

# Edinburgh Contemporary Crafts raise money for new workshop and gallery

Edinburgh Contemporary Crafts has raised £8,000 towards the £20,000 needed to refurbish Scotland's first multi-disciplinary craft workshop, gallery and shop.

The total raised so far is a combination of public donations, business sponsorship and support in kind and the landlord James Hay Pension Trustees has also generously agreed an eight month rent-free period to give the community facility a head start.

The concept is the vision of Louise Smith who established ECC in 2011, providing workshop space on Home Street for nine resident makers who have taught more than 200 would-be crafters over the last 18 months. Having outgrown its current home, new premises have been found on Blair Street in the heart of Edinburgh's Old Town.

The crowd-funding campaign is now looking to raise a further £12,000 to enable the refit of the new premises. Individuals can pledge anything from £15, with a donation of £55 and above giving you a full day of workshops and demos, live music and a slap-up lunch in return. Businesses can sponsor up to £1000, with benefits including promotion of their brand, private staff workshop days or team building events, and invitations to private events. The crowd-funding campaign will be live until Sunday 28th April.

The new multi-disciplinary craft workshop – offering courses in screen printing, illustration, crafted textiles, book binding, dressmaking and upholstery – will open to the public on Monday 6th May with pottery and jewellery courses starting soon afterwards. The permanent gallery and shop are due to

open in July.

To date ECC has been funded by the makers themselves however to move the project forward the new premises need to be significantly refurbished. Money will be spent on knocking down walls, stripping everything back to the original stonework and features, installing gallery lighting and glass partitions, and creating specialist workshop facilities including a heat proofed kiln room, individual studio spaces and custom built storage. They already have many of the tools and equipment, and are hopeful of future funding to expand the workshop facilities.

Louise Smith said:- “This has been such an amazing process and what has surprised and delighted me more than anything is how many people have offered their help. We have received specialist knowledge and services – such as architectural planning and website development – that could otherwise cost a fortune, and so many people have offered to wield a sledgehammer or a paint brush in order to get the bulk of the building work done for free.

“This together with the crowd-funding campaign, which will pay for the building materials, has turned it into a real community project. It’s empowering to help create a thriving craft community and it means there are so many people involved from the start, taking joint ownership of the project.”

All those involved in running Edinburgh Contemporary Crafts are practicing makers who are passionate about their craft, enjoy teaching, and believe that craft can be a catalyst for social and personal change. The move to Blair Street will help to support new and established makers and encourage public appreciation and enjoyment of quality Scottish craft.

- For details on business sponsorship opportunities visit: <http://www.edinburghcontemporarycrafts.co.uk/sponsorship.html>
- For further information on the crowd-funding campaign visit:

Submitted by [Samantha McKay-Challen](#)




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# Giant Chess Arrives in the Meadows



The appearance of a Giant Chess set on the Meadows in Edinburgh this summer should enable children to enjoy the ancient game in the fresh air, while also promoting essential life skills, according to those behind the project.

It has been organised by Jason Kouchak, an acclaimed classical musician and contributor to public projects, whose vision is to set up giant chess sets in major capital cities. The children involved in the Holland Park giant chess in London which Kouchak organised two years ago, have so far participated in national competitions with local English schools, and Kouchak wants to take it further hoping that Edinburgh will play against London. The idea is to organise international competitions, with a giant game being launched in Paris in October.

 Kouchak believes the importance of chess is that it teaches skills which are increasingly needed in an age of computer games. He said: “The value is to inspire, inform, educate and

entertain them. Focus, concentration etiquette and issues of respect all improve as the players work together to teach each other and set up the pieces. The game of chess has great interactive value, and there is no interaction when they're on the computer."

Sciennes Primary, which is close to The Meadows has been involved in the project as a result of their chess club, and pupils were present at the launch, although the ceremony was cut short due to the sudden bad weather.

Kouchak, himself a chess player, and friends with Viswanathan Anand, the Indian chess Grandmaster and the current World Chess Champion, received permission from The Scottish Government and the council to set up the project in The Meadows.

He provided the giant chess pieces himself, with the City Council supplying the paved squares. The huge chessboard will be painted twice a year, and park rangers will set up the pieces and put them away at the end of the day. Tuition is also being arranged with the involvement of Scottish grand masters, but is yet to be finalised.

Adults are welcome to take part. The game is suitable for ages of 7 and upwards, and aimed at all levels of skill. Adults are welcome to take part, and also encouraged to supervise the children, and it is aimed at all levels of skill. There is no charge for participation.

[More information on the project can be found here.](#)

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# Edinburgh employment lawyer to give evidence to Holyrood on women in the legal profession today



Ahead of giving evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Equal Opportunities Committee as part of its Women and Work Inquiry, Joyce Cullen, Convener of the Law Society of Scotland's Employment Law Committee has today commented on women working within the legal profession.

Mrs. Cullen said:-“The proportion of practising solicitors who are women has been continually increasing, particularly over the past decade, and women now make up around 48% of the solicitors' branch of the legal profession.”

“Although women outnumber men as newly admitted solicitors each year, and there are two and a half times as many women as men in the 25 to 30 age group, they continue to be remain relatively under-represented in senior positions, for example as partners in private practice.

“A study of Women in the Legal Profession, undertaken by The Law Society of Scotland and the Equal Opportunities Commission in 2005, found that a large majority of women believed that it was *very likely* or at least *possible* that being female was a barrier to partnership, though in contrast, a clear majority of men stated that this was *not at all likely* to be the case.

“The study also indicated that having childcare responsibilities was a major factor, with 52% of female

respondents (though only 11% of male respondents) considering motherhood was *very likely* to be a barrier to partnership. In contrast, over 90% of all respondents felt that fatherhood was *not at all likely* to be a barrier to partnership.

“The study found that within the category of equity partners, 74% of men had dependants, compared to only 53% of women. However, this is not an up to date study and it seems likely that changing attitudes in the intervening years, particularly towards childcare responsibilities, will have had an impact on these perceptions.”

The Law Society of Scotland is to launch a major research project in May 2013 examining current working patterns across the profession, in addition to solicitor employment, diversity and discrimination. The project, which will be carried out by independent research company MVA Consultancy, will build on studies of the legal profession carried out in 2005 and 2006.

Mrs. Cullen added:-“It will be interesting to find out if there have been significant changes since 2005, given the substantial increase in the proportion of women solicitors within the legal profession in Scotland, when the research project reports back later this year.”

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## Shortlist for Walter Scott Prize announced today



The shortlist for the fourth £25,000 Walter Scott Prize for historical fiction is announced today by the judging panel. The six novels, with settings ranging from Tudor and Restoration England to the slums of Victorian London, and from the bloody battlefields of the Western Front in World War One to the highlands of Malaysia during the 'Malayan Emergency', encompass a giddy diversity of setting in both time and place, echoing the oeuvre of the writer after whom the prize is named, Sir Walter Scott.

*The shortlist is:*

*TOBY'S ROOM by Pat Barker*

*THE DAUGHTERS OF MARS by Thomas Keneally*

*BRING UP THE BODIES by Hilary Mantel*

*THE STREETS by Anthony Quinn*

*THE GARDEN OF EVENING MISTS by Tan Twan Eng*

*MERIVEL by Rose Tremain*

The judges commented:

"This year's shortlist is rich and complex, contains breathtaking writing, and gloriously unexpected stories which refresh understandings of history in a way in which Sir Walter Scott would have approved. The shortlist exemplifies the extraordinary quality of newly-published writing that is set in the past: from ancient to recent history."

The shortlisted books are by authors from Australia and

Malaysia, as well as from England, strengthening the international dimension brought to the prize by last year's opening up of the rules to include writers from the Commonwealth. Books must have been written in English, with the majority of their setting being at least 60 years ago, in keeping with the prize's definition of 'historical' borrowed from Walter Scott himself in the subtitle of his Waverley novels: 'Tis Sixty Years Since.'

The Walter Scott Prize, founded in 2009 by the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch and awarded at the Brewin Dolphin Borders Book Festival in June, is the largest annual UK prize to be judged outside London, and honours the legacy and achievements of Sir Walter Scott, founder of the historical novel. Scott's influence has been further revived this year, with several new books and documentaries on his life, a new radio adaptation of his work read by David Tennant, and the re-opening of his Borders home Abbotsford after substantial restoration.

The judging panel for the Walter Scott Prize for historical fiction comprises Kirsty Wark, Louise Richardson, Jonathan Tweedie, Elizabeth Laird, Elizabeth Buccleuch, and chair Alistair Moffat. The judges' criteria include originality and innovation, quality of writing, a strong narrative, and the ability of a book to shed light on the present as well as the past. Books can be by writers living in the UK, Ireland or the Commonwealth as long as they are writing in English and the book is first published in these countries.

Shortlisted authors are invited to attend the award ceremony and announcement on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June, which is a public event as part of the Brewin Dolphin Borders Book Festival in



Melrose, near Scott's home Abbotsford. As well as enjoying the hospitality of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch at their home Bowhill, shortlisted authors this year will also exclusively be offered a private preview tour of Abbotsford following its restoration.

The Judges said of the shortlisted books:

**TOBY'S ROOM Pat Barker**

"The story, which is approached obliquely through the lens of solving a mystery, is beautifully simple whilst capturing complex characters, and contains the most exquisite writing. Pat Barker is where she wants to be in this period; she is a master."

**THE DAUGHTERS OF MARS Thomas Keneally**

"Sheds new light on a well-documented period in history and from a different and hugely effective viewpoint. The atmosphere is evoked brilliantly, and it draws you in to the lives of everyday people affected by momentous events with masterful ease."

**BRING UP THE BODIES Hilary Mantel**

"Hilary Mantel lends a superb and cleverly contemporary spin to the well-known story of Anne Boleyn, and *Bring up the Bodies* is a highly readable, intelligent novel that effortlessly fulfils the criterion of the Walter Scott Prize that work should shed light on the present as well as the past."

### **THE STREETS Anthony Quinn**

“This novel is refreshingly different and contains a cornucopia of wonderful material and evocative descriptions, from opulent ballroom to appalling slum tenement. Anthony Quinn is an excellent writer, and universal themes of loss of identity and community are well-covered here.”

### **THE GARDEN OF EVENING MISTS Tan Twan Eng**

“This is a richly enigmatic, layered novel, which portrays the complexity of Malaya at that time, as well as the jaggedness of relationships, sensitively providing multiple glimpses of cultural identities.”

### **MERIVEL Rose Tremain**

“A marvellously rollicking good read, and it is such a pleasure to meet Robert Merivel again. Rose Tremain brings the character to life in a way that makes you want to find out even more about the period. Enormously skilled and deft.”

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## **Five things you need to know today**



**Sir Chris Hoy – Pandas – Petitions Committee – World Heritage Day event – More tennis stars coming to Edinburgh this summer**

The Edinburgh Reporter will be jostling for position along with most other media outlets we imagine at today's press conference called by Sir Chris Hoy's PR team. It appears that he is about to announce his retirement from cycling, according to those in the know. Other suggestions are that he is about to change sports and take up diving since the competition will be held at the Royal Commonwealth Pool in Edinburgh, and other Twitter jokers say that he is about to take up football.

We shall be able to tell you what is really happening later on!

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Just along the road there is much anticipation surrounding the pandas possible mating activity. Even if they do not actually manage to mate then there could be artificial insemination in a desperate bid to breed pandas this year from the most famous couple in Edinburgh. A spokesperson for the Zoo said:-

"Tian Tian's oestrogen level is still continuing to rise slowly, but she is still not quite at peak. We continue to monitor her hormones and behaviour, and all is heading in the right direction. Professor Wang, our Chinese expert, believes our female panda could either suddenly progress very quickly from this stage, or enter the 36 hour breeding window after a slow but continuous rise in hormone levels on either Thursday or Friday of this week. We will not attempt to introduce the two pandas until we reach this stage. It is all very normal and all part and parcel of giant pandas – it's just really a waiting game now!"



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The council's Petitions committee meets again this afternoon. There are several petitions which are going to be heard, having gained enough public support. Those being discussed will include the Crackdown on Legal Loan Sharks, A safer mechanism for reporting Edinburgh Council Mismanagement, princes Street for people and Bedroom Tax.

The petition to set up a different 'Whistleblower Hotline' is run by a campaign group who have a website here. Their spokesman said:- "The petitioners will outline why the tales of the two whistleblowers are salutary.

"They will highlight how their hotline will differ from the one the Council Head of HR will probably announce next Thursday. He is likely to explain the Council is already setting up an independent hotline. But there will be one crucial difference. The petitioner's one would only be accessible to the leader of each political grouping at the Council. The HR one will be accessed by the Chief Executive for the Corporate Management team.

"The case they will make is why their proposal is safer. They will explain that the last two whistleblowers who were

disciplined would not have been protected under the HR plan. They forked out thousands of pounds in lawyers fees at Employment Tribunals to get justice. Their crime? Reporting Council mismanagement.

The nub of the Petitioners bid is for a truly effective check and balance on Council malpractise, no matter which Party is in power.”

You can follow the [Petitions Committee online](#) or indeed attend the City Chambers at 2pm to follow proceedings live.



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© RCAHMS (Scottish Colorfoto Collection)

Today is World Heritage Day and we are delighted that thanks to [RCAHMS](#) we are able to bring you an aerial view of Edinburgh and this fabulous photo of what Boots on Princes Street used to look like!

Tonight from 6.00pm – 7.30pm, Royal College of Physicians, Queen Street, Edinburgh there is an event run by Edinburgh

World Heritage who describe the event as follows:-

*Here in Edinburgh we are taking international co-operation as our theme. The event will look at how World Heritage can be used to promote and support international co-operation, with contributions from expert speakers and panel discussion.*

[To book your place and for more information please click here.](#)

Registration opens at 5.30pm.

Speakers:

***Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs***

*Fiona Hyslop was appointed Minister for Culture and External Affairs in December 2009. She established the cultural development body, Creative Scotland, in July 2010, as part of the Public Services Reform Act. She also secured funding towards the Dundee V&A project, the new Bannockburn visitor centre, and the creation of the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Ayrshire. As part of the Scottish Government's programme of international development, Fiona Hyslop launched strategic plans for engaging with India and Pakistan in 2010. Her Ministerial portfolio covers External Affairs, Europe, Culture and the Arts, Broadcasting, Architecture, Built Heritage, Lottery Funding, Historic Scotland, National Records of Scotland and Major Events Strategy.*

***Prof. Dr. Jacek Purchla, Krakow International Cultural Centre***  
*Professor Purchla is the founder and director of the International Cultural Centre in Krakow, established in 1991. He is a full professor of humanities and a member of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, head of the Department of Economic and Social History, UNESCO Chair for Heritage and Urban Studies at the Krakow University of Economics, and the head of the Centre of European Heritage, Institute of*

*European Studies at the Jagiellonian University.*

*His research areas are urban development, social history and art history of the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as the theory and protection of cultural heritage. He is the author of over four hundred academic works, including a number of books. From 1990 to 1991 he was a vice-mayor of the city of Krakow. Since 2000 he has chaired the Monument Preservation Council at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. In February 2012 was elected as vice president of Polish National Commission for UNESCO.*

***Mrs Susanne Hauer, Organisation of World Heritage Cities secretariat, Regensburg World Heritage Site***

*The [Organization of World Heritage Cities](#) is composed of 238 cities, within which are located sites included on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The organization encourages co-operation between its member cities, and the exchange of information and expertise on matters on the management of sites. The Regional Secretariat of OWHC for North Western Europe is based in [Regensburg](#), Germany, where the Old Town Regensburg with Stadthof became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in July 2006.*

*The event is organised by Edinburgh World Heritage, with support from Historic Scotland, the RSA Fellows MCICH Network, and Thomas Miller Investments.*

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Former British No 1, Greg Rusedski and 2003 Wimbledon Champion Mark Philippoussis are the latest players to confirm that they will compete in the Brodies Champions of Tennis event in Edinburgh. The pair will join John McEnroe, Tim Henman and Goran Ivanisevic at the first ever ATP Champions Tour event to be held in Scotland, which is to take place at the home of the Edinburgh Academicals from June 20th to 23rd.'

Tickets are now on sale at [www.championsoftennis.com](http://www.championsoftennis.com)

## Tradfest begins next week in Edinburgh – Here's the list!



Tradfest is on from 24 April to 6 May at various venues around town. There will be music, singing, storytelling and dance as well as crafts, folk drama and celebrations for May Day. The Tradfest in Edinburgh will start off a season of festivals of this kind which will go on until the autumn across Scotland.

The full listings are shown below

[TradFest Listings.pdf](#)

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## Edinburgh International Film Festival will close with Gillan film

*Edinburgh International Film Festival (EIFF) is proud to announce NOT ANOTHER HAPPY ENDING starring Karen Gillan and Stanley Weber (alongside Amy Manson, Iain de Caestecker, Kate Dickie, Freya Mavor, Gary Lewis and Henry Ian Cusick), as the Closing Night film of the 67<sup>th</sup> edition of the Festival.*



On 30 June Karen Gillan's new rom com will end this year's Film Festival at the Edinburgh Festival Theatre. Actors, directors and producers are all expected on the red carpet when they attend the World Premiere of the film.

✖ Chris Fujiwara, EIFF Artistic Director, said:- "Speaking as somebody who, before coming to Scotland, knew Scotland partly through its portrayal in films, I'm really excited to find in NOT ANOTHER HAPPY ENDING a fresh, interesting, and almost idyllic take on the cultural vibrancy of Scottish city life. The film also shows how well the time-honoured genre of romantic comedy can work in the contemporary Scottish context. The film will add just the right note of celebration with which to close our festival this year."

NOT ANOTHER HAPPY ENDING is directed by John McKay (Crush, We'll Take Manhattan), is produced by Claire Mundell (Crying With Laughter, Weekend) of Synchronicity Films, co-produced by Wendy Griffin (Wasted) and written by David Solomons (The Great Ghost Rescue, Five Children and It).

Here is John McKay talking about the project last year:-

When struggling, maverick publisher Tomas Duval discovers his only successful author Jane Lockhart is blocked he knows he has to unblock her or he's finished – with her newfound success, she's become too damn happy and she can't write when she's happy. The only trouble is, the worse he makes her feel, the more he realises he is in love with her...

Producer Claire Mundell said:- "We're thrilled and excited to bring our feel-good film to the Edinburgh Film Festival and honoured to be the Closing Night film. Living and working in Scotland, we wanted to create something representative of the bustling creativity and wonderful, witty sense of humour we see around us. The result is NOT ANOTHER HAPPY ENDING; a film that's unashamedly upbeat, romantic and funny. We want audiences to be charmed and leave the cinema feeling great, so

it's fitting that our film will be a very happy finale to what will be an exceptional year at the Festival."

NOT ANOTHER HAPPY ENDING is presented by British Film Company and Creative Scotland in association with BBC Scotland and is a Synchronicity Films Production. Executive Producers are Steve Milne, Robbie Allen, Ewan Angus and Christian Eisenbeiss. Additional funders include Glasgow City Marketing Bureau, Glasgow Film Office and Southwest Scotland Screen. International sales by LevelK. Post-production by the award winning Molinare.



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## VIDEO – Paolozzi Prize for Art



Four young people in Edinburgh were celebrated for their artistic achievements at a ceremony at the National Gallery of Scotland last night when the Paolozzi Prize for Art was awarded.

The overall winner of this year's prestigious Paolozzi Prize for Art was Lorna Searl, an S6 pupil at Boroughmuir High School, who was presented with a £500 prize, with the three other winners each receiving a £250 prize.

Peyton Murdoch, from James Gillespie's High School won the 'New Directions' category, Siobhan Anderson, Edinburgh Secure Services came out on top in the 'Overcoming Barriers'

category, and Kit Andrew, St. Thomas of Aquin's High School, won the 'Talent and Creativity' award.

Nominations, which were open to pupils in S4, S5 and S6 Art, were judged by a panel of art experts: Scottish artist Richard Demarco, Dundee academic Michael Spens who commissioned the Paolozzi ceilings at Cleish Castle, Duncan Robertson, freelancer with National Gallery's Education team, who trained in Paolozzi's class in Munich, and Councillor Paul Edie who had the original idea to set up the prize.

Education Convener, Councillor Paul Godzik said:- "This prize is all about recognising and rewarding the next generation of creative talent, and I've been very impressed by the calibre of the work submitted. I'd like to congratulate our four worthy prizewinners, and everyone who took the time to submit their work. I hope that for some of our participants, this is the first step in a successful artistic career".

Artist and judge Duncan Robertson said:- "Eduardo Paolozzi was a great encourager of young talent, and would have been very supportive of this award in his name. I was extremely impressed with the standard of the entries, and while it was difficult to decide between the candidates in many of the categories, Lorna really stood out as the overall winner."

This annual prize was organised by the City of Edinburgh Council's Arts and Learning and Children and Families teams, in partnership with the National Gallery of Scotland.

Sir Eduardo Paolozzi (1924-2005) was a ground-breaking, Edinburgh-born artist renowned for his sculptures, prints, paintings and tapestries. His most famous works include the coloured mosaic in London's Tottenham Court Road underground station and the iconic foot sculpture located at the top of Edinburgh's Leith Walk.



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# Councillor Rose – Funeral of Baroness Thatcher



by Conservative Group Leader, Councillor Cameron Rose who travelled to London to attend the funeral of former Prime Minister Baroness Thatcher who died last week.

## *Thoughts on the funeral of Margaret Thatcher*

As the coffin was carried through the doors at St Paul's and the bells sounded 11am with military timing, my thoughts were of paying personal respects rather than the world impact of Margaret Thatcher.

It was not so much the historic occasion, though that did weigh significantly. Nor was it simply setting an example to my children and grandchildren. I was also representing my fellow Conservative Councillors. All of these were reasons for joining the crowds lining the route, but some years ago, having seen her courage, clarity of vision and conviction, I resolved that her example and inspiration merited a personal pilgrimage to the funeral to mark her passing with respect.

✘ The crowd around me was relaxed and respectful with a ✘ tone of appreciation, affection and even awe. Of course the procession was spectacular – with the ceremony, its precision and colour making an huge impact – and despite the security risks, we were within five yards of the cortège.

The coffin, carried on a gun carriage and movingly draped in

the union flag, was a reminder of the Great Leveller who comes for us all.

It is not for us all to achieve in life the far reaching and positive influence on world events that Margaret Thatcher did. But her passing from life is a reminder of the imperative to use the peace which we enjoy, and to which she contributed so significantly.

A frequent refrain in recent days has been that she was divisive. More accurately, her clear-sighted analysis exposed fault lines which were already there. It takes two sides for there to be divisions.

The world is a more peaceable place for her clarity, convictions and, yes, her exposing of divisions.

 Councillor Rose [writes a regular blog here.](#)

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## Competition – Win tickets to ECA Fashion Show



The Edinburgh College of Art Fashion Show will showcase the latest designs from some of the UK's brightest students studying fashion, performance costume, and textiles.

Collections in this year's fashion students will feature a diverse range of designs, the inspiration for which includes lost Peruvian tribes, hip-hop jockeys, 1990s kids TV shows,

and the sleek shapes of luxury yachts.

Two students are sponsored by Sophie Hallette Lace, who produced the lace for the Duchess of Cambridge's wedding dress and regularly works with the top couture houses in Paris. And for the first time at the fashion show, a student will create a collection solely featuring headwear.

What's more, outlandish performance costumes inspired by Japanese fairytales and legend, African Maasai warriors, and Mexican magical-realism will be among the highlights from the costume students.

One student has an African version of the ancient Greek comedy, The Birds. Another student has created a macabre dress train made from fake human eyeballs.

Tickets are on sale now costing £15 each (plus £1.50p booking fee). They can be purchased via Hub Tickets (<http://www.hubtickets.co.uk/>).

This year the show will have its own Twitter hashtag:- #ecafashow.

More information on the students and their collections will be added to the official website in the coming days:- <http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/edinburgh-college-art/fashion-shows/2013-fashion-show>

The Edinburgh Reporter is pleased to offer one of our readers the chance to win **2 front row tickets** to the premiere of this year's Fashion Show. This will take place on Thursday, 25 April 2013 at 3pm.

*Here is the question. Send your answers by email to us [theedinburghreporter@gmail.com](mailto:theedinburghreporter@gmail.com) with the words ECA Fashion Show Competition in the subject line.*

*Q. Which company produced the lace for the Duchess of Cambridge's wedding dress and will also feature in two*

*designers' outfits at this year's ECA Fashion Show?*

*The answer must reach us by email on **Monday 22 April 2013 at 12 noon** when the draw will be made and the winner announced. Good luck!*



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## New look bus launched for World Heritage Day



Edinburgh Bus Tours has unveiled the new-look *Edinburgh World Heritage Official Tour: A City of Contrasts* to coincide with World Heritage Day, 18 April. The five-star bus tour guarantees to showcase more of Edinburgh than any other bus tour, and brings Edinburgh's unique history – a story of contrasting themes – to life.

With specially trained English speaking guides, *Edinburgh World Heritage Official Tour: A City of Contrasts* tells tales of Edinburgh's dramatic past and present, good and evil, nature and architecture, and fire and ice.

As well as offering dramatic tales, dramatic sights include Fettes College – where James Bond was supposedly educated – and Dean Bridge. The new extended tour route also visits favourite sites including Edinburgh Castle, The Palace of Holyroodhouse, and Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. The tour lasts approximately one hour and twenty minutes.

*Edinburgh World Heritage Official Tour: A City of Contrasts* has been developed in conjunction with Edinburgh World Heritage, the charity dedicated to conserving, protecting and promoting the city's World Heritage.

The 18th April is designated UNESCO World Heritage Day. Projects, events and exhibitions take place annually all over the world to raise awareness of World Heritage Sites. Edinburgh Old & New Towns were jointly awarded World Heritage Site status in 1995. The Edinburgh site contains around 4,500 buildings, with a high proportion of listed buildings and scheduled monuments.


David Hicks of Edinburgh World Heritage commented: "We are delighted to work with Edinburgh Bus Tours to bring the stories of the city's World Heritage Site to life. The tour is specially designed to show the unique contrasts that are at the heart of the Edinburgh's character, and some stunning panoramic views across the city's skyline.

"Plus with hop-off, hop-off tickets this is a great facility for visitors to explore all of Edinburgh's World Heritage Sites at their leisure."



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## **Peploes sold in Edinburgh today make almost £1m**

 Five paintings by the world renowned Scottish colourist Samuel Peploe made just short of £1,000,000 at Bonhams Scottish Art sale in Edinburgh today.



‘Still Life, Roses and Chinese Blue’, made £349,250, ‘Blue & White Vase, Roses, Melon and Orange’ sold for £277,250 and ‘Still Life’ was bought for £181,250. The first two works display the meticulous sense of composition and subtle palette characteristic of Peploe in the 1920s. The earlier, ‘Still Life’, shows more fluid painterly brushwork and pure colour.

Also by Peploe, ‘Crawford’ sold for £73,250 and ‘A Summer Afternoon’ for £61,250.

Bonhams Head of Scottish Art, Chris Brickley, said:- “The results for Peploe and the very good prices for the other Colourist painters in the sale show the continuing appeal of these artists whose work has made such an important contribution to the standing of Scottish painting both at home and round the world.”

Other highlights of the sale include Joseph Farquharson’s ‘The Shortening Winter’s Day is near a Close’ which made £157,250 against an estimate of £60,000-80,000 and a view of Iona by Francis Cadell which sold for £91,000.



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## Five things you need to know today



**Keep Edinburgh Beautiful – Stolen Mountain Bike – Foster Carers wanted – Dove Transport – Tonight at the Filmhouse**

The Council want some help in entering Edinburgh for the city’s bid in the Britain in Bloom competition. [You can read](#)

[more here.](#)

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Police in Edinburgh are appealing for witnesses following the theft of a high-value mountain bike.

The incident happened around 4.30am on Monday 16th April at an address in Newhaven Road.

A property in the street was broken into and the 36-gear ISSAC hard tail bike worth £3,000 was stolen from inside.

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

The bike is described as black, with an 18-inch frame, DT Swiss 240 silver-rimmed wheels, white forks, Continental mud tyres, Shimano XTR break discs, Bon Trager carbon stem and a triple Physic Gobbie saddle.

A Police Scotland spokesman said: "Given the time at which this incident occurred, a number of residents in Newhaven Road may have been awoken by sounds of a disturbance, as those responsible gained entry to the property.

"Similarly, members of the public who were up and out in the area in the early hours of Monday morning may also have seen something suspicious and are asked to contact police immediately if they have information that can assist officers with their investigation."



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The council wants to recruit more foster carers and they are holding a drop in event tomorrow evening at Waverley Court. [More information here.](#)



Today a shameless little plug for community transport service, Dove Transport which calls itself “the number one community transport provider in the West of Edinburgh.”

*Dove Transport seeks to provide affordable and accessible community transport to local not-for-profit community organisations within the West of Edinburgh and surrounds.*

*The service was established in April 2003 as part of an Urban Community Transport Initiative pilot scheme set up by the Scottish Executive. There are four partners involved in the scheme who provide community transport throughout Edinburgh. We are currently in our fifth year of funding and the project continues to thrive.*

*Our current fleet consists of three minibuses – two 15-seaters and one 7-seater – all of which are fully accessible. These buses are available for day or evening hires, seven days a week, with or without a driver. Please note that we cannot hire to individuals. All hires are subject to availability.*

You can find out more about [how to book your minibus here.](#)

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Tonight at [The Filmhouse](#) they are showing My Beautiful Laundrette as part of the Daniel Day-Lewis season. Preview here:-

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# Foster carer drop in event at Waverley Court

## DROP IN SESSION TO RECRUIT FOSTER CARERS

The latest drive by the City of Edinburgh Council to find new recruits to become foster carers is taking place tomorrow evening (Thursday 18 April) in the Capital.

A special drop in session is taking place between 5pm and 7pm

at Waverley Court where people can meet foster carers and social workers for an informal chat about fostering.

The event is taking place ahead of Foster Care fortnight (13 – 26 May 2013) at a time when the number of children needing care in Scotland is at its highest since 1981.



Convener of  
Education – Paul  
Godzik

Councillor Paul Godzik, Children, Education and Families Convener, said: “There’s a real shortage of foster carers across Edinburgh and we’re hoping to encourage more people to consider becoming carers for children and young people.

“Fostering is a hugely rewarding and really important job as it benefits some of the most vulnerable children in our society, helping them build a bright and confident future.

“All sorts of different people have the skills and qualities to foster and we hope this drop in session will provide anyone interested with the information they need.”

Thursday’s drop in session is the first of three events taking place over the coming months to highlight the need for more foster carers. The ‘Foster Me Foster Us’ campaign is across the city and includes bus, taxi, billboard and bus shelter advertising as well as local media promotion.

Anyone interested in finding out more about fostering can call the City of Edinburgh Council free on 0800 174 833 or visit the [website](#).

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# Marie Curie Hospice reopened in Edinburgh



The Marie Curie Cancer Care Edinburgh Hospice at Fairmilehead has been closed for six months for a makeover. Today it was officially reopened by the Cabinet Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Alex Neil, MSP who marked the occasion in a ribbon cutting ceremony.

The Health Secretary was then given a tour round the newly modernised facilities. He was joined by patients and their families along with Marie Curie supporters and staff.

Mr Neil said: "The Scottish Government recognises the excellent services that Marie Curie provides for both people living with terminal illnesses and their families at what is a very difficult time. Together, we face the challenge to ensure that people receive the best possible care at the end of life, irrespective of where they choose to be cared for. I am happy to officially reopen the transformed Marie Curie Edinburgh that will allow the hospice to provide the very highest standards of care for people across Edinburgh for years to come."

As part of the six month programme, the hospice ward block was reconfigured to include en-suite bathrooms in each room, providing accessible washing, shower and toilet facilities for patients. Six of the multi-bed wards were also extended to provide additional space for patients and their families.

Marie Curie Cancer Care provides free care and support for

terminally ill people across Edinburgh at home and in the Marie Curie Hospice. The £2.6 million refurbishment was funded jointly by Marie Curie Cancer Care and private donations from supporters.

✖ To access a Marie Curie Nurse, speak to your GP or district nurse. For more information, please visit: [www.mariecurie.org.uk](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk).

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## NHS 24 now available on mobile



### Health Information on the move!

Since it was launched in 2010, NHS inform has grown and is now firmly established as Scotland's national provider of quality assured health information.

As more people choose to search the internet from mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets, a mobile version of [www.nhsinform.co.uk](http://www.nhsinform.co.uk) has been developed that will allow people to access the site's wide ranging features while on the move.

The mobile version of the site has been developed specifically to provide instant accessibility which means, as Marcia Rankin, Head of Health Information Service at NHS 24 explains,

that people can find out what they need – fast: “we know from looking at the way people use the NHS inform website that they often want access to information quickly and easily. By making the website mobile, people can look at features such as the Health A-Z directory or Common Health Questions from a wide range of devices without the need to download an app. The mobile site is also easy to find from any search engine and information can easily be shared via URLs across email or text message, Facebook or Twitter.”

The mobile version of [www.nhsinform.co.uk](http://www.nhsinform.co.uk) can be viewed by searching for the NHS inform site via a mobile or tablet device, or by copying and pasting [m.nhsinform.co.uk](http://m.nhsinform.co.uk) into the browser bar of the device. As the desktop version of NHS inform ([www.nhsinform.co.uk](http://www.nhsinform.co.uk)) continues to evolve, so too will the mobile version of the site with additional features added over time.

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## **Council needs your help to make Edinburgh Beautiful**



The City of Edinburgh Council is calling on local green groups to back Edinburgh's 2013 Britain in Bloom bid by helping to spruce up their local neighbourhood.



[It's Your Neighbourhood](#), run by Keep Scotland Beautiful, is a scheme that aims to bring members of the community together to make a positive change to the place they live, work or spend their leisure time. It is open to groups of all sizes who are interested in cleaning up and greening up their local area.

The initiative forms part of the Royal Horticultural Society's Britain in Bloom competition, in which Edinburgh is competing against Bristol and the London Borough of Hillingdon in the City category.

Local community groups or businesses who enter the It's Your Neighbourhood scheme will be mentored by assessors in an effort to improve and progress local green projects. This could be help with identifying funding sources, gardening and maintenance advice or providing access to tools.

Successful participants are presented with a certificate of achievement of either Establishing, Improving, Developing, Thriving, or Outstanding.



Convener            of  
Transport           &  
Environment       –  
Lesley Hinds

Councillor Lesley Hinds, the city's Environment Convener, said:- "Edinburgh will be representing Scotland later this year in the prestigious Britain in Bloom competition and so we're calling in all green-fingered city residents to back our bid and do their bit to spruce up their local neighbourhood."

Derek Robertson, Chief Executive of Keep Scotland Beautiful – the independent charity which campaigns, acts and educates on a range of local, national and global environmental issues which affect people's quality of life, said: "We would welcome any community group who is working to clean up and green up

their local area in Edinburgh to register for this years' It's Your Neighbourhood campaign. It's Your Neighbourhood is about giving community groups who work tirelessly year round, national recognition and support for their efforts, and currently we have over 70 groups registered from across Scotland."

Registration for It's Your Neighbourhood closes at the end of April. Further information and details can be found on the [Beautiful Scotland](#) website.

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## Five things you need to know today



### **Campaign against Violence Day – Works on McDonald Road – Pandas – Paolozzi Prize – A plea from the Moderator**

Police in Edinburgh were taking part in the National Campaign against Violence day last Friday and our photograph shows a group of officers on their way to arrest a man in West Edinburgh who was suspected of football hooliganism at the Hibs v Hearts match on 3 January 2013. That match started just before 8:00pm in the evening, and evidence from CCTV and witnesses had allowed the police to identify those involved.

The man was eventually arrested and removed to a police van after the officers knocked at his front door and kept a watchful eye on any other possible escape routes. At the same time however, his wife who objected first of all to the police

knocking on her door unexpectedly at around lunchtime. We heard shouts of "You need a warrant to come in here, where's your warrant?" and we were a little distance away from the ground floor flat.

A small group of onlookers had gathered by the time she raised her voice even more, by then objecting to the press presence outside her house, and she was vocal enough to be charged with a breach of the peace. She was removed from her house in a separate car. All of those arrested on Friday were taken initially to St Leonard's Police Station where there are around 50 cells.

It will have taken till today for all of those arrested in Friday's police action day to be brought to the Sheriff Court in Edinburgh. It was seen as a positive advantage that some of those arrested who might have been involved in football violence were taken into custody the day before another big match involving Hibs.

One essential aspect of the policing being carried out on Friday was that senior officers were involved in front line policing. The Reporter was accompanying Chief Inspector Mark Patterson who admitted he was not usually out walking the street, although he is present at large demos etc. But Patterson said:- "This is what I joined the police for. It gives me a good chance to find out what the normal job entails and allows us to increase our public presence all at the same time.

"Having this first national Campaign against Violence day on a Friday poses some challenges, but we have additional custody staff on duty to process all of those who will be arrested today, and of course there are additional custody centres we can use right across Scotland."

The police were using a mix of marked and unmarked police cars. There were four teams out across the city, each one with

a female officer and a local officer. Patterson continued:-“It is useful to split the officers up. Other CAV days may have a mix of plain clothes officers too depending on what is required. There was a lot of violence, including assaults and disorders in Dalry Road before the Derby match on 3 January and we are targetting seven addresses today. There are an additional 63 officers out in Edinburgh today. There are 24 officers from the national alcohol and violence reduction unit. Out of the balance 17 are usually back office staff in Edinburgh – superintendents, chief inspectors and the like. They will supplement our normal front line officers.

There are other teams out in Drylaw and St Leonard’s areas today too. The intention is that all 7 addresses are targetted at the same time. The focus for us today is very much those who have already committed violent crimes or those who might. It is all to do with the Police Scotland Keeping People Safe.”

Earlier the officers had been briefed at Wester Hailes Police Station and shown photographs of those they were out to apprehend. The location was chosen as that station has responsibility for Tynecastle Stadium where the offences had been committed.

As we sat in the car waiting for the other officers to arrive news came through of someone in East Lothian who had undertaken to show up at St Leonard’s. Whether they did or not, the police knew who they were after across Edinburgh on Friday and had made four arrests by Friday evening.

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The work required to be carried out at the McDonald Road junction with Leith Walk will involve the temporary closure to through traffic to McDonald Road along with a partial northbound bus lane closure around the location of the junction itself. The temporary closure will be from Wednesday 17 April for up to two weeks. Traffic diversions will be in

operation and the alternative access routes to the street will be via Pilrig Street, Annandale Street and/or Broughton Road.



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SSSSSHHHHHH! If you live in Corstorphine then stop making any noise. You might put the pandas off.... The latest news this evening is this:-

“Tian Tian our female giant panda chose to sleep a lot of this afternoon so we let her do what her body was telling her it needed. She woke late afternoon and we could see by behavioural analysis that she still had not yet reached peak. Her hormone results also backed this up. RZSS experts and our international colleagues will be regrouping early tomorrow morning where another enclosure swap will take place – Tian Tian will go into Yang Guang’s outdoor enclosure and vice versa.

This will give us the perfect opportunity to again monitor what stage Tian Tian has then reached. We hope she will continue to progress overnight and fully hit peak tomorrow morning.”

Watch this space.

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The first ever Paolozzi Art Prize has been awarded this evening at the National Gallery of Art, and the overall winner was announced as Lorna Serle. We will have photos and a short video soon!

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The Moderator of the General Assembly has lost some important pieces of jewellery owned by the Church and The Edinburgh Reporter [interviewed him on video today](#) to find out how you might be able to help.



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**VIDEO – Appeal by the Moderator for the return of**

# **‘significant’ jewellery**

## **Church**

✖ It was at the beginning of this month that police in Edinburgh first put out an appeal for help in finding jewellery owned by the Church of Scotland which had gone missing, along with the bag that they were in, from a luggage trolley early in the morning at Edinburgh Airport on 5 April 2013.

Now, a couple of weeks later, there is still no trace of the ring and the cross and The Edinburgh Reporter met with The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland who is appealing for any help in finding the missing items.

The Rt Rev Albert Bogle is the current Moderator and he said:- “There is a reward of about a four figure sum if the jewellery is returned in good condition. There will be no questions asked if the person who has these items just hands them in to a police station or here in George Street. Perhaps the person who has them has just not realised what they have picked up.

“The cross is a very nice piece of jewellery and is unique. Its value is not in the metal, but in the item itself. It has a nice little chain on it and there are fishes on it, as well as the St Andrew’s Cross. There is a Scottish theme with that item. We really do want to get it back.”

✖ These are two unique items – a gold ring and a cross pendant – related to the office of the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. The bag itself is notable as it has Peruvian style embroidery on it, and the ring with an amethyst stone has the St Andrew’s Cross, a burning bush and the motto ‘Nec Tamen Consumeatur’.

The Moderator had been on a trip supporting Christian Aid in their mission to highlight the conditions of miners in South

Africa.

Anyone with any information should contact Police Scotland on 101, or the charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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## Taoist Tai Chi Centre opening 19 April



The Taoist Tai Chi Society of Great Britain has told The Edinburgh Reporter that it is delighted to announce the Grand Opening of the new Taoist Tai Chi Centre in Edinburgh, close to Meadowbank, on Friday 19th April 2013, commencing at 11:30

This is the transformation of former supermarket into the largest tai chi space in Europe, and there will be over 600 people from 20 countries taking part. There will be a colourful dragon dance, and the event will be attended by VIPs including Kenny MacAskill will be present.

“Having lain empty for several years, the former supermarket premises at 69 Marionville Road have now been refurbished to become the largest European centre in the Taoist Tai Chi Society’s portfolio. With the Society’s focus on health and well-being, the centre will prove a significant resource.

The celebrations are an opportunity to combine colour and festivity, and include demonstrations of the 108-move Taoist Tai Chi™ Set, a dragon dance performed by members with the Society’s own 25 metre long dragon, a Chinese lion dance,



words of greetings from distinguished guests and Society leaders from around the world, and lunch.

Joining us in the celebrations and lending his support will be Scottish Justice Minister, Kenny MacAskill MSP, whose constituency includes the Society's premises in Marionville Road.

Many other representatives of the communities in which the Society is active have been invited, including Councillors, MSPs, MPs and MEPs, and others. Between 500 and 1,000 Society members are expected, from the UK, from Europe, and worldwide in what will be the largest gathering of Society members ever in the UK.

There will be opportunities to speak with Society leaders from home and abroad, and with other guests. Members of the Society will talk about the benefits they have gained from practicing Taoist Tai Chi™ internal arts of health."

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## **Youth Scotland in Edinburgh helped launch film premiere**



The youth group which meets on Victoria Terrace called 6VT was an instrumental part of the launch of a new film on Saturday night. The All Stars actors visited the Edinburgh youth club to help launch the premiere of their film which is to be

launched nationwide next month.

In partnership with Youth Scotland, member group [6VT](#) hosted the actors of new dance film All Stars at the weekend. All Stars follows shy kid Jaden (Akai) as he teams up with loudmouth Ethan (Theo Stevenson) to raise money to save their local youth club from closure. The film is due for nationwide release on 3 May.

✖ Stars Theo Stevenson (Horrid Henry: The Movie) and Akai (Streetdance films) visited the Victoria Terrace youth centre and spent time with young people who attend the centre's street dance workshops as part of the film's nationwide tour. Akai and Theo joined in with dance activity and shared experiences about working on the film with the group.

The previous evening, young people from [6VT](#) and Kic Dance watched the film at the Omni as part of a packed audience. The event went down a storm; Sharon Jones from Kic Dance said:

"Everyone made us so welcome, the kids (and adults) were star struck! Everyone enjoyed the film and very much appreciated such a fabulous opportunity. The kids have memories that will last a lifetime."

The film and its stars moved on from Edinburgh to Glasgow's Cineworld at another packed screening attended by young people from A&M Training. Ashley Jenson also attended the event and answered a Q&A session afterwards. She highlighted the importance of youth clubs in local communities.

Carol Downie, Chief Executive of Youth Scotland said:- "Youth groups are really important to local communities as they enable young people to maximise their potential through a range of social and educational opportunities. Funding is vital to ensure that young people are given the choices to succeed and develop. All Stars' message helps illustrate the

need for vibrant youth clubs in local communities and its nationwide release will bring home this message to many thousands of people.

“The film highlights a problem that a number of youth clubs and groups around the country are currently facing due to reduced funding and lack of investment.”

All Stars is released nationwide on 3 May. – Trailer below!



Photos from Stuart Nicol Photographer  
Mobile 07836703740

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## Government to look at rules for allotments



Plans to simplify and overhaul Scotland's allotment rules were announced today by The Scottish Government.

Rural Affairs Secretary Richard Lochhead has launched a consultation to consider the shape of future allotment legislation.

Among the questions being asked are:

*Should councils be required to provide people in their area within a specified timeframe*

*Should councils have a duty to provide a specific number of allotments in their area per head of population*

Mr Lochhead said:-“Growing your own food is continuing to grow in popularity in Scotland and this goes hand in hand with an increasing desire to know where our food comes from.

“Allotments provide a range of benefits including better health, an opportunity to learn new skills, and an understanding of where food comes from – not forgetting the chance to eat the fruits of your labour. We’re committed to helping people to grow their own food and this consultation will consider what changes should be made to the existing legislation to make it simpler and fit for today’s community needs.

“Many communities have expressed a desire to get back to nature and more involved with growing their own food and that’s exactly what we’re working to make possible.”

### Allotment consultation

Here in Edinburgh the council is currently working in terms of the [allotment strategy](#) which was agreed upon and published in 2010. New allotments have been opened at India Place, in response to the finding that there were at least twice as many people on the waiting list as there were plots. However now there is a four year waiting list for the 22 raised beds which were formed there. One of the main presumptions in the new council strategy was to presume against allotment holders using vehicles to get to their allotment site, so this gets rid of any need to provide car parking.

There are other initiatives to provide more space in the city for gardeners who do not have their own land. The Edinburgh Garden Share Scheme is an arrangement for a gardener to take

over a garden where perhaps the owner is older and is not able to keep the garden any longer. This promotes gardening and also some social interaction. The prospective gardeners are subject to a Disclosure Scotland check.

There are also community gardens projects across the city funded by the Climate Challenge Fund, who have also recently announced substantial funding for a new scheme in Wester Hailes called Edible Estates.

In September last year the council's Transport and Environment Committee agreed:- "That land already in the ownership of the Council be used to establish new allotment sites before additional land on the outskirts of the city was purchased and that regular progress reports be presented to Committee."

There have been no further reports on this matter since last September.

There is information for prospective allotment holders [here on the council website](#), but don't get out your spade just yet there is still a long waiting list.

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## The Edinburgh Reporter's Weekly Sports Round-up



Normally the Edinburgh Reporter's Weekly Sports Round-up starts with rugby, but not this week as we send out congratulations to Pat Fenlon and his players for reaching the William Hill Scottish Cup Final after a sensational comeback

from 3-0 down to beat Falkirk after extra time at Hampden Park on Saturday. This result means that Hibs will play in back to back Scottish Cup Finals for the first time since 1923/24.

Also a big 'well done' to everyone who braved the inclement weather to take part in the Rock and Roll Half Marathon.

## **Football**

Over 17,000 Hibs fans made the trip to the national stadium, but they were stunned to be three goals down after 30 minutes, however a spirited second half performance with goals from teenage winger Alex Harris, Leigh Griffiths and Eoin Doyle levelled the score-line, before man of the match Griffiths sealed a famous victory with a stunning 30 yard strike near the end.

After the game, an emotionally drained Pat Fenlon said:- "It was a horrendous first half, but we showed tremendous character and played really well after that. It wasn't much of a team talk and more of a rant, but it worked. But, in fairness to the players, they knew they'd let themselves down and the fans. I felt like leaving myself at half-time. It was difficult to watch and difficult to take and I apologise to the supporters for that first half – and that's down to me."

"We put everybody through the wringer today but have shown tremendous character. The players themselves had plenty to say at half-time, but it was a tremendous comeback."

"But what they have shown is that there's massive, massive character within the group and they've shown that in spades – and that end of the game was different class."

"Young Danny (Handling) and Alex (Harris) were different class for us and it was difficult for them to come on when we were chasing the game. Leigh Griffiths doesn't miss too many penalties, but we just got back to passing the ball after that. Today wasn't Leigh's best game for us, but the finish

for the goal, that's him. He doesn't let things like that bother him and he's got a great attitude. I'm delighted for him too because he's Hibs-daft and wanted to be in the final; we're there now.

"We've got five big league games to show that desire again too. We've had some tremendous games this year: Hearts in the first round and Aberdeen, Kilmarnock and now Falkirk; we'll worry about the final and see what happens then."

Hibs will face Celtic in the Final after another epic semi at the national stadium on Sunday. Kris Commons gave the Hoops an early lead, but Dundee United fought back and took the lead through goals from Gary Mackay-Stevens and Jon Daly. Celtic equalised through Victor Wanyama, before Commons added his second and Celtic's third, but a late Jon Daly header sent the tie into extra time.

Former Hibs striker Anthony Stokes scored Celtic's fourth with a bullet header in the 11th minute, and Celtic held on to make the final an all green affair.

Jamie Walker was voted Hearts' Young Player of the Year at the club's annual awards ceremony at Tynecastle.

The winger, who has broken into the first team this season and earned a call-up to the Scotland Under-21 squad, was presented with his award by Hearts manager Gary Locke, above. The Under-20s prize went to midfielder Callum Tapping, while Angus Beith took the Under-17s player of the year award.

Gary Stoddart received the George Nicolson Recognition Award for his coaching role with the club's Academy despite battling serious illness.

Hearts are bidding to fill Tynecastle for their next home match by dropping all ticket prices to £5 for the visit of St Mirren on Saturday, May 4.

## **East of Scotland Football**

In the Central Taxis Premier Division, Lothian Thistle Hutchison Vale beat Edinburgh University 2-0, whilst Heriot Watt went down by the same score-line away to Gretna.

Civil Service Strollers lost 4-0 away to Vale of Leithen, and Edinburgh City lost 2-0 to Whitehill Welfare.

In the First Division, Leith Athletic travelled to the Borders and returned with full points after beating Kelso 4-2, and Craigroyston beat Selkirk 2-1.

Spartans secured their place in the Central Taxis' League Cup semi-final with a convincing 5-1 victory over Tynecastle at Ainslie Park.

Spartans took the lead in the 13th minute, when Mark Whatley's shot hit Robbie Manson who slotted the ball home. Willie Bremner doubled the lead in the 20th minute when he rounded the keeper and rolled the ball into the net, before Tynecastle got themselves back into the game in the 38th minute when Daryl Burdett headed into the net from a corner kick. Tynecastle's Nyancho Manneh was shown a straight red card in the 62nd minute after slapping Kevin Motion, and with 15 minutes remaining Gary Cennerazzo sealed the win when his shot beat Banaszynski in the Tynecastle goal.

Three minutes later Donal Henretty pounced on a mistake by the Tynecastle keeper to score a fourth then sub Andy Martin poked the ball home from a few yards out for a fifth.

Malt & Hops Man of the Match: Gary Cennerazzo

## **Women's Football**

☒ Spartans beat Falkirk 4-0 at Ainslie Park. Reilly opened the scoring with a header from a Ewens' cross then added a second from a Barry pass. Reilly got her hat-trick in the 56<sup>th</sup>



minute after heading home a Marshall free-kick and Marshall completed the scoring firing into the bottom corner from a Jenkins' through ball.

Elsewhere, Hibs Ladies beat Celtic 3-2 thanks to goals from Caroline Weir, Siobhan Hunter and Susan Fairley. After the game a delighted Joelle Murray tweeted; "So proud of my teammates today. They battled together and kept running until the final whistle and showed great team spirit."

Louise Kerr, Toni Bertram and Lia Tweedie scored for Hibs Development team who beat Boroughmuir Development 3-1 in the League Cup Division Two at Meggetland

### **Rugby by John Preece**

...will start off with a correction to last week's report where it was stated that Edinburgh Accies finished third in the Premier Division. They did, in fact, finish in fourth place, but still qualify for the British and Irish Cup. Apologies to Stirling County who actually finished the season in third.

And a bit more action this week as Edinburgh played their second last home match of the season against Connacht. The big question was 'Could they make it three in a row?' The big – and short – answer was 'No!' Connacht have come a long way in the last few years and are no longer the whipping boys of the 'Celtic' sides. They had Edinburgh on the back foot for long periods and were really the only side that looked likely to score a try. This feat they managed twice to Edinburgh's none on the way to their 32-24 victory, in spite of Greg Laidlaw's eight from nine penalty success. Lion's call-up?

This result was in league with that of The Highlanders from Dunedin in New Zealand, who were soundly beaten by the Brumbies 30-19 in the Super 15's but managed to retain their fifteenth place in the table.

A great day's seven-a-side rugby was on offer on Saturday at

the Melrose Sevens (<http://www.melrose7s.com/> and is where the results, etc. can be found. With no Southern hemisphere teams making the trip this year, it fell to Europe to supply the 'class acts' with Saracens, Worcester and Clermon Auvergne all entering teams. In addition, India had entered a development team with an eye on next year's Commonwealth games. In all, 24 teams went into the draw, including all six of Edinburgh's major clubs, with only Heriots making it through in the draw to the second round, the other five teams having to go through preliminary first round matches.

Boroughmuir and Watsonians went through to join Heriots, but only Heriots made it any further. Boroughmuir went down fighting to Worcester and Watsonians lost out to hosts, Melrose.

In the Quarter-finals, Heriots came up against English Premiership side, Saracens, and were comprehensively beaten 31-10.

At least they can say they were beaten by the overall winners. Saracens met French side, Clermont Auvergne in a thrilling final, which the English team won 24-22 with an overtime try and conversion.

### **Edinburgh Rock and Roll Half Marathon.**

A huge 'well done' to everyone who braved the dismal weather conditions and ran in the Edinburgh Rock and Roll Marathon on Sunday.

The race was first run in 2010 as the Chris Hoy Edinburgh Half Marathon and was a great success, raising money for numerous local and national charities. The race looks set to be a regular annual feature, allowing runners to enjoy the scenery of Edinburgh and the Firth of Forth coastline. It started in Meadowbank Stadium, and from there the route took the runners away from the centre of Edinburgh towards the coast at Portobello before heading southwards to the finish line at

Musselburgh Racecourse.

The first man home was Bryan Mackie in a time of 1.15.24, followed by Robert Watson on 1.18.24 then Robert Weston on 1.19.00

The winning woman was Holly Rush who completed the course in 1.21.52. Second was Christy Gelineau on 1.23.14 and third Danielle Sansonetti on 1.28.44

## **Speedway**

Edinburgh Scotwaste Monarchs took a 27-point lead in the first leg of their knockout cup tie against Leicester, on a cold, wet night Friday night in Armadale.

DDS Monarch of the Match award was won by Hungarian Jozsef Tabaka. was unbeaten from his first five rides, including the race of the night against Lasse Bjerre in heat 12.

Claus Vissing had another excellent meeting, as did Craig Cook.

The following night, the Monarchs travelled to Leicester where they lost by two points to take the tie comfortably 102-77.

Their away fixture against Glasgow Tigers, scheduled for Sunday night was postponed.

Meanwhile the Monarchs' hopes of gaining a visa reprieve for stranded Australian star Sam Masters are diminishing fast. His visa expired in November and he must wait 12 months before applying for a new permit.

## **Basketball**

City of Edinburgh Kings will meet Edinburgh Lions in the Lothian Men's Basketball Cup Final on Saturday, May 4, after both sides won their semi-finals at Portobello High School last weekend.

Kings defeated Wolves 73-66 whilst the Lions disposed of Edinburgh and Borders Police 75-41.

In the Women's tournament, City of Edinburgh Kool Kats lost 55-48 to Comets who will play Midlothian Saints in the final.

On Sunday the Kings beat Glasgow University 81-54 at the Emirates Arena in the Senior Men's League.

Elsewhere, basketballscotland have announced a new partnership with The University of Edinburgh to deliver a High Performance Basketball Programme for female athletes in the 2013-14 season.

The partnership will create the first High Performance Basketball Programme for University-aged female athletes here in Scotland, giving players the opportunity to develop their skills alongside completing their academic studies at one of the world's leading Universities. For the first time, Scottish female athletes will have a structured, progressive and well-resourced home-based alternative to other programmes in the UK, Europe or the rest of the World, if they are serious about continuing their improvement in basketball at university.

Details of the programme will be developed over the coming months, in advance of the 2013-14 season.

## **Athletics**

Professional athletics is returning to Meadowbank, with promoter Frank Hanlon launching a new meeting, the Meadowbank Games, to be held on the evening of Friday, June 21.

Prizes range from £250 for first in the 100 metres open handicap and £200 for first in a scratch 110 metres race to £75 for first in five youth handicap races, ranging from 100 metres to 1600 metres. In all there are 17 events and entries will close on June 1.

The famous New Year Sprint which moved briefly to Meadowbank

from Powderhall then moved to Musselburgh Racecourse in December 1999 due to the cost of hiring the facilities.

## **Boxing**

Edinburgh boxer Craig McEwan has signed a three-year contract with New York boxing promoter Lou DiBella. Craig lived in Los Angeles for seven years before returning home to his native Scotland last year.

The 31 year old middleweight's fight with Huddersfield's Alastair Warren at Kilmarnock's Grand Hall on Saturday ended in a draw after the Englishman picked up a cut after an accidental clash of heads in the first round.

## **Golf**

Lothians did well to earn a 5-5 draw with Stirlingshire at Glenbervie.

Graham Robertson, (Silverknowes), Anthony Blaney (Liberton), Calum Hill (Tantallon) and Gary Corrigan (Greeburn) all won for the visitors with Benn McLeod (Musselburgh) and Ross Noon (Craigielaw) both earning half points.

## **Hockey**

Inverleith lost 3-0 to Grovehill Menzies at Peffermill on Saturday in the semi-finals of the Men's Arthur McKay Scottish Cup Final. Menzies will play Glynhill Hotel Kelburne in the final on Saturday 25 May.

Inverleith had appealed to Scottish Hockey to change the date of the game but a compromise was reached with a noon start which allowed several players to attend a wedding.

## **Volleyball**

The inaugural Final 4 Playoffs took place at Wishaw Sports Centre, featuring a total of 14 matches with Division 1 and 2

Teams fighting for the right to call themselves Playoff Champions

On Saturday, in the Men's Final 4 Playoffs, Edinburgh Jets beat Kilmarnock Blaze 3-2; 25-22, 22-25, 20-25, 25-21, 13-15. City of Edinburgh beat Bon Accord 3-0; 25-12, 25-14, 25-19

In the Women's Final 4 Playoffs, City of Edinburgh beat Edinburgh Jets 3-1; 25-22, 16-25, 25-19, 25-11.

In the Division 2 Final Playoffs NUVOC lost 2-3 to Dundee; 25-20, 25-21, 10-25, 16-25, 13-15. Edinburgh Jets II beat Glasgow International 3-1; 23-25, 26-24, 25-14, 25-23. City of Edinburgh II lost 3-2 to Bellshill Cardinals; 25-21, 25-20, 22-25, 22-25, 12-15.

## **American Football**

The Edinburgh Wolves American football team celebrate their tenth anniversary this year and look to mark the occasion by bringing home the 2013 national championship title.

The Wolves beat Clyde Valley Blackhawks 26-0 on Sunday at Meadowbank Stadium. in the first game of the new season.

They, who compete in the National Northern Division of the British American Football Association National League (BAFANL), and are current Division champions, but fell to defeat in the play-off semi-finals to eventual winners the Sheffield Predators last August.

## **Swimming**

Fifteen year old Duncan Scott set a new Scottish junior and British age group record in the 50m freestyle at last night's Scottish Gas National Championships at Edinburgh's Royal Commonwealth Pool.

The youngster set a new mark of 23.75 in the one length race, having minutes earlier won the 200m backstroke in 2:09.80

Elsewhere, three-time Olympian Caitlin McClatchey (Edinburgh University) also had to settle for silver in the 50m freestyle (26.54) behind Carnegie's Eloise Barber (26.48).

Warrender's Craig McNally took the 17 and over 200m backstroke (2:02.45), while Katie Stark won the 14 years (27.36) and Richard Schafers the 17 and over (23.23) 50m freestyle

## **High Jump**

High Jump athlete, Allan Smith, currently in America completing his winter training in a warmer climate, has won his first outdoor competition of the season at the US National Training Center Throws & Jumps Meet #6 in Clermont, Florida.

His winning leap of 2.17m was also the Scottish team qualifying standard height for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow 2014.

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# **Five things you need to know today**



**Monday holiday – Planning – Baby Charlotte – Salaries for University bosses criticised – People's Postcode Lottery Seed Truck**

Today is officially a Monday holiday in Edinburgh. Are you on holiday? What are you doing with your day off? Do you think that local holidays are useful? Or would it be better if we had national holidays?



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From the planning Weekly List we have noticed a couple of applications. Changes are afoot at Odeon Lothian Road where the owners would like to alter the entranceway. All of the planning papers are [here](#) including a drawing of the proposed elevation. They plan to have two sets of automatic sliding doors.

Out at Asda at Chesser they plan to build a [drive through area](#) for shoppers to collect their groceries.

And perhaps in some good news for Leith, on Leith Walk [there is an application](#) for a mixed use development of a site at Shrub Place previously used as a tram/bus depot.

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Police have traced 37-year-old Cliff Steel, who was reported missing from his home in Edinburgh on 3 April 2013. He was found safe and well yesterday in Kent.

☐ Police are however still looking for the mother of baby Charlotte who was found at Hailesland Park on Thursday afternoon and there will be a photo call later today at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary to show the baby off again, in the



hope that the mother may come forward.

The baby was named after PC Charlotte Work, who carried her to the hospital, who said: -“I am delighted that baby Charlotte is doing well and that there are no concerns for her health. As part of my duties it was important that an officer accompanied the child to the hospital, but it is very flattering that the staff chose to name her after me.

“What is more important, however, is for us to trace Charlotte’s mother and ensure she receives all the necessary medical attention and support she requires.

“I would urge her to get in touch with her doctor, attend at hospital or contact police so we can make sure she is safe and well.

“Similarly, we would like anyone with information that can assist us with our enquiries to contact Police Scotland on 101 immediately.” Our main photo today shows a rear view of Hailesland Park where baby Charlotte was found on a bench.

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In advance of the expected publication of the proposed code of good governance for Scottish universities this week, National

Union of Students, NUS Scotland, has produced a report showing the worrying levels of high pay among senior staff at Scottish universities.

The report collated figures taken from the most recent university financial statements and existing freedom of information requests, and found:

- Average basic pay (before pension contributions and benefits in kind) is over £200,00
- Just two principals have a salary below that of the First Minister
- Across 18 institutions, 88 individuals earn more than the First Minister
- On average, across Scotland the highest university earner receives 16.10 times the lowest (full-time equivalent)

In its submission to the consultants undertaking the development of the governance code, NUS Scotland has called for an explicit maximum ratio between highest and lowest earners, staff and student representation on university remuneration committees, and greater transparency in the setting and reporting of senior level pay.

**Robin Parker, President of NUS Scotland said:-** “It’s unjustifiable for university principals and other senior staff to routinely be paid such large sums. There are 88 senior staff members at Scottish universities who earn more than the First Minister, and across our institutions the gap between the lowest and highest paid is too large, with some receiving almost 20 times that of the lowest paid university employee.

“Universities need academic autonomy, but they should not have the freedom to pay such large salaries and to allow large gaps between those at the top end and the lowest paid. There are hundreds of millions of pounds of public money quite rightly going into universities over the next few years, we must make

sure that this money is used on the front line, not on increasing already substantial senior salaries.

“At a time when everyone is feeling the pinch it would be completely out of touch for university principals to think we didn’t need to have greater controls on such high levels of pay. Last year’s review into university governance was absolutely right to recognise that controversies over high pay undermines the trust we put in our universities. When there are senior managers getting paid far above and beyond what even the First Minister does, while the tens of thousands of staff below them receive a fraction of that, you can see why.

“The forthcoming governance code for Scottish universities provides the opportunity to start addressing the imbalance we see in university pay. A maximum pay ratio between highest and lowest earners and greater staff and student input into pay decisions are just two ways we can tackle inflated pay. These need to be defined in to code to ensure that we have that vital trust in our universities and those who are leading them.”

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Tomorrow there is a mini-Seed Truck event organised by People’s Postcode Lottery on Castle Street. The Seed Truck visits schools and community groups across Scotland, educating visitors in growing their own produce and taking action on climate change.

Their expertise has led to an increase in urban community gardens across the country. The branded van (which we are told looks really cool!) will be on Castle Street from 11am – 2pm and will be open to the public to go along and see / learn how they can create their own urban garden spaces.

Meantime there has been another Edinburgh winner....! [See our article here.](#)

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# People's Postcode Lottery winner in EH12!



The People's Postcode Lottery has announced another Edinburgh winner.

Elaine from Gyle Park Gardens won £20,000. Well done!

Gyle Park Gardens resident, Elaine Brown, was the lucky player to win the impressive sum, after her postcode, EH12 8NQ, was drawn as the Saturday Street prize winner. 'Gobsmacked' at having won, 51-year-old Elaine was left 'feeling wonderful' after she revealed her winning cheque and saw the £20,000 figure.

"This just isn't something you imagine will happen to you," said Elaine. "I have to keep pinching myself to realise that it's true. It is such a surprise, but a lovely surprise nonetheless.

"We haven't been on holiday abroad for about seven years or so, so this will definitely be used for myself, my husband, Hugh, and our daughter Sarah to jet off on holiday somewhere and get some sun."

Although the couple has had a few ideas of where they will go, they are planning on keeping the holiday plans a secret from

their 11-year-old daughter, Sarah.

“We have a few ideas of where we would like to go, but we’ve not told Sarah,” continued Elaine. “The last time we went away we went to Portugal, so she will probably think we’re going there. But we’ll keep it a surprise for her for a wee while.”

And although it was their Edinburgh address and lucky postcode that won Elaine and Hugh the fantastic sum, the couple are both originally from the West Coast, from Cumbernauld and Bishopbriggs respectively. They both moved to Edinburgh for work, where Hugh works in communications for CrossReach and Elaine has been working as a project worker for Barnardos for 24 years.

Both working in the charity sector, Elaine and Hugh appreciate how important it is to raise money for charities and good causes all across the country. In fact, together, players of People’s Postcode Lottery have raised over £24.7 million to date, with more than £614,000 being awarded to good causes throughout Edinburgh city.

People’s Postcode Lottery ambassador and Street Prize Presenter Judie McCourt said; “It was great to meet Elaine and find out more about how she and Hugh are going to spend their winnings. We’re sure they will have a wonderful time on holiday, wherever they go. Congratulations again and thanks to players for their continued support of the many fantastic good causes all across the country.”

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# Rugby – Melrose Sevens



## 2013 Aberdeen Asset Management Melrose Sevens

A great day's seven-a-side rugby was on offer on Saturday at the [Melrose Sevens](#) and, as usual, a great day was to be had. With no Southern hemisphere teams making the trip this year, it fell to Europe to supply the 'class acts' with Saracens, Worcester and Clermon Auvergne all entering teams. In addition, India had entered a development team with an eye on next year's Commonwealth games. In all, 24 teams went into the draw, including all six of Edinburgh's major clubs, with only Heriots making it through in the draw to the second round, the other five teams having to go through preliminary first round matches.



First up in the Edinburgh batch were Currie and Boroughmuir. With this draw, at least one Edinburgh side were going to suffer a very short involvement in the tournament. And that dubious 'honour' went to Currie as 'Muir went through in a convincing 22-5 victory. Stewarts-Melville were next in line against Gala and the Borders side did the business with an even more convincing 33-7 win. Two down four to go. It was then Watsonians turn to keep Edinburgh's heads up and this they did, again convincingly, 26-5 against Glasgow Hawks.

So far so good. Edinburgh Accies then had a potential banana skin match against Howe-of-Fife, a team three divisions below in the grand scheme of things, and a banana skin it nearly proved to be. 19-14 ahead, Accies just managed to hold out in the dying seconds to take the win.

So that took care of Round 1.

Boroughmuir had the first go with a mouth watering match-up with English Premiership side, Worcester Warriors. And they pushed the visitors all the way with some superb play, but just failed to take the match, going down 22-21 to the Pro side. Watsonians had won through to meet host side, Melrose, and in another close match, Melrose eventually won that one, 24-19. The final Edinburgh involvement in Round 2 was down to Heriots, who had fellow Premier Division side Edinburgh Accies to face. This one wasn't so close. and the Goldenacre men ran out, relatively, easy 31-7 victors and went on to face Saracens as the only Edinburgh representatives in the Quarter-finals.

And the Quarter-finals is where local involvement ceased. Saracens, having disposed of Peebles – and who thought that would ever be announced as a fixture – outscored Heriots 31-10 to face Aberdeen in the Semi finals.

The four Semi-finalist were Ayr – who beat Worcester 33-17 in the Quarter's – were up against French Super-team, Clermont Avergne, and the aforementioned Aberdeen and Saracens. As, probably, expected, the matches went the way of the respective Professional teams with Ayr losing out 22-12 and Aberdeen giving Saracens more than a bit of a fright in their 24-19 defeat.

Which left the Final. Clermont v Saracens. A fitting match-up in the final round of the oldest seven's tournament in the World. And what a match it turned out to be. With Saracens taking an early 12-0 lead in first two minutes of the first half, it was looking like a none-event, but Clermont were only warming up it seemed. Scoring three unanswered tries of their own, the half time score stood at 17-12 to the French team.

Saracens soon gained possession in the second half and pushed Clermont back, eventually coming up with the equalising try, which was answered almost immediately by the men in yellow, who scored a controversial touch down. With no TMO available

it was down to the official in the goal area to award the try. A close look on the BBC's big screen, however, appeared to show that the ball was grounded on the dead-ball line, but the decision had been made and the score stood. In a hopeless display of drop kicking from both teams, the kick was once again missed and the score was 22-17 to Clermont. The last couple of minutes were edge of the seat stuff, with Clermont trying to hold on and Saracens trying to catch up. However, a final minute attack saw Saracens upfield and engineering a bit of space, which saw them over the line for the try (pictured). A collective holding of breath for the kick saw a hush descend, and it seemed to work as the final touch of the ball saw it through the posts to give Saracens the win with a very close run 24-22 victory.

What a fitting way to end the 123rd running of this tournament, which goes from strength to strength each year, with bigger sponsors allowing the addition of 'bigger' teams, but not at the expense of the likes of Peebles and Howe-of-Fife. It's also fairly certain that Melrose will be 'tidying' up for a few days to come!

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

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## Five things you need to know today



**Baby Charlotte doing well at Simpsons – Fire in West Lothian – Edinburgh High Jumper on way to Commonwealth Games – Rock n Roll – Today at The Cameo**



Our main photo today is provided by NHS Lothian and shows the baby found next to a block of flats known as Hailesland Park being cuddled by the nurse looking after her at the Royal Infirmary Edinburgh. Police remain concerned for the welfare of the baby's mother who it is presumed left her on a bench on Thursday afternoon. The baby has been named after the police officer who carried her to the hospital.

Some of the bigger newspapers such as [The Telegraph](#) have displayed their lack of local knowledge by claiming that the baby was left in a park. The nearest park is Hailes Quarry Park further along the canal, where there is an outdoor gym, but the baby was left on a bench near flats which are only a couple of hundred metres from Wester Hailes Police Station.



Hailesland Park

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[A fire this morning](#) at the Five Sisters Zoo in Polbeth has been brought under control, but some animals have perished in the fierce blaze.

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High Jump athlete, Allan Smith, is currently in America completing his winter training in a warmer climate. He won his first outdoor competition of the season at the US National Training Center Throws & Jumps Meet #6 in Clermont, Florida.

His winning leap of 2.17m was also the Scottish team qualifying standard height for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow 2014. The qualification window opened on 1 April 2013. We interviewed Allan earlier in the year which you can watch [here](#).

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[The Rock n Roll Half Marathon](#) began this morning just after 9. It finishes in Holyrood Park where there is supposed to be a Finish Line Festival with live music. It may be that the weather will finish that off this morning...



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Loads of good things on today at The Cameo. You can get in out of the rain here. The Cameo is our favourite because of the snacks they serve – which are a cut above some others... Do you have a favourite cinema?

Today they are screening Trance which has had some mixed

reviews.... What is your view?

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## Rugby – Edinburgh v Connacht



### **Edinburgh v Connacht, RaboDirect PR012, 12 April 2013**

Edinburgh were on for three-in-a-row for the first time in, oh... ages, with only once bottom of the league fixtures, Connacht, standing in their way. But no more. The visitors had the majority of the ball in a match in which Edinburgh managed to lose a decent lead and then found themselves playing catch-up for the rest of the night.

The first half hour of the match was reduced to a kicking contest between Greg Laidlaw and Dan Parks, Laidlaw coming out 12-3 ahead. It then went a bit wrong for the home side. Carrying the ball upfield a couple of wide passes saw a huge overlap appear from nowhere, which Connacht flanker, Mike Kearney took advantage of to gallop through to score the visitor's first try. Parks scored the conversion and in one fell swoop, the score was a worryingly close 12-10.

 Laidlaw pulled Edinburgh another three points clear after Parks was carded for a deliberate knock-down, but a few minutes later Connacht were back to within two from another penalty from 'substitute' kicker Gavin Duffy to end the first half 15-13 to Edinburgh.

Within 10 or so minutes of the restart, Connacht had pulled a lead out through two Parks penalties. Edinburgh had had a chance but the final pass, as ever, went astray. From the

restart, Edinburgh were awarded yet another penalty at the breakdown, which cost a yellow for the visitors. A successful kick pulled Edinburgh up to within a point at 18-19. Geoff Cross then had a penetrating run up through the defence awarded with a scrum to the home side, the resultant infringement from Connacht giving Laidlaw an easy three points to take the score up to 21-19 to the home side.

Another kick exchange took the score to 24-22 to Edinburgh and then, with 10 minutes to go, a seemingly speculative stab through with the boot saw a comedy of errors enacted in the Edinburgh defence as first Brown, then Laidlaw failed to deal with the randomly bouncing ball. This gave Connacht the chance to get up, and another hack through saw full back, Robbie Henshaw, pull the ball from the back of the goal line ruck and dive over for Connacht's second try. Parks converted and scored again with a final minute penalty and Edinburgh were, once again, ruing mistakes and lost chances in the 32-24 defeat.

Man of the Match award for Greg Laidlaw (pictured top) was precious little compensation for a hard fought, but ultimately fruitless encounter.

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

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## **Animals die in Fire at West Lothian Zoo**



Firefighters have controlled the fire at the Five Sisters zoo

which broke out just before 4am this morning. Resources have been scaled back to two fire appliances and crews remain on site dealing with small pockets of fire and assisting zoo and vet staff.

The alarm was raised at 3.50am this morning to reports that the tropical house at the zoo was well alight.

Five fire appliances were mobilised to the scene and a number of specialist appliances including a turntable ladder which was used as a water tower. The water bowser was also requested from Larbert to assist with water provision. Firefighters were able to help them rescue two dwarf crocodiles and an otter, but sadly some animals have perished in the fierce fire.

Full details of the animals affected will not be available for some time until it is safe for zoo staff to access affected areas.

The tropical house where the fire broke out was well alight when crews arrived on scene. High winds made firefighting conditions more difficult but crews successfully battled to prevent the fire from spreading to neighbouring animal enclosures.

Fortunately the fire is now predominantly out and firefighters are checking to ensure no fire spread and help zoo staff on site to assess the damage.

No people were injured as a result of the fire.

An investigation into the cause of the blaze will now take place.

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# Tourism Minister challenges UK government on new immigration procedures at ports

## *SNP MSP WELCOMES SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION*

Warnings from the cruise industry of the chaos being caused by the UK Border Force's new procedures – which have so far fallen on deaf ears – are being reinforced by the Scottish Government to in the form a letter to the UK minister of state for immigration.

The agency's new interpretation of the rules is causing significant problems to the industry, with every cruise ship passenger now subject to a face to face interview upon arriving in anywhere in the UK.

Previously cruise ship passengers and crews were cleared in advance with manifests checked via agents.

With large cruise ships potentially carrying thousands of passengers at a time, the delays and increased costs associated with the move are causing fears that operators will become increasingly reluctant to visit Scotland, reversing the rapid growth that the industry has seen in recent years.

Last year visitors to Scotland from cruise ships were estimated to have generated £41 million for Scotland's economy.

Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism Fergus Ewing MSP wrote: -“This is very damaging: it reduces the length of time available on-shore and makes cruise companies less inclined to call at UK ports – both are highly detrimental to local

economies.

“We believe it is also functionally redundant as these checks duplicate the rigorous controls performed at the port of embarkation when passengers initially check-in for cruise embarkation.”

Stuart McMillan MSP wrote to the Westminster Government in early December highlighting the problems that the new approach, but received no reply. Mr McMillan, who convenes the Cross Party Group on Recreational Boating and Marine Tourism, also spoke with Cruise Scotland Chairman Richard Alexander who is equally concerned about the changes.

Mr McMillan said:-“The cruise ship sector is increasingly important to Scotland’s economy, with passenger numbers growing rapidly as more and more people visit our shores via cruise ship. I am delighted that Fergus Ewing has made contact with the UK government – they can no longer stay silent on this issue which has a profound impact on Scotland’s economy.

“We should be doing everything we can to boost and support the tourism sector, not putting ill-considered obstacles in its path as Westminster seems determined to do. It is completely unacceptable for Westminster to simply ignore the repeated warnings that the cruise industry has given them. These latest calls must act as a wakeup call to Westminster that can no longer simply be brushed aside.

“Instead of continuing to put the arbitrary goals of the Tories ahead of the needs of this multi-million pound sector of the tourism industry, Westminster must listen to the evidence and bring an end to this chaotic new approach as a matter of urgency.”

[Letter From Scot Govt to Min for State for Immigration – Passport Checks – 28th March 13](#)