00pm. A meeting for local residents will be held on Thursday 20 June, 7.00pm at St Bride's Community Centre, on Orwell Terrace. This will focus on the external design of the building and how proposals may affect those living close to the school site.

**School exhibition:** An exhibition will be on display in Boroughmuir High School throughout June.

**Library exhibition and 'drop-in' sessions:** An information display in Fountainbridge Library will in place from the end of May to mid-July. 'Drop-in' sessions where you can meet someone informally to find out a bit more about the project will also be held in the library on specific dates in June. More details on the project website.

**Other road show events:** Drop in sessions are also being organised for a number of other local venues. Details will be available on the project website and posters will go up locally to promote these and schools will be asked to share information with parents.

Full information on all the above events is available on [the project website](#), where it will be kept up to date. Keep checking the website to find out what is on.

The consultation closes on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2013, and views can be

submitted via email ([newSchoolBuildings@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:newSchoolBuildings@edinburgh.gov.uk)) or by post:

The Boroughmuir Project The City of Edinburgh Council Level 1:2 Waverley Court 4 East Market Street Edinburgh EH8 8BG

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You have another two weeks to comment on the Proposed Local Development Plan which has been published by the council.

This is the draft document. [You can go to the council website to comment.](#)

[Ldp Proposed Plan March 2013](#)



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Gardening Scotland has special buses running from St Andrew Square all weekend to take you to Ingliston to mingle with those green fingered experts. As well as gardening advice today International rock piping stars The Red Hot Chilli Pipers will be mixing rock standards with piping classics on electronic bagpipes and rocking the show with their feet-stomping rhythms.



To go along and see some of these music stars in action, click [here](#) to book your tickets.

Those who book online can also enter the GreenThumb prize draw for the chance to win a free lawn renovation or a year of free specialist lawn treatment worth £500!

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# Culture and Sport committee approve second Sky Ride

Councillor Richard Lewis convened a meeting of the committee this week with many diverse topics up for discussion, but a couple around cycling, including the approval of the second Sky Ride later this summer.

The committee discussed the sports facilities at Meadowbank with Cllr Booth of the Green Party requesting information about the formation of a Member officer Working Group. Officers reassured him it would be set up over the next few weeks and then begin community engagement to have decisions made on the facility's future by September.

The Committee then discussed the Summer Exhibition at the City Art Centre 'Coming Into Fashion' – a selection of rare fashion photographs and original magazines from the Conde Nast archives in New York, Paris, Milan and London. Councillor Munro questioned the entrance fee for the event in a public space, which Museums Manager Frank Little explained would be cheaper than London and other major cities. He also expressed the view that exhibitions would not be possible without entrance fees while Convener Richard Lewis added that "there's always that fine balance between access and bringing major shows".

The Forth Bridge Festival which will celebrate the iconic structure's 50th birthday next year, have asked for £50,000 from the council to stage a parade and pageant which was duly approved. South Queensferry Councillor Lindsay Paterson

expressed concern that the event would push the limits of the local area's facilities and reminded the committee that coordination is needed with the local community council.

Sports investment 'Activcity' was the third item and raised questions on how a sport is defined, whether activities outside the mainstream such as yoga and dance were encouraged to apply for funding, and whether sustainable practice was promoted. The committee were told that their list of activities include Roller Hockey, Martial Arts, fencing and that the Council were looking to work with DanceBase to promote dance. Councillor Munro suggested international cricket matches by amateur players alongside the Mela Festival at Leith Links, and the council added that these could take place at the time of the Commonwealth Games next year.

Museum Manager Frank Little explained the Collections Development Policy 2013-2017 as "the fundamental basis of what we do...the heart of our service", adding that the Policy adheres to the National Accreditation Scheme applying standards to the service and an emphasis on "quality rather than quantity".

During discussion about the 2013/2014 investment in cycling facilities, Cllr Booth took the focus back to Meadowbank questioning whether there were any plans to make the facilities indoor, rather than outdoor as it is as present, to reduce maintenance. Cllr Booth also wanted to know if there could be ways of reducing such problems at the proposed cycling hub at Hunter's Hall Park in the future. The council officer replied that Meadowbank had received funding, but the infrastructure was of an age. The building will have to compete with other facilities for maintenance as the council is simply unable to "maintain all the buildings all the time". Hunter's Hall Park unlike Meadowbank, would use concrete instead wood so should be easier to maintain.

Councillor Henderson questioned the accessibility to the local

community of the proposed 3G pitch at Balerno High School. Cllr Lewis replied that the “Focus is on accessibility...we do ourselves no favours if we have facilities sitting empty on weekends and evening”. The council will also look to move sports from easily damaged grass parkland onto synthetic surfaces to reduce damage on poorly drained land, only made worse by bad weather.

A pilot scheme to extend opening hours for museums and galleries was duly approved. Frank Little said that public research proved a desire for Sunday and later opening hours. The pilot scheme will involve the City Art Centre and the Museum of Childhood over the summer. Cllr Lewis added that visitor numbers were healthy and that he was personally excited about more people visiting.

The meeting concluded with approval for a second Sky Ride, the mass city centre cycling event, at the Meadows which Councilor Lewis described as “good news all round” for the city’s cycling aspirations and economic investment.

City of Edinburgh Culture and Sport Committee members are:

Councillors Lewis (Convener), Austin Hart (Vice-Convener), Balfour, Booth, Cairns, Doran, Fullerton, Gardner, Bill Henderson, Milligan, Munro, Paterson, Shields, Burns (ex officio) and Cardownie (ex officio).

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# Hearts v Hibs match tonight

Heart of Midlothian (U17s) v Hibernian (U17s)

Tynecastle Stadium


**Friday 31st May, kick-off 6pm**

**Free admission**

There's an end-of-season derby at Tynecastle this Friday with the annual playing of the East of Scotland Shield. Hibs, who lead 61-56 on titles, are seeking to make it 9-wins-in-a-row in world football's third oldest tournament.

Hearts are out to stop them and get their hands on the silverware for the first time since 2003. Admission is free and stars of the future are sure to be on show, with the action getting underway at 6pm.

If the teams are tied after 90 minutes the destiny of the historic trophy will be settled by a penalty shoot-out.

***Some interesting facts about this competition, we hope you enjoy them.*** 

- It is world football's third oldest tournament – after the FA Cup and Scottish Cup – and the oldest local tournament on the planet
- Hibs have won the last 8 editions – surpassing the previous records of 6-in-a-row by Hibs in the 1890s and Hearts in the 1920s
- In the overall “title race” Hibs lead Hearts by 61 titles to 56, with 10 victories having gone to other clubs
- Competition began in 1875-76 as the Edinburgh Cup – the first winners were 3rd Edinburgh Rifle Volunteers
- When Hibs won for three years running 1879-1881 they were handed the original cup, which was replaced by the current Shield. This was known as the “Edinburgh Shield” until the Edinburgh FA became the East of Scotland FA in 1888, making this the 125th anniversary

of the East of Scotland Shield naming

- The tournament is often cited as being responsible for Hearts and Hibs becoming the two big clubs of Edinburgh – as their 1878 Final went to four replays it captured the public imagination and generated a rivalry between them
- During Victorian times the Shield was open to all clubs regardless of stature: but from 1891 the smaller clubs had to play in a preliminary stage, which was adjusted for 1897 into a qualifying cup, then from 1904 it was for Scottish League clubs only. Since the Second World War the Shield has normally been a single tie for Hearts and Hibs
- Though originally one of the most important competitions in the football calendar, the invention of the League Cup and European football diminished the Shield; and in the last quarter of a century it has been largely played at youth or reserve level. Each year both clubs come to a “gentleman’s agreement” over what players will be used
- Hearts record victory came in the 1880 tournament when they beat Anchor 21-0, and Hibs record competitive win was registered in the 1885 Shield when they beat Emmet 20-0
- Shield’s record attendance is believed to be 26,625 who attended Hearts 3-2 Hibs in the 1946 Final at Tynecastle

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## Man Convicted for Licensing

# Offence

A nightclub licensee who allowed customers to continue drinking on his premises, despite being too drunk, has been convicted.

John Allison was found guilty of the licence offence at Edinburgh Sheriff Court on Monday 27th April following a number of alcohol-related disturbances at the former Lava/Ignite club in West Tollcross.

The 45-year-old was the Designated Premises Manager on the 15th October 2011 when a number of patrons exited in an excessively intoxicated state.

As a result, police and ambulance were required to deal with unruly crowds, assaults and medical issues relating to over-consumption of alcohol.

Mr Allison was issued with a £1000 fine and must now declare his conviction to the relevant licensing authority, if and when he is in charge of any other licensed premises.

Inspector Alun Williams said: "Police Scotland is committed to keeping people safe and reducing the harmful effects of alcohol.

"There is a common link between violent crimes and alcohol consumption, not to mention the health implications associated with drinking to excess.

"Licence holders have a responsibility to ensure the safety of their staff and patrons and John Allison neglected his duties by allowing overly intoxicated customers to remain within the club in October 2011.

"His conviction was the culmination of extensive partnership work by police in Edinburgh, the Licensing Board, City of Edinburgh Council and other partners to prove that as DPM, he

was personally accountable for the events of that evening.

“Alcohol-related crime will not be tolerated and Police Scotland will look for similar convictions against licensees found to be responsible for similar offences.

“The public is asked to assist with our efforts to tackle crimes of this nature by drinking responsibly and ensuring their evening does not end in the wrong way.”

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## **Teen arrested after Gilmerton Primary air gun incident**

A teenager was arrested yesterday after up to 10 primary pupils at Gilmerton Primary were hit by pellets whilst playing in the school playground at lunchtime yesterday.

Chief Inspector Mark Patterson from Police Scotland said: “We recognise the alarm that has been caused within the community in Gilmerton as a result of this incident, for which an individual was quickly arrested and charged.

“There is nothing to indicate that there is any further risk to the public, nonetheless we have deployed additional patrols in the community today in order to provide reassurance to pupils, parents and staff.

“In addition, our school link officer is working closely with the school community in order to address any continuing concerns as a result of this incident.”

The Reporter understands a 16-year-old male has been arrested following the alleged discharge of a pellet gun.

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# Four arrests after waterfront drugs search

Four men have been arrested and charged under the Misuse of Drugs Act after Police Scotland recovered Class A drugs in Edinburgh.

Officers carried out a search of a property in the Waterfront area of the Capital yesterday (Thursday) and seized £2500 worth of crack cocaine from within.



The men, aged 28,28,25 and 20, are all scheduled to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court on Monday 3rd June.

DI Stuart Harkness said: “Drugs can have a devastating impact on our communities and as a result of police enquiries, we were able to recover this crack cocaine before it could be distributed on our streets.

“Police Scotland is committed to keeping people safe and removing drugs from our communities.

“Anyone with information relating to drug crime in their area can contact their local policing team or alternatively, make an anonymous report via the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.”

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# VIDEO – Scots Guards given the Freedom of the City



The 1st Battalion Scots Guards paraded down the Royal Mile today (Friday, 31 May 2013) after receiving the Freedom of the City of Edinburgh to celebrate their return from a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

The Battalion formed up on Johnston Terrace, where the Colours joined the Parade. The Parade then stepped off at 1100 hrs, marching down The Royal Mile, where the Lord Provost and Regimental Lieutenant Colonel took the salute.



They then marched to The City Chambers, where the Lord Provost presented the Battalion with the Privilege of Edinburgh (Freedom), which was accepted by the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel.



Following the Presentation, the Battalion then continued to march down the Royal Mile with the pipes and drums playing towards the Palace of Holyroodhouse with bayonets fixed as the privilege allows.

Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Rob Howieson said:

“It is a great honour to be marching through Edinburgh today. We are truly humbled by the Council’s and the people of Edinburgh’s decision to bestow the Privilege of Edinburgh on us.

“The battalion has had a challenging six months in Afghanistan and today’s parade recognises their achievements, giving

friends, families, and the people of Edinburgh an opportunity to celebrate their safe return.

“We are extremely grateful for the support we received from the local community all through the tour. Each week we would receive a helicopter-load of letters and parcels from well-wishers across Scotland.

“We were sent everything from woolly hats to chocolate and board games. It was very touching that we were being thought about at a time we were so far from our homes.”

Receiving the ancient honour of the Privilege of the City of Edinburgh now allows 1st Battalion Scots Guards to march in the city with ‘drums beating, Colours flying, and bayonets fixed’.



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## Cuppa with a cop in North Edinburgh

Police Scotland have confirmed a series of dates and venues across North Edinburgh where local police officers will be holding surgeries.

Local community Police Constables Sarah Hall and Tony Lawrence will be at Royston Wardieburn Community Centre from 7 – 8pm next Thursday 6 June 2013.

Other police drop-in dates for Royston/ Wardieburn are:

Thursday 6th June

Thursday 4th July

Thursday 1st August

Thursday 29th August

Thursday 24th October

Thursday 21st November

Local officers will also hold surgeries in the new community shop in Pennywell shopping centre on the following dates between 10am-12pm:

Tuesday 4th June

Tuesday 11th June

Tuesday 18th June

Pop along and meet your community Police!

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## **Man stabbed at flat in Canongate**

A section of the Canongate was closed off as a crime scene this morning following an incident in a flat there resulting in a 53 year-old man being stabbed.

A Police Scotland spokesperson said:- “Police in Edinburgh are investigatin a serious assault on a 53 year-old man. The incident happened around 7.10am today at an address in the Canongate.”



“The victim has been taken to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, where he is in a serious condition.

“Enquiries are ongoing into this attack and anyone who can assist officers with their investigation is asked to contact police immediately.”

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Police on the non emergency 101 number or call crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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## Budget savvy bikes: Mixing business with pleasure

*This is a contributed article*

Bikes are synonymous with leisure and recreation but when it comes to business, they offer plenty of advertising power.

Media Gang, one of Scotland's leading producers of edgy and non-traditional advertising, has seen a gap in the market for a fleet of bike frame adverts that can be installed in any city in the UK, which grabs attention and, most importantly, is affordable.

Media Gang Director, Richard Dietrich said:- “Sometimes it's not always possible to purchase outdoor media in the right place, at the right time, or at an affordable price. Small to medium businesses come to us enquiring about street level advertising such as 3D Illusion advertising but they do not have the budget. Bike frame adverts are incredibly effective and offer brand exposure that caters to businesses big or

small.

Media Gang successfully launched their first UK fleet of impressive bike frame adverts at the Brighton Festival for their client Boost, a juice bar company based in Brighton.

Boost chief executive, Richard O'Sullivan, said: "We were really excited about bringing Boost to Brighton, we knew we had something unique and more than a little bit fruity to offer, so we wanted to reflect this in our highly targeted advertising. The bikes were incredibly flexible and gave our brand awareness an extra BOOST, being located at key events and locations throughout the opening campaign, and helped get Brighton shoppers excited about our opening at Churchill Square."

Media Gang, based in Edinburgh and London, work with national and international clients that include much-loved brands such as Shell, Sky and Citroen.

For more information about Media Gang visit <http://www.mediagang.co.uk>

Submitted by [Faiza Amjid](#)

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## **Police make fresh appeal in Willowbrae murder hunt**

Detectives investigating the murder of 25 year-old Mohamed Abdi are seeking information from the public about sightings of vehicles in the Restalrig area of Edinburgh.

In particular they are keen to hear from anyone who saw a VW Sharan, registration plate FT62TFK, and a silver or grey

coloured hatchback style vehicle in the vicinity close to a convenience store in Restalrig Road South late on Saturday evening.

Mr Abdi, who had been shot, was found in Abercorn Avenue around 1am on Sunday 26 May. He was rushed to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh where he died soon after.



The inquiry team believe cars linked to the murder may have been involved in an earlier incident near the Scotmid store in Restalrig Road South.

Det Supt Gary Flannigan of the major investigation team of the Specialist Crime Division of Police Scotland, who is leading the inquiry, said: "We are keen to hear from people who may have seen the dark blue VW Sharan people carrier and the hatchback in that area around 11pm on Saturday.

"I would like people who live in that street or anyone who may have been passing and noticed the cars to contact us.

"The area can be quite busy on a Saturday night with people passing through or heading home and I want them to think if their route may have taken them along that road or through that area. If they recollect seeing either the dark blue people carrier or the hatchback – either together or separately – I would ask them to get in touch."

Chief Inspector Mark Patterson said:-"People can approach my local officers who are involved in routine patrols in the area. They are there to reassure people who live and work in the area that, while these vehicles were in their locality, there was no evidence of disorder or threat to the local community.

"A large number of police officers continue to carry out high visibility patrols in the Willowbrae area providing

reassurance to the local community and addressing any of their concerns. “



The dark blue VW Sharan was found smashed into railings on Abercorn Avenue, in the Willowbrae area of Edinburgh, around 1am on Sunday.

Detectives believe that separate groups of black men were involved in related incidents in the hours prior to the murder and they continue to appeal for information about a possible disturbance in Captain's Drive, in the Gracemount area of the city, between 10.30pm and midnight on Saturday.

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact Police Scotland on 101 or the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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## Edinburgh schools forge fair trade link with Ecuador

  Pupils from Edinburgh's 11 Fair Trade schools were today presented with a bag of the UK's first ever Fairtrade crisps in recognition of all their hard work in support a fairer and more sustainable world.

The crisps have recently been launched in Scotland and are made from a type of banana called plantain which is produced and packaged at source by small land farmers and their families in the Amazon region of Ecuador.

Dario Sepeda, Ecuador European Regional Fair Trade Coordinator, and Juan Diego Stacey, Trade Commissioner of Ecuador in the UK met with the Lord Provost and pupils from Holyrood High School to thank them for their support.

Lord Provost Donald Wilson said:- “It was a real pleasure to meet Dario and Juan, two very hard-working and passionate individuals, and it was fitting that the event was held at Holyrood High School, who played such a big part in supporting this year’s Fairtrade Fortnight.

“Innovative schemes such as this highlight the great work going on to promote and further the Fair Trade cause here in Edinburgh, while having a genuinely positive impact on Ecuadorian farmers and their families.”

✖ Dario Sepeda added: “Working on the production of plantain crisps has helped Ecuadorian families engage in a fairer way of working that supports the natural environment and gives them a better quality of life.

“We are delighted that the products were launched in Scotland which is one of only two Fair Trade nations in the world. The awareness, interest and commitment to the Fair Trade cause by the children and young people we have spoken to from Edinburgh schools gives us hope for the future.”

Plantain Chips is a joint venture by two Fair Trade companies in Scotland, Fair Business Alliance Ltd and Fair Trade Scotland Ltd. These two companies, small but dynamic, have passionately worked to support the campaign to make Scotland a Fair Trade Nation and supported small-holder farmers in Latin America. They believe this new and unique product will diversify the Fairtrade market in the UK and turn more people into Fairtrade supporters and lovers.

Fair Trade plantain crisps comes from 100% organically grown plantains, high in potassium and available in 3 flavours, salted, spicy and natural. They are already being distributed in shops throughout Edinburgh like Earthy, One World Shop and Real Foods and across the UK.

In the photo:- Niamh Kerry, Shelly Dobson, S1 pupils at Holy Rood High School, Juan Diego Stacey, Trade Commissioner of

Ecuador in the UK, Lorraine Legrix, Head Teacher, Holy Rood High School, Lord Provost Donald Wilson, Juan Andres Santelices, Managing Director of Edinburgh based Fair Business Alliance, Dario Sepeda, Ecuador European Regional Fair Trade Coordinator, Bethany Burgess, Callum Turino, S1 pupils with Holy Rood High School Fair trade teacher Lesley Hind.

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## **Borders Vintage car rally promises a great day out**

 **Scottish Borders Historic Motoring Extravaganza was named as best classic car show in Scotland.**


The event has been named the best classic car festival in Scotland by Sunday Times Driving. In the article, the show was named one of the top five in the UK and the only show in Scotland to grace the top ten. The event was described as “Bordering on fabulous”.

In recent years, the show has become a big favourite with families too. As well as several hundred vintage, classic and performance cars, motorbikes, trucks and military vehicles, this year’s show has the largest line up of family activities ever.

Now in its 41st year, the organisers – the Borders Vintage Automobile Club – have been working hard to make this the best show yet. Attractions include a working Rolls Royce Merlin engine, Spitfire cockpit simulator, fun fair, craft fair, food stalls, mini quads, face painting and emergency vehicle displays.

For adrenalin seekers, there will be the opportunity to take a

ride in a supercar, sports car or vintage car with the Sporting Bears Motor Club. The Sporting Bears are offering Dream Rides in aid of the Hearts & Minds Clowndoctors charity. You can experience a thrilling 10-mile ride in a car of your choice from a selection of cars including a Ferrari 430 F1 Spider, a 1920 Vauxhall D-Type, a Lamborghini Diablo, a 1928 Lagonda.

 Everyone attending the Extravaganza will also get the chance to win the ride of their dreams in the Dream Rides competition.

The show will be celebrating landmark anniversaries for some marques: Bullnose Morris (100th), Aston Martin (100th), Porsche 911 (50th), Corvette (50th), Rover P6 (50th), Triumph 2000 (50th), Hillman Imp (50th) and Lamborghini (50th).

It's not just lovers of classic cars that will find something of interest. This year, the show has a brand new feature: Old & New Marques. A selection of local car dealers will be bringing a classic old marque and the very latest marque, this will include an Aston Martin DB6 and the new Vanquish, a Jaguar D-Type and the new F-Type 3 litre V6.

And finally, there will be a special guest at this year's show. Alisdair Lockhart, from Selkirk, has spent 12 years and £50,000 lovingly restoring Britain's first sports car to its former glory. He painstakingly tracked down some of the last surviving original parts to rebuild the 100-year-old Vauxhall Prince Henry.

The show this year will be held at Thirlestane Castle, Lauder on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Gates open at 11am. For further information visit [www.vinty.org](http://www.vinty.org)

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# Alex is Drylaw's citizen of the year

Drylaw resident Alex Dale was tonight presented with the Tam Tierney award for good citizenship. Alex has been an active community member in the Drylaw and Telford area for the last nine years.

Alex first got involved with the Drylaw and Telford Community Council in 2005 when he joined the community campaign to oppose the building of more houses in the Drylaw area.



Alex Dale (far right) was nominated Drylaw citizen of the year. (Picture: Thomas Brown)

After that Alex was hooked on community activism, and probably puts in more hours now as a community activist as he did when he worked full time.

After the successful campaign to oppose development in the Drylaw area Alex was involved in the steering group that developed the Drylaw & Telford community gardens project, he is an active member of the Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnership and sits on a variety of action groups including the city wide Transport group.

Alex is also heavily involved in the Skatepark steering group and he hopes to see the Skatepark built for the young people of North Edinburgh.

After the presentation Alex said:- "I am very honoured and

privileged to received the Thomas Tierney award and to join the list previous recipients who have dedicated their time to help the community of Drylaw & Telford. I enjoy the work in do in my community to make the area a better place, I have enjoyed every minute of it and look forward to many years being involved with my community.”

The Tam Tierney award was set up the Community Council after longstanding community activist died suddenly in 1998. The Award was first awarded in 2000 and has been awarded every year since.

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## **Highland cow welcomes visitors to the airport today**

 EDINBURGH AIRPORT ARRIVALS GIVEN A PROPER HIGHLAND WELCOME

Travellers arriving at Edinburgh Airport today, were ‘mooved’ by the warmth of the welcome – Suzie the Highland Cow from Pollok Country Park was at international arrivals to greet the many hundreds of visitors arriving in Edinburgh ahead of this year’s Royal Highland Show.

Taking place from 20-23 June, the annual four-day event attracts in the region of 160,000 visitors each year.

Edinburgh Airport and The Royal Highland Centre have been working together to ensure that visitors to the show, and to Edinburgh, have the best possible experience.

Predicted visitor numbers already look great with advance ticket sales up on last year thanks, in part, to the introduction of a print at home ticketing system launched this

year.

Show manager, Becky Elvin said:- “The Royal Highland Show is a hugely important platform for the Scottish food and drink and agriculture industry. We are looking forward to continuing our work with Edinburgh Airport in welcoming our domestic and international visitors. We hope to give them the best experience possible and showcase all that the Royal Highland Show has to offer.

“Our good relationship with Edinburgh Airport is vital and we were delighted to see so many passengers enjoy the pre-show spectacle.

“Traffic planning during the four days has been a significant focus over the last 12 months, however we are satisfied that come rain or shine; the show will live up to its Greatest Show on Earth billing. Strengthened public transport links, enhanced parking at the RBS Headquarters on the Saturday and Sunday and increased traffic personnel on the ground will make it a more manageable process.”

Adding to this is, Gordon Dewar, the airport’s Chief Executive, said: “We’re committed to providing our customers with the best experience possible and the success of both organisations is dependent on this. We are all looking forward to a great show and we are pleased to give our passengers a proper Highland welcome.

“Following last year’s show we have worked hard to ensure the airport and showground remain fully accessible to visitors and passengers.

“We would advise anyone travelling to the airport to allow plenty of time as routes will be busy and with the one thing we can’t control being the good old Scottish weather, we would also encourage you to bring a brolly.”

Alongside Suzie was Highland Show expert, Cameron Cormack, 10,

who has been attending the show since he was just a year old. Cameron, a young handler who attends Berwick Middle School was delighted to be part of the launch activity.

“The Highland Show is my favourite. We come for the week to show our beef and dairy cattle and always have lots of fun in the cattle lines. I love going to the toy stalls too because if we do well Mum and Dad promise to buy me a toy tractor. My most favourite thing is helping my dad get the cattle ready for the show ring – I always want him to take a cow and calf so that I can lead the calf!”

Cameron will be the fourth generation on both sides of his family to show cattle at the show.

Show tickets are priced at £25 per adult with children under 16 attending for free. For further information and advanced early-bird offers, visit [www.royalhighlandshow.org](http://www.royalhighlandshow.org)

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# **Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2013 – bigger better and brighter**



The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is back for 2013. Bigger, better and brighter than ever before with an emotional rollercoaster of a programme. Get carried away, be inspired, have a blast, cry your eyes out; all of these experiences and more are awaiting audiences this year at the world's largest arts festival. With so much to see and do, time is precious, so enjoy every second.

2013 will see 2,871 shows performed by 24,107 artists in 273 venues across Scotland's capital city. The number of shows is a 6.5% increase on last year's programme.

Every conceivable nook and cranny in Edinburgh will play host to an exhilarating line-up of children's shows; comedy; dance & physical theatre; events; exhibitions; music; musicals & opera; and theatre. This year also sees the two newest artforms in the programme go from strength to strength with performances in the Cabaret section from award winning Ali McGregor (Assembly Checkpoint) and EastEnd Cabaret (Underbelly Cowgate), while the Spoken Word section of the programme features a diverse range of personalities ranging from Ben Fogle (Assembly Rooms) to George Galloway MP (Assembly Rooms).

This year, the Fringe programme welcomes a host of new venues taking part in their first ever festival including Topside, a new 200-capacity theatre studio built on to the back of the Festival Theatre that expands Underbelly's programme. Shows from some of Scotland's leading artists and performing arts companies including Scottish Opera; National Theatre of Scotland; Tron Theatre Company; Theatre Uncut; Company Chordelia; Sound Festival; and Oxygen, a collaboration between the University of Edinburgh and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, will come together at Paterson's Land, a University of Edinburgh building normally used for training teachers at Moray House School of Education. The site of the former Fountain Brewery will play home to NoFit State Circus' show Bianco in a custom built, spaceship-shaped tent. The Arthur Conan Doyle Centre, a prestigious Victorian townhouse on the corner of Chester Street and Palmerston Place, will present shows in the elegant drawing room (Duncan Room) or in their beautiful Sanctuary and the Scottish Portrait Gallery will present two events to coincide with their Scottish comedy greats exhibition. Established Fringe venue managers Paradise Green expand their operations into one of Edinburgh's most long-standing cultural venues, Greyfriars' Kirkhouse, under

the banner of Paradise in the Kirkhouse. Assembly Checkpoint is also a new venue this year based in the building formerly occupied by Forest Fringe.

One of the biggest venues at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, The McEwan Hall, is back after a two year hiatus in which repair work was carried out on its organ. Also this year, the Traverse Theatre will be celebrating its 50th anniversary.

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society is delighted to announce the return of the Glasgow Box Office at ScotRail's Queen Street Station. For the second year running, thanks to support from ScotRail, Glasgow Fringe-goers will have the opportunity to buy and collect their tickets before catching a train to the festival.

Following last year's launch of the Glasgow Box Office, total ticket sales coming from Greater Glasgow postcodes increased by 19% from the 2011 figure.

The newest addition to the Fringe Society Box Office is the Fringe Facebook ticketing app which allows audiences to browse the programme, buy tickets and share their Fringe plans all through Facebook. Visit [www.facebook.com/edfringe](http://www.facebook.com/edfringe) to take part.

Back for 2013 is the official Fringe app, enabling iPhone and Android users to discover the world of the Fringe at their fingertips. The app can be downloaded at [www.edfringe.com/app](http://www.edfringe.com/app) or by searching app stores for 'Edinburgh Festival Fringe'.

The app is not only an easy way to browse shows and buy tickets on the go, but includes lots of features to help navigate and enjoy all the Fringe has to offer, from exclusive Virgin Money Half Price Hut listings and Twitter feeds to a Nearby Now search function and an interactive calendar to help audiences plan their time at the Fringe.

The Fringe Society continues to break new ground in social

media by inviting members of the public and Fringe participants to help capture the unique experience and emotions of the Fringe through Tumblr. Individuals can share their experiences in the form of images, animations, audio and video clips, quotes and text by uploading their content to Tumblr and tagging it #thisisedfringe. A dedicated Tumblr for the project will reblog a selection of these posts daily over the course of the festival.

Launching the 2013 programme Kath M Mainland, Chief Executive of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society said:

“The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is not just important for being the largest arts festival in the world, or for being completely open access – although those things are profoundly important, but more important for being the most wonderful event, created by the spontaneous freedom of expression of tens of thousands of creative souls, from all over the world, from all walks of life, at all stages of their careers, and representing all artforms.

“By last week over 1,800 were onsale on edfringe.com, as compared to just over 1,000 by the same time last year. But that still leaves over 1,000 being released today, a figure which in itself would be the largest arts festival in the world, so there’s still plenty for our audience to discover and the media to write about.”

Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs Fiona Hyslop MSP said:

“The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is the largest, most vibrant festival of its kind in the world – bringing visitors from far and wide to Scotland’s capital to see the incredibly diverse array of creative activity it has to offer, and promoting Scotland’s rich culture and distinct heritage on the world stage.

“It makes strong economic sense to ensure Scotland’s own

exceptionally creative talent is placed at the heart of the Fringe and is able to benefit from the global exposure the Festival can bring. That is why, through the Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund, the Scottish Government has awarded £450,000 to support our home-grown talent to showcase their dance, drama and music at this year's Fringe through the Made in Scotland programme."

Cllr. Steve Cardownie, the City of Edinburgh Council's Festivals and Events Champion said:

"Yet again the Edinburgh Festival Fringe promises to dazzle, entertain and educate audiences young and old across the city. With our unrivalled architecture and history, Edinburgh this August will once again be the perfect backdrop for the world's largest and most exciting arts festival. I am sure the whole city is ready to warmly welcome artists, journalists and visitors from all over the world to join us for what promises to be a very special time."

This year sees the return of the British Council's biennial Edinburgh showcase including theatre; new writing; live art and installation; interactive and immersive theatre; as well as an unprecedented number of dance pieces. Recently awarded the Ted Hughes poetry prize, Kate Tempest performs Brand New Ancients (Traverse), a spoken story told over a live orchestral score, concerning two families intertwining and colliding against the epic back drop of mythology and the city. While James Cousins, winner of the inaugural New Adventures Choreographer Award, takes inspiration from the troubled relationships portrayed in Haruki Murakami's best-selling novel, Norwegian Wood, for his production of There We Have Been (Zoo Southside).

The 2013 Fringe will mark the fifth year of the Made in Scotland showcase supported by the Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund. The showcase celebrates the wealth and diversity of work that is currently being made and

produced in Scotland and uses the opportunities available at the Fringe as a catalyst to help these companies take their work forward. Shows include: HeLa by Adura Onashile in association with Iron-Oxide, taking inspiration from the story of Henrietta Lacks and the extraordinary life of the HeLa cell line (Summerhall); Fire Exit's Long Live the Little Knife by David Leddy (Traverse), about forgery, castration and drunken blindness; Whatever Gets You Through the Night (Queen's Hall), an ambitious multimedia performance from some of Scotland's most distinctive novelists, poets, musicians and playwrights.

It will also be the first year that music is part of the Made in Scotland showcase with twenty shows and concerts spanning all genres including: Karine Polwart (Queen's Hall); Scottish National Jazz Orchestra: In the Spirit of Duke (Queen's Hall); Five by Five from The Astrid String Quartet (Greyfriars Kirk); Saint Seven by The One Ensemble (Summerhall); Amy Duncan: Cycles of Life (Acoustic Music Centre @ St Brides); Digi-Bhang Live by Tigerstyle (The Assembly Rooms); and Blueflint (Acoustic Music Centre @ St Brides), who recently supported The Proclaimers.

The Escalator East to Edinburgh showcase has 26 shows in Edinburgh this year, supporting artists and companies from the East of England. The world premiere of Anna (Summerhall), the story of the life, work and assassination of Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya, is set to be as intense as Badac's last show The Factory which provoked some extreme reactions when it was staged in a series of cellars. Little Bulb return to complete their Edinburgh trinity with Squally Showers (Zoo Southside), a fantastical balletic farce of politics, power, loneliness and love. Major Tom (Summerhall) tells the story of how an unlikely pair of underdogs became a beauty queen and championship show dog. Also returning to the Fringe as part of Escalator East to Edinburgh is the award-winning Hunt and Darton Cafe on St Mary Street where food and drink meet live art.

Following their celebrated residency at St Stephens in 2012, Northern Stage return to the festival with a new showcase of work, created by theatre makers from the North of England. Northern Stages' new Artistic Director Lorne Campbell presents The Bloody Great Border Ballad Project in which guests are invited to perform a short piece that forms an epic ballad across 19 nights. The Paper Birds present their 10th anniversary show On the One Hand, an exploration of aging that depicts six different women at different stages of their life. A minibus plays home to Third Angel's Cape Wrath, in which Alex Kelly retraces his grandfather's footsteps to the furthest most north- westerly point of the British mainland.

The current financial climate is explored by a number of shows this year, from the banking crisis to the recession and benefit cuts. In Economy of Thought (Assembly George Square), the actions of four bankers during a public protest provoke an incident in a darkly comic tale of money, morality, loyalty and responsibility. A satire on contemporary financial dealings, Canary Gold by Theatre Sans Frontieres (C Venues) is played out against a backdrop of 500 years of international wine trade, bankers and fraudsters. Set in an interactive game show and blending physical theatre with contemporary and South Asian dance, Altered Skin's Power Games (Zoo) is a modern morality tale about a wealthy banker's fall from grace. Solpadeine is My Boyfriend (Underbelly Bristo Square) focuses on a generation who were promised everything but who now find themselves queuing either at the airport to emigrate or the social welfare office to sign on. A thirty hour durational piece, Bedding Out (Pleasance Hunt and Darton Cafe) has emerged as a response to the current welfare benefits overhaul.

Disability is a recurring theme with shows including If These Spasms Could Speak (Pleasance Courtyard), a solo performance based on a collection of funny, sad and surprising stories about disabled people and their bodies. Mucus Factory

(Pleasance Hunt and Darton Cafe) performed by Martin O'Brian who suffers from cystic fibrosis, is one man's investigation of the relationship between pain and medicine. *Ménage à Trois* (Paterson's Land) sees Claire Cunningham explore her twenty-year relationship with her crutches. A show for children, *Magical Playroom* (Pleasance Courtyard) tells the story of a girl who dreams of becoming a ballerina but rebels against having to wear a false arm at dancing lessons. *Ball at Hawking's* (New Town Theatre) is a ball without an orchestra, exploring how the sexuality of people with disabilities is still a taboo subject. Jen McArthur uses clowning, physical theatre and dance to portray the subject of Asperger's Syndrome in *Echolalia* (C Venues) and single dad John Williams shares a true story of Lego, magic trains, the number 75 bus and life in a chaotic world neither he nor his eleven year old, autistic son will ever truly understand in *John Williams: My Son's Not Rainman* (Just the Tonic).

There's always plenty of politics at the Fringe and this year is no exception with *Three Lions* (Pleasance Courtyard) in which David Beckham, Prince William and David Cameron find themselves together in a hotel room in Zurich the night before England's bid for the 2018 World Cup and *The Confessions of Gordon Brown* (Pleasance Courtyard) a searing satire of the hidden arts of modern political leadership from what some see as Britain's greatest Prime Ministerial failure.

Moving from politics to current affairs and contemporary issues, a number of shows are inspired by recent events including *Nirbhaya* (Assembly Hall) using the gang rape and murder of a student on a bus in Delhi as basis for Yael Farber, the creator of last year's Fringe hit *Mies Julie*, and an all- Indian cast to explore violence against women; also on an Indian theme is *Nehru: His Inner Story* (Paradise in The Vault) which tells the story of India's first Prime Minister. *Chalk Farm* (Underbelly Cowgate) is an explosive new play from ThickSkin about love and blame during the 2011 London Riots;

The Events by David Greig (Traverse) explores the impact of a horrific politically motivated crime in a small community; and The Radicalisation of Bradley Manning from the National Theatre of Wales (Pleasance @ St. Thomas of Aquins High School) focuses on the 24-year old US soldier accused of releasing secret embassy cables and military logs from the Iraq and Afghan wars.

Shows talking about sex this year include the winner of the 2013 Dave channel/ Leicester Comedy Festival award for Best New Show, Brett Goldstein Contains Scenes of an Adult Nature (Pleasance Courtyard), in which the comic takes on pornography, crying and how to survive a New York blackout, dignity intact; Bonk! (theSpace @ Jury's Inn) takes audiences on a fun-filled romp through the science of sex while in Alistair Green is Jack Spencer: Sex Addict (Just the Tonic @ The Tron) a narcissistic, celebrity obsessed, sometime stand-up comedian courageously recovers from a devastating sex addiction. Peep (Assembly George Square) was a hit at last year's Fringe in which audience members sit alone in private booths watching short plays about sex through a two way mirror. This year the show has been revamped and comes back with an ambitiously expanded production. Meanwhile the end of innocence and impending adulthood are explored in Two is the Beginning of the End (Sweet Grassmarket).

This year is the fifth in which the Fringe Society's Participants' Centre will be based at Fringe Central within the University of Edinburgh's Appleton Tower. As well as providing a range of services for Fringe participants, the media and approximately 1,000 arts industry delegates who come to the Fringe each year, the centre is also home to the Society's Participants Events Programme. This year artists and companies taking part in the Fringe have access to around 100 different events designed to help their professional and career development all of which are free to those taking part in a registered Fringe show.

Every year the Fringe attracts well known names to its stages. This year Ian Lavender, better known for playing 'Pike' in Dad's Army, makes his Edinburgh Fringe debut alongside Omid Djalili and former Eastender Paul Nicholls in The Shawshank Redemption (The Assembly Rooms) and the Motown legend Martha Reeves and the Vandellas are also at The Assembly Rooms. Steven Berkoff lifts the curtain on the bizarre and often hilarious world of theatre in An Actor's Lament (Assembly Hall), a comedy about the bizarre lives of actors and the many fights, frustrations and madness's they are prone to. While Dame Janet Suzman stars in Solomon and Marion (Assembly Hall), a story of two injured souls searching for redemption in a fragile, post-apartheid South Africa.

The Fringe remains the home of comedy and amongst the household names appearing this year are Russell Kane: Smallness (Pleasance Courtyard); Reginald D Hunter: In the Midst of Crackers (Pleasance Courtyard); Jimeoin: Yes, Yes, Whatever...?! (EICC); Jason Manford – First World Problems (EICC); Jenny Eclair: Eclairious (Gilded Balloon Teviot); Ardal O'Hanlon (The Assembly Rooms); Al Murray – The Pub Landlord: The Only Way is Epic (Underbelly Bristo Square); and Lucy Porter (The Stand). While the godfather of alternative comedy Alexei Sayle (The Stand) performs his first full-length stand-up show in 17 years. Host of Channel 4's The Last Leg, Adam Hills presents his brand new show Happyism (Assembly Hall) with BSL sign interpreter Catherine King on Sundays. A huge star in the States, acclaimed US comic Tig Notaro makes her UK debut with Tig Notaro – Boyish Girl Interrupted (Gilded Balloon Teviot).

Puppetry is often associated with shows for children but this year sees puppets featuring in shows that are focused towards more adult audiences. Dustpan Odyssey (New Town Theatre) is a creative adaptation of Homer's Odyssey from the great puppet master Philippe Genty. The Wrong Crowd follow the success of The Girl with the Iron Claws with HAG (Underbelly Cowgate),

drawing audiences into the dark and twisted world of Baba Yaga, the infamous child-eating, hag-witch of Slavic folklore. One show with puppets that is most definitely for adults is The Royal Conservatoire's Avenue Q (Assembly Hall), an x-rated puppet musical.

The team that brought the critically acclaimed Tender Napalm to the stage present the premiere of Philip Ridley's new play Dark Vanilla Jungle (Pleasance Courtyard) starring Game of Thrones actress Gemma Whelan. Elsewhere John Godber, one of Britain's most performed playwrights, is back in Edinburgh after ten years with a brand new comedy Losing the Plot (New Town Theatre) starring Steve Huison (The Full Monty) and Sue Cookson (Casualty).

The Fringe is famous for bringing shows to Edinburgh from all over the world and there are 41 countries represented this year including a number of shows from former Soviet Union republics. From Georgia, the Akhmeteli State Dramatic Theatre presents Wonders of Magic (Spotlights @ The Merchants' Hall) a philosophy on the boundary between kindness and evil. Internationally acclaimed Belarus Free Theatre return with an arresting new production, Trash Cuisine (Pleasance Courtyard) that challenges the use of capital punishment in modern society.

Institut Français d'Ecosse presents a programme from French artists including How to be a Modern Marvel by Mariette Navarro (translation: Katherine Mendelsohn), an ironic and witty look at consumerism and sexism with an all female cast and Je ne sais quoi, in which Nathalie Joly becomes the undisputed queen of Parisian café society, Yvette Guilbert. In two parts performed on alternating days, it explores two distinct episodes of Guilbert's remarkable life.

Finnish company Kuopio City Theatre presents Mammoth (Pleasance Dome), exploring our relationship with nature and technology finding that development and progression are not

always synonymous.

From Italy, Collettiv0 Cinetic0's challenging dance piece XD (Dance Base) is filled with powerful images which are bound to stay with the viewer and in Last Land and Il gioco del gregge di capre (Dance Base) Maria Nilsson Waller and Fabrizio Favale will take nature as their theme.

Adam Smith's Le Grande Tour (Institut Français d'Ecosse), written by an economist about two people following in the footsteps of the father of the Scottish Enlightenment, is one of a handful of shows written by playwrights with academic credentials at this year's Fringe. The Principle of Uncertainty (Summerhall), by physicist Andrea Brunello, tells the story of a scientist who, whilst trying to illustrate the most intriguing and fascinating concepts of quantum mechanics, begins to unravel his deepest personal secrets. Also, Dr Maisah Sobaihi, potentially the first performer to grace the Festival from Saudi Arabia, presents her one woman show Head Over Heels in Saudi Arabia (Spotlites @ The Merchants' Hall) about what it means to be a modern and educated woman in Saudi Arabia today.

The BBC returns to its dedicated BBC@Potterrow venue for the third year, bringing the best of the Festivals to audiences at home and in Edinburgh. MacAulay & Co (BBC @ Potterrow) will come live from the site for three full weeks. For the second year all the BBC radio networks will be represented in Edinburgh with shows including The Phil and Alice Show (Radio 1); Simon Mayo Drivetime (Radio 2); In Tune (Radio 3); Front Row (Radio 4); Richard Bacon (5 Live); and Shaun Keavney (6 Music). Each weekend CBBC and CBeebies favourites like Nina and the Neurons and Rastamouse will take over the venue to educate, entertain and inform younger Festival goers, and throughout the run there will be plenty of free activity for everyone to get involved in.

Scottish Opera at Paterson's Land will perform five shows at

this year's Fringe including new show, Dance Derby, based on the dance marathons of depression-era America, and its innovative

shows for babies and toddlers Baby0 and Sensory0; and Johnny McKnight and Gareth Williams' new short opera Last One Out.

The Fringe isn't just for grown-ups and there's plenty at this year's festival to keep the little one's entertained. Father Christmas Needs a Wee! The Musical (The Space @ Venue 45) will have children aged 2+ bursting... with laughter. Yurtakids will see children's theatre from Italy presented in a Yurt in the courtyard of Summerhall including UnLeashed/Scaténàti by ScarlattineTeatro and A Story of a Man and His Shadow by Principio Attivo Teatro. For the first time this year there will be an award specifically for children's shows. The Primary Times Children's Choice Award will be judged by parents and children from a shortlist of exceptional shows.

For those on a budget, PBH's Free Fringe and the Laughing Horse Free Festival may be just the ticket. Angelina Jolie jokes can be performed upon request in late-night stand up show Angelina Jolie Touched My Neighbour's Goat (Laughing Horse @ The Free Sisters) with rising stars Dan Moss, Calen Harlley and MC Joe McCarthy. While Phill Jupitus unleashes a new collection of poetry pondering the cultural conundrum: "how low can you go?" in Phill Jupitus is Porky the Poet in Zeitgeist Limbo (The Jam House). Acclaimed New York comic Lewis Schaffer, may be the best comic in the United States, if they noticed him in his show Lewis Schaffer Is Free Until Famous (Laughing Horse @ Meadow Bar) and former Harry Potter actress Jessie Cave teams up with Jenny Bede to see what they can do in thirty minutes in Jessie Cave and Jenny Bede: Ain't too Proud to Beg (Henry's Cellar Bar).

The world's greatest street entertainers will once again fill the streets of Edinburgh. During August, the Fringe Society, with the support of Virgin Money, manages two vibrant street

performance spaces in the heart of the city – on the Royal Mile and the Mound Precinct. These spaces become the focus of the carnival atmosphere that takes over Edinburgh in August, with thousands of locals and tourists mingling to see the spectacular acts that travel from all over the world to entertain the crowds. As well as this, there are stages where the public get the opportunity to see extracts of Fringe shows from venues across the programme, a sort of “try before you buy” opportunity. Last year saw over 4,175 hours of live outdoor entertainment taking place over the month of August – all of it in a safe, fun and family friendly environment.

Your Fringe programme comes in at 392 pages, weighs 605 grams and has a choice of four different covers to reflect just some of the emotions which the programme for this year’s Fringe is likely to stir up in audience members. There is plenty to see at this year’s Fringe and we hope you enjoy every second.

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## **Council to sell Leith Waterworld**

The council have decided this morning to sell Leith Waterworld to A & G who will develop the building as a soft play area.

The community group Splashback who wanted to reopen and run the pool have expressed their disappointment:-

We are infuriated and dismayed that City of Edinburgh Councillors today pulled the plug on Leith Waterworld for good. We have spent 15 months campaigning to save the pool, and four months working intensively with Council officers and elected members to develop the business plan for a revived pool. Yet they have abandoned their commitment to work with

us and today put a price on public trust – sold for £1 million.

In the January amendment, Councillors agreed to support a feasibility stage until December 2013 and committed £125,000 towards this, with a further £225,000 over two years if the plan was successful. This decision was against officers' recommendations and seemed to indicate that Councillors had a genuine desire to work cooperatively with the city's residents. This could have been a flagship project for community engagement. In chambers on 31 January, Richard Lewis said: "We owe it to the people of Edinburgh to do everything to preserve this valuable community asset". The trust we placed in the council that day has been brutally betrayed.

Significant progress had been made through the working group: we applied for charitable status; tenders for engineering, design and consultancy services had been issued and positive contact made with potential funders, who were excited about the project. Despite this progress, our work has been prematurely cut short. There has been no chance for a fair comparison between the commercial property deal agreed today, and our case for a community-led, revitalised Waterworld.

The bid accepted today is a poor result for Leith, for families, children, the disabled or the local community. Losing this unique and much loved fun pool is an utter tragedy for the city – such infrastructure is unlikely ever to be replaced. Soft play delivers none of the health and wellbeing benefits of swimming. What's more, the bid accepted today will bring none of the additional positive social impacts of the renewed Waterworld we proposed, such as a sense of community cohesion, volunteer and training opportunities, and precious family time together in the water.

The capital sorely lacks adequate provision of affordable, accessible family swimming. In the last 48 hours, we have

pressed Councillors to address this problem by ring-fencing the £125,000 they had promised us in January. We believe this funding should be used to secure free swimming for the city's under 11s, as a minimum. Though the programme proposed in today's motion in no way compensates for the loss of Waterworld, it will hopefully help encourage more families to swim.


We are heartbroken that we have not been able to save the pool, despite our best efforts. We know this will be deeply felt by many across the city. We would like to thank everyone for your overwhelming support for the campaign. Tragically, our collective clamour has fallen on deaf ears and the will of the people has been ignored. But we urge our supporters to continue holding your elected members to account.

Thank you also to our partners and spouses, and especially our children, who have put up with all our hours of absence when we could have been swimming with them.

*Johnny, Fiona, Jacqueline, Ida, Richard, Simon and Chris on behalf of Splashback*

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## **Council Meeting 30 May 2013**

 The council meet today to report on their first year in office.

We are following online for once rather than being in the chamber...

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# Five things you need to know today

## **Splashback – Friends of Water of Leith Basin – EIFF – Fringe Programme launch – Leith Festival**

The full council meets today at the City Chambers. Splashback is again on the agenda and will undoubtedly take up some time for discussion today, although the council's ruling coalition are likely to win through with their proposal.

In January the council managed to pull off an almost complete volte face by agreeing to support the community group who want to reopen and run the family pool at the bottom of Leith Walk. Now, there is a formal offer for the property on the table and this has to be reconsidered. The offer is for £1m, and the buyer has plans to turn the property into a soft play area. The group's supporters are vocal in their protests even before the meeting, so it is likely to be a stormy affair.

The capital coalition has put forward their proposal about the leisure pool to sell the property to A&G Property Group for £1m to create a substantial soft play and leisure facility.

The coalition motion also proposes to allocate £125,000 to fund swimming programmes for primary school children in Edinburgh.

This motion will be presented this morning at the council meeting when councillors will consider two reports, one on the potential sale of Leith Waterworld and one containing an update on the progress of the community bid.

A&G Property Group have offered to purchase Leith Waterworld

for £1m from the Council and propose to spend around £1.3m on refurbishing the building. Their offer would also see over 80 jobs created in the local area.

Councillor Richard Lewis, the city's Culture and Sport Convener, said: "This has been a very difficult decision and one that this Council does not take lightly. Firstly I'd like to thank Splashback for the work and commitment they have demonstrated in progressing the community bid. However this coalition feels that the potential purchaser will create a high quality leisure facility that will greatly benefit the community in Leith and the wider Edinburgh area.

"In recognition of Splashback's commitment to creating affordable and accessible swimming opportunities for young people in the community, we're proposing to commit £125,000 towards free swimming for primary aged children in Edinburgh.

"Ultimately this option ensures that the community in Leith has an accessible leisure facility for many years to come, that swimming opportunities are available and also that the Council gets best value for the taxpayers of Edinburgh."

✖ Responding to the news the Capital Coalition intends to sell Leith Waterworld to a commercial property developer, Chas Booth, Green councillor for Leith said:-"This is a real kick in the teeth for the local community, who had been given hope that Edinburgh's only leisure pool would reopen when the council made its decision in January to commit funds to do that. To reverse that decision just five months later is perverse, and sends a message to community groups that they cannot trust a word this council says. This was the first major test of the "cooperative council" agenda, and the coalition has failed the test."

Booth continued:-"To soften the blow by diverting the money which would have been invested in reopening the pool into primary age swimming instead is an attempt to hide the

council's embarrassment at this decision. It will not compensate for the massive loss of amenity, in particular for infants and disabled people, that will result from Waterworld's permanent closure."

Commenting on the proposal by the council, Alison Johnstone, Lothian Green MSP said:-"This decision sends the worst possible message to communities trying to come together to protect services and improve facilities in their area. Despite all the warm words we hear on community empowerment and people power, when a developer comes along with a wad of cash, community efforts seem to count for little."

"Families in Leith and right across the city made it very clear that they valued Waterworld as a unique leisure pool, and just five months after giving everyone hope that it would reopen, the Council have pulled the plug and campaigners will be feeling totally gutted."

There is also a report being considered separately which updates the council about the progress being made by Splashback to become a properly constituted community body with charitable status. There are five councillors involved in the progress towards reopening the pool.

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An invitation from the Friends of the Water of Leith Basin asking you to help them out this weekend...

*The paths in Leith along the Water of Leith are in a need of a clean so we hope you will join in and meet at Coalie Park. The time is 10am so please put it on your calendar and I hope to see you there. Litter pickers,bags, gloves etc are all provided. It is best to wear some strong shoes and bring some waterproofs because the weather cant make up its mind at the moment.*

[Click here](#) for a map showing the whereabouts of Coalie Park

*Please come along and feel good after a couple of hours make the paths look good.*



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It is now officially festival season. The 67th Edinburgh International Film Festival was [launched yesterday](#) with a long list of the films on offer.

But before then tomorrow evening at The Filmhouse *Beware of Mr Baker* is being shown. This portrayal of Ginger Baker, former front man of Cream promises **very** strong language but an account of the music legend's life and lifestyle with interviews from other prominent rock stars.

[Book your tickets here.](#)



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The Edinburgh Festival Fringe programme will also be launched this morning. You will be able to get your copy from the Fringe office on the High Street from noon or [on the Fringe website.](#)

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# Council gets cautious thumbs up from Accounts Commission



A major independent audit of the City of Edinburgh Council by the Accounts Commission has found that the Council's overall performance is good and that its current actions are likely to lead to further improvements. However, the report also acknowledges that the Council still has a number of high profile and significant challenges to resolve, especially in meeting savings targets.

The Best Value audit, carried out on all Scottish local authorities, and last conducted in Edinburgh in 2006, reviewed the Council's leadership, performance and major operational issues. It was carried out by Audit Scotland for the Accounts Commission. The report is not yet available online but when issued [it will be published here.](#)

[The last report](#) published in February 2007 found that:-*"In a Best value report published today the Accounts Commission says Edinburgh City Council displays many of the features of a Best Value council, including many examples of good service delivery. However some services, such as refuse collection and the processing of planning applications, still need to improve."*

Following an extensive review, including interviews with senior officers and councillors, the Commission formally assessed the Council's performance as 'good'. It also described the Council's capacity for improvement as 'fair', noting that it had also been dealing with some major issues at the same time as introducing a wide-reaching change programme.

Chief Executive Sue Bruce said:- “We very much welcome the scrutiny that the audit provides, as it helps us to assess the progress we’re making in transforming the Council. I’m pleased that our achievements in recent years were recognised, especially given some of the challenges we’ve been tackling.

“The Commission is keen that we prioritise meeting our savings targets and that is what we’re doing. Indeed, the auditors found that we already manage our finances well and have a good understanding of what we need to do. Although we still have a lot of work ahead, the overall assessment is very positive and shows that we remain on the right path to creating an excellent local authority that serves the city effectively and efficiently. All of the areas for development are already in established improvement plans and this audit should further reassure the public of our approach.”

Council Leader Councillor Andrew Burns added:- “This result is testament to a great deal of hard work by the Council’s managers and staff. The auditors also recognised the importance of the strong political leadership that this coalition is providing. That, combined with the efforts of officers, will continue to deliver improved services and value for money to the benefit of the people of Edinburgh.

“I agree with the Commission that we need to deal with the significant financial challenges we face. Our new approach to publishing and consulting on a draft budget earlier than any previous Council will help us to do that. I’m confident that the follow-up review in 18 months’ time will show that we have made further significant progress. In the meantime, we will continue with our commitment to report openly and regularly on our achievements against the pledges we made.”

The report’s key findings include:

The Council shows a strong understanding of what it needs to do to meet the service and financial issues it faces. It has

effective political and managerial leadership that sets a clear vision of what it wants to achieve and focuses on improving outcomes for people.

The Council demonstrates a strong awareness of where it needs to improve. The improvement programme is gathering pace and the council is now implementing many of the plans. The current chief executive has had a significant influence on increasing the pace of change and improvement in the council.

Councillors demonstrate a strong, cross-party commitment to restoring public confidence in the council following the problems with trams, statutory repairs and more recent concerns about practices at the Mortonhall crematorium.

The council manages its finances well, with spending contained within budget and long-term plans in place. Savings plans are in place but it is too early to assess whether the council is likely to achieve all the savings it requires to balance its budget.

Partnership working in Edinburgh is strong and the council and its partners are making good progress in improving outcomes for people. The Council and its partners can demonstrate:

- Good performance in ensuring Edinburgh's economy delivers investment, jobs and opportunities for all and in improving outcomes for children and young people.
- Generally positive and improving outcomes in health and well-being.
- Mixed performance in making Edinburgh's communities safer and improving the physical and social environment people live in.
- Well developed arrangements for consulting with local people and users of services, the results of which are used to inform service improvements.

The Council also acknowledges the need to improve communication with staff to widen understanding of, and commitment to, the council's plans for change.

*The report highlights various areas for improvement:*

*Establish clear improvement priorities, and use its new corporate programmes office to support delivery*

*Identify areas where consolidation and stability is required and those where the council should further increase the pace of improvement*

*Focus on savings plans and satisfy itself that planned savings are achievable, particularly in procurement*

*Deal with weaknesses in workforce planning and ICT.*

*Identify and put in place the skills and capacity it needs to deliver improvement.*

*Develop its arrangements for communicating the purpose and progress of change to staff.*

The Council says it already has programmes in place to improve in all of these areas. A follow-up review will take place in around 18 months' time, focussing particularly on procurement, change programmes and trust in the Council.

This is the previous report from 2007:-

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