

The Edinburgh Reporter's Weekly Sports Roundup



Congratulations go to former Hibs captain Ian Murray for keeping Dumbarton in the First Division against all odds, Hibs Ladies for a fantastic 10-1 win, Ross Caldwell for scoring his first SPL goal, Spartans for reaching the Kings Cup Final, Leith Athletic 16s for winning the Jackie Faichney Memorial Cup, the Edinburgh Monarchs for beating Berwick Bandits, Lewis Benson for winning silver in last weekend's Belgrade Winners Tournament, basketball coach Donna Finnie who made history by being appointed as Head Coach to of Houston Baptist University women's basketball team, the City of Edinburgh Kings and Kats for winning national trophies, the City of Edinburgh Volleyball team who won the Women's Scottish Cup and thirteen year old Anastasia Mikheeva from Duddingston, who won the girls under-18 singles trophy at the prestigious AEGON ITF tournament in Nottingham

Rugby by John Preece

After beating The Netherlands in their opening match, Scotland's Women were looking forward to the Italy match in Madrid with a view to securing qualification for the next World Cup, but too many errors in the heat lead to a 27-3 defeat. Down 17-3 at half time, the Scots could not get their game plan to fire on all cylinders and, in spite of some good defence, could not hold the Italians out for long.

Needing to win, the Scottish girls went in to battle against Sweden in their final match on Saturday. Performing with great grit and determination, they ran in eleven tries to Sweden's one. Although the teams were even at 5-5 after less than ten minutes, the Scots soon powered away to lead 27-8 at half

time. They went on to score seven unanswered tries in the second half to put themselves into the mix for the two available places. The outcome depended on the results from other matches. However, with Samoa just beating The Netherlands and Spain winning over Italy, Scotland were unable to qualify and will sit out the 2014 Tournament. At least they now know what our football players feel like!

Earlier in the week there was a bit of news on the team front from Edinburgh. Allan 'Chunk' Jacobsen announced that he would be retiring from Professional rugby at the end of the current season after 16 years in the game playing for Edinburgh and Scotland (pictured above against the All Blacks).

Players leaving the team at the end of the season for pastures new were also named during the week as James King, Andy Titterell, Sep Visser and Mike Penn.

An inbound player was also announced as Tongan front-row, Aleki Lutui. He's been signed on a two-year contract from Worcester Warriors.

Football

Congratulations go to former Hibs captain Ian Murray for guiding Dumbarton to safety in the SFL Division One. When Edinburgh-born Ian took over as manager in November, the team looked a certainty for relegation, however a string of good results has seen the 'Sons of the Rock' climb the table to seventh place, nine points clear of second bottom Cowdenbeath.

In the SPL, Hibs took the lead in the 30th minute from a stunning Leigh Griffiths' strike, but St Mirren equalised through Goncalves after Steven Thompson's effort had been blocked by James McPake.

Substitute Ross Caldwell added a second for Hibs with his first senior goal, before Marc McAusland equalised with a header, then scored a third to give the Buddies the lead with

eight minutes remaining. Three minutes later, Leigh Griffiths scored his 27th goal of the season to grab a share of the points.



Great play by man of the match Alex Harris almost set up Tom Taiwo for a late winner, but the midfielder's effort went inches past the post.

Hearts travelled to Dundee but returned empty handed after a late 30 yard free-kick from Ryan Conroy secured the points. The Tynecastle men played the majority of the game with 10 men after Andy Webster was sent off in the 28th minute.

The results leave Hibs in 9th place on 42 points with Hearts 10th on 40.

East of Scotland Football

Congratulations go to Spartans who are into the King Cup Final following a convincing 3-1 victory at home to Whitehill Welfare.

Spartans opened the scoring after just 7 minutes thanks to a back post header by Willie Bremner, and extended the lead in the 37th minute when a cross from the left wing was headed back across goal by Keith McLeod to Bremner who was waiting at the back post to poke the ball home.

Spartans grabbed a third in the 57th minute through Keith McLeod who slotted the ball into the corner of the net from 10 yards out.

Whitehill pulled a goal back three minutes later when Mike Bruce managed to force the ball home from 4 yards out from a corner.

Malt & Hops Man of the Match: Keith McLeod

Elsewhere in the Central Taxis League Cup, First Round, Edinburgh City beat 2-1, whilst in the Central Taxis Premier Division Heriot-Watt beat Vale of Leithen 2-1.

In the Central Taxis First Division Craigroyston hammered Eyemouth 7-2 whilst Leith Athletic beat Gala 4-0.

Off the field, Civil Service Strollers FC have confirmed they have entered into a Football Partnership with Salvesen Community FC. The agreement, which is for an initial two year period, allows a pathway for young players to develop within the game, and make the transition from Youth to Senior football. Both these Clubs have been at the forefront of Football within the Edinburgh area for a great number of years and are looking forward to a long and successful partnership. Both clubs will continue to operate under their individual names.

From next season the Civil Service Strollers First Team will be managed by former Salvesen Coach, Andy Raeburn, who returns to Civil Service Strollers for a second spell and former Salvesen player Ryan Harding joins Civil as First Team Coach/Player after playing over 180 SFL games mainly with Greenock Morton and Alloa Athletic.

Youth Football

Leith Athletic 16s fought back from a goal down to overcome AC Oxfangs 4-1 in the final of the Jackie Faichney Memorial Cup at Saughton Enclosure.

Lewis Murray opened the scoring for AC with a back post header, before Leith equalised on the stroke of half-time following a long range James Cook free kick, then took the lead when Paul Kennedy powered home a header from a Robbie Ewing cross

Gavin Brown added a third before Russell Hogg sealed victory with a fourth near the end, to secure the trophy for Leith.

Women's Football

Another fantastic result for Hibs Ladies who beat Kilsyth 10-1 with goals from Lizzie Arnott (3), Susan Fairlie (2) Rachael Walkingshaw (2), Katie Turner, Kirsty Smith and Caroline Weir.

Meanwhile Spartans Women surrendered a two goal lead against Forfar Farmington in Tayside, and had to settle for a 2-2 draw.

Boroughmuir High School Girls football team won the Scottish Schools senior shield following a penalty shoot-out in the final against Nicolson Institute from Stornoway.

The game ended in a 0-0 draw in Inverness but goalkeeper Hannah Michie saved the third penalty and Nicolson missed their fourth, whilst Ella Devlin, Cailin Michie, Laura Kirkhouse and Katy Nelson all converted their spot kicks to ensure the 'Black Cats' brought home the cup.

Speedway

The Scotwaste Edinburgh Monarchs moved to the top of the northern League Cup section, with a 55-37 win over Berwick Bandits in terrible weather conditions at Armadale.

17 year old Australian Under-21 champion. Max Fricke was chosen as DDS Monarch of the Match. The team have a week off now before the visit of league champions Scunthorpe to Armadale.

Simon Gerrans, the 2012 Australian road cycling champion who happens to be Max Fricke's cousin, was in the crowd along with Jeff Banks, the internationally famous fashion designer who co-founded the Warehouse fashion chain. One of his recent projects has been to design street wear for the Orca GreenEdge cycle team, hence the reason for the visit.

Boxing

There was a silver medal for Edinburgh boxer Lewis Benson in last weekend's Belgrade Winners Tournament.

The 21-year-old from Lochend beat pre-tournament favourite Chladek from the Czech Republic in his first bout then beat Kazakhstan's Suleiman Berdukayev before eventually losing to Canada's Yves Ulysse Jr in the final by 13-5.

Elsewhere, Clovenstone's Ryan McCutcheon (52kg) and Benson's Lochend team-mate, Aston Brown (75kg), were both defeated at the quarter-finals stage by Serbia's Milos Baltic and Hungary's Zoltan Harcsa.

Hockey

Edinburgh University women's hockey squad beat Grove Menzieshill 4-3 on penalties after a 2-2 draw at Peffermill, to reach next month's Scottish Cup final.

Now they face Glasgow-based Western, in the final on May 25 at the same venue. Western beat CALA Edinburgh 1-0 in the other semi-final.

Stewart's Melville edged Grange 1-0 in the Scottish Plate semi-finals and will now play Watsonians, who beat Glasgow Accies 6-2, in the final.

Tennis

Former world tennis No. 1 Carlos Moya has confirmed his place in the field for Brodies Champions of Tennis, the first ever ATP Champions Tour event to be held in Scotland which place at the home of Edinburgh Accies rugby club from June 20-23.

Organisers also confirmed the final entries as South African Wayne Ferreira and the Swedish duo of Thomas Enqvist and Mikael Pernfors, who join Tim Henman and Goran Ivanisevic, John McEnroe, Greig Rusedski and Mark Philippoussis at the tournament.

McEnroe, Ferreira and Pernfors take part in a special Legends event.

Of his forthcoming visit to Edinburgh Moya said: 'Having the chance to play in Edinburgh is so exciting for me. I have never played there before, but I hear it is a great city. The player field looks amazing and I can't wait to have the chance to play against people like Philippoussis, Henman and Ivanisevic. They're all great players and old friends of mine from the Tour. It should be really great fun.'

Tickets are now on sale at www.championsoftennis.com

Schedule:

Thursday Afternoon (First match 2pm): Rusedksi v Philippoussis, Ferreira v Pernfors.

Thursday Evening (7pm): Henman v Ivanisevic, Rusedski/Moya v Enqvist/Pernfors.

Friday (2pm): Henman v Enqvist, Ferreira/Philippoussis v Ivanisevic/Pernfors. Evening: Rusedski v Moya.

McEnroe/Henman v Ferreira/Philippoussis. Saturday (2pm): McEnroe v Pernfors, Moya v Philippoussis, Enqvist v Ivanisevic.

Sunday (time tbc): Third v fourth, McEnroe v Ferreira followed by Brodies Champions of Tennis.

Edinburgh tennis starlet Anastasia Mikheeva (13) from Duddingston, won the girls under-18 singles trophy at the prestigious AEGON ITF tournament in Nottingham at the weekend.

Seeded 12th, Anastasia won through six ties, including a three-set final against fellow Scot Maia Lumsden, aged 14, from Glasgow.

Basketball

Congratulations go to former Edinburgh Council sports development officer and Scottish national basketball team coach, Donna Finnie, who has made basketball history by being appointed as Head Coach to of Houston Baptist University women's basketball team, the HBU Huskies, who are an NCAA division one college team.

Donna, a former pupil of St Augustine's High and graduate of Heriot-Watt University, is believed to be the first British Female Coach to achieve such a position.

Cycling

Edinburgh cyclist Callum Skinner has been named in the Great Britain Podium squad which comprises riders believed to be potential medal contenders at the forthcoming Commonwealth Games.

Judo

Leith's Patrick Dawson lost to Russian Musa Mogushkov in the first round of the Under-73kg event at the European Judo Championships in Budapest. Dawson had gone into the championships with high hopes having beaten Olympic champion Mansur Isaev, also from Russia, in South America last month.

Edinburgh's Sally Conway lost her opening bout in the second round against Slovenia's Anka Pogacnik who landed a Yuko in the opening seconds. Conway tried to respond but failed to register a score.

Volleyball

It's been a busy weekend in the volleyball calendar with a number of finals taking place at Wishaw. In the Women's Scottish Cup Final, City of Edinburgh beat Edinburgh Jets 3-1, whilst the Jets lost to Kilmarnock Blaze in the Men's Final.

Elsewhere Edinburgh Jets II went down 3-0 to Ragazzi II in the Men's Scottish Plate.

Basketball

Congratulations to the City of Edinburgh Kings who beat Clark Eriksson Fury 68-66 in the Senior Men's Play Off Final. Fury led 22-17 after the first quarter, but Kings fought back to lead 39-35 at half time. The second half started with two free throws for the Kings after a technical foul was called on Fury during the interval.

At the end of the third quarter, Kings led 56-44, but Fury dominated the last period and narrowed the final score to two points.

Earlier, the City of Edinburgh Kats beat St Mirren 82-47 in the Women's Play Off Final. The Kats led 12-9 after the first quarter then 33-19 at half time. They ended the third quarter 20 points up 56-36 then dominated the last period to win by 35 points.

Edinburgh Airport using better technology



Edinburgh Airport is seeking to revolutionise its passenger experience through the better use of technology.

In a Scottish first, Scotland's busiest airport met with local technology companies and asked them to examine the passengers' journey from car to plane and look at how their technology could improve it.

The event, organised in partnership with ScotlandIS which is the trade body for the information and communications

technologies (ICT) industry, was held at TechCube, a new space for technology startups in Edinburgh and brought together a group of local businesses and representatives from Edinburgh Airport.

After presenting its passenger journey from beginning to end, the airport challenged Scotland's best technological minds to identify new and improved ways of applying technology.

After carrying out its own technology review, Edinburgh Airport decided to invest in the expertise and potential of independent technology businesses to identify areas of improvement. Businesses have now been given time to go away and come up with exciting new ideas.

Polly Purvis, Executive Director of ScotlandIS, said:- "It is encouraging to see an organisation like Edinburgh Airport being so open and keen to learn about how improved technology can further enhance its passengers' travel experience. Edinburgh Airport has shown it is committed to supporting local fledgling technology companies".

John Watson, Edinburgh Airport's Chief Commercial Officer, said:- "One of our top priorities is to ensure our passengers have the best journey possible when they travel with us. This is from the minute they book their trip to boarding their flight.

"We don't have all the answers, so we've asked the experts to help us. We are always looking at efficient technology solutions and reviewing our current practices. This event allowed us to engage with local resources and gather new ideas."

Graeme Agnew, Head of IT at Edinburgh Airport, said:- "Technology innovation is now a key enabler for transforming the experience of our passengers – it will set Edinburgh Airport aside, with many improvements planned for the coming months. The event this week has been a massive success and

proven there is an abundance of real talent across these local firms; expertise we can now work with in partnership to achieve some fantastic goals”.

MEP Alyn wants to help thirsty travellers!

MEP IN MOVE TO ADDRESS FLYING THIRST

SNP MEP Alyn Smith is calling for a change in European law to ensure that all EU airports provide safe and free drinking water to passengers.

Continuing security restrictions mean passengers can't carry liquids through security and have limited options for keeping themselves hydrated airside.

Research conducted by Smith's office has revealed that even in Scotland there is only patchy availability of water fountains and often passengers are left with no alternative but to purchase the over-priced bottled water from the airport shops or expensive food outlets.

Although in Scotland, thanks to the licensing laws, passengers can get tap water from bars in airports; this is not a workable solution for all, especially parents with young children.

In an attempt to rectify this situation, Smith has written to the European Commissioner for Transport, Siim Kallas, and the European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, Tonio Borg, urging them to introduce a law forcing all European airports to provide facilities for good quality drinking

water.

Alyn said:-“EU rules, which I support, have meant that passengers can no longer bring water through security, so it strikes me as only fair that the EU should give people rights to alternative sources of drinking water at airports other than having to use pricey shops.

“Many airlines and airports advise passengers to drink plenty of water throughout their journey but it’s difficult to follow that advice with no regulation for compulsory drinking water in place.

“The price of bottled water at airports is disproportionately high and while licensed premises in Scotland must provide free water, this is not a solution for everyone. Parents may understandably be reluctant to take their children into bars and this legislation covers only Scotland.

“Some Scottish airports are providing a great example for others to follow but it shouldn’t matter where you’re flying from. Standards should be the same across the board and a supply of drinking water shouldn’t be too much to ask in a 21st century European airport.

“Not only does this make sense for the health of passengers, there is also an important environmental aspect; we all know the problems associated with plastic waste including water bottles. Water fountains offer an environmentally-friendly way to help reduce plastic waste.

“This is a good, straightforward way to address a couple of problems at once and it’s certainly a sensible move for the health of passengers. I’m pressing for a small, common-sense change.”

Edinburgh Airport already offers water from a drinking fountain just after security.

'Leith in Black and Red' in Gallery anniversary



'Brunswick Street Stairs" by Tommy Perman

Often the strange and quirky parts of shops or buildings can be over-looked in a busy street, but Leith artist [Tommy Perman](#) has focused on these designs and is challenging you to notice them. From the iconic 'Brunswick Street Stairs' known as a treacherous path to the local post office depot, to humorous signs such as 'Bacon Rolls etc' the strong urban identity of the area is represented in abstract black and red. Tommy is also interested in using strong urban themes such as faded glories, how heavily guarded dis-used buildings might have a 'Welcome' sign, and when listed buildings become protected but lose their original beauty in the process.

Trystan Davies, for The Edinburgh Reporter, spoke to Tommy about his choice of black and red, what he thinks of the controversial Argyle House, and how becoming a father has affected his work:

[listen to 'Leith in Black and Red: interview with Tommy Perman' on Audioboo](#)



Tommy Perman's host is the Red Door Gallery on Victoria Street

and they too have reason to celebrate with a ten year anniversary. The Gallery was opened in 2003 by Jason Redman, who was a banker with Lloyds TSB, and Jenny Hendra who had just left Edinburgh College of Art. The idea was originally born of frustration with a dearth of galleries willing to take a chance with the emerging artists, and sell art between £10-£1000 to young professionals.

Trystan Davies, for The Edinburgh Reporter, spoke to Creative Manager Nicky Brooks:

[listen to 'Ten years of Red Door Gallery' on Audioboo](#)

'Leith in Black and Red' will be at the Red Door Gallery from this weekend and all works are available from the [website](#), including limited edition skateboards printed in collaboration with local skate shop FOCUS.

Edinburgh's Colin Chisholm through to next stage of 'The Voice.'



International superstar Sir Tom Jones has chosen Edinburgh singer Colin Chisholm to be part of 'Team Tom' on BBC's Saturday night hit show 'The Voice.'

The 60 year old father of two from Chesser beat 35,000 hopefuls to appear on the 'blind audition' of the popular talent show in front Sir Tom, Jessie J, Danny O'Donoghue of The Script and Will.I.Am.

Colin, who was nominated by daughter Chloe without his knowledge, gave an outstanding performance of the old Roy Orbison / Cindi Lauper hit 'I Drove All Night,' and as his excited family, including wife Gillian, son David and daughter Chloe watched nervously from back stage, Sir Tom quickly eased their worries when he turned his chair round and make Colin the eleventh member of his roster.

It was obvious that Colin's performance had impressed the other judges as well; however they all felt that his style was best suited to 72 year old legend and left him to it.

Afterwards, Jessie J described Colin and Sir Tom as a 'Perfect Match' which Will.I.Am called their partnership "Danger in the midst," suggesting that he was a strong contender to win the first prize of a recording contract.

Colin thanked Sir Tom for selecting him, and the Welshman replied: "You're welcome, I thought you sounded great. Your tone and pitch was right on. You got into the song and you sang it the way you felt it"

Colin was delighted to have Sir Tom as his coach as he believes that he can learn the most from him due to his "constantly reinventing himself" and said; "He's been the best singer for the decades. In my opinion, he's got a phenomenal voice."

The last round of 'Blind Auditions' take place next week which will leave all four coaches with 12 contestants each. After that, the coaches pit two of their own team members against each other to sing the same song together in front of a studio audience, then after the vocal face-off, the coach must choose only one to advance to the next stage.

At the end of the knockout rounds, the strongest members of each coach' team proceed to the live stage shows, where the television audience vote to save one contestant on each team, leaving the coach to decide on live television who they want

to save.

Finally, each coach will have his/her best contestant left standing to compete in the finals, singing an original song. From these four, one will be named "The Voice"—and will receive the grand cash prize of a recording contract.

Colin has tasted the big time before, as a singer with Edinburgh band Bilbo Baggins in the early seventies, sharing manager Tam Paton with the Bay City Rollers.

The group consisted of Colin, Clermiston trio Brian Spence, Gordon McIntosh and James Devlin along with Gordon Liddle from Glasgow. In a seven year spell, 'BB' as they were known to fans played over 100 gigs throughout the country, supporting top bands such as Mud.

Although the group did not have the same success at The Rollers, many considered them to be the more talented band.

Their distinctive style involved long, faded denim coats with high-waist baggy white trousers, although later they all wore school-style blazers with a pocket badge embroidered with the BB initials.

They soon gathered a large following and appeared on Top of the Pops with 'She's Gonna Win' which reached number 42 in the charts, but other songs like the Sha-Na-Na-Na Song, I Can Feel Mad and Back Home failed to reach the top 40. They also appeared with a young Toyah Wilcox in 1978 in a television drama called Glitter, in which they played her favourite band.

The arrival of punk rock at the end of the decade spelt an end to the band, although since then Colin has had a successful solo career on the music circuit, and even joined his beloved Jambos in the studio when they recorded an updated version of The Hearts Song which is still played at Tynecastle.

Less well known however, is that he crossed the great divide

to release 'Hibs Heroes' which is also a regular track on match-days at Easter Road.

The Edinburgh Reporter will be following the talented Colin's progress throughout the show.

Five things you need to know today



**Water of Leith Flood Prevention Scheme – Leith Walk Programme
– Cramond Island tide catches walkers out – Postcode Challenge
– Cougars get grant monies**

Phase 1 of the works to improve flood defenses along the Water of Leith will be completed by the end of this summer, but the cost of the work has gone up by over £12m, for a variety of reasons. It would be good to be able to explain these reasons to you in succinct form, but even the council report has had a little difficulty in doing this.

There is a budget of £63.486m for the whole scheme. Just over £14m was spent on advance works, £29m on Phase 1, leaving just under £20m for Phase 2 of the works still needed further upstream. So far, the work has concentrated on areas

downstream from Stockbridge, following initial rearrangements at the reservoirs to ensure increased storage space for floodwater.

The work has taken longer than first thought, partly due to weather since the contract started in 2011, but also partly due to what is described as 'unforeseen ground conditions', uncharted public utilities and steps required to allow residents continued access while the works progressed.

But it appears that a large part of the delay has also resulted from disputes over the interpretation of contract documents, and the council says that it is taking steps to ensure that this is not repeated in Phase 2. These 'lessons learned' will be reported and discussed at the Transport and Environment Committee on 4 June 2013. But this has meant the council entering into dispute resolution or mediation with the contractors, and agreement on a secret agreement between the council and the contractors signed off on 9 April under the direction of the Lord Provost and several other councillors, rather than waiting for the council meeting. The terms of the agreement are apparently 'commercially sensitive' which term only reminds us of the tram project. Whether or not the £19m or so which is left for Phase 2 is enough is not quite clear, but the council leader Andrew Burns is anxious to confirm that this draws a line under Phase 1 at least.

A steering group has now been set up to oversee the project towards its completion with representatives from Finance, Corporate Programme Office and Transport, as well as a project manager employed by the council who will run weekly meetings.

There is information about the extent of the works and updates on its progress [on the council's website](#), although the last update before the current report was posted last August. The report will be discussed by the council at their full meeting this coming Thursday.

There is an open letter published on the [Leith Central Community Council website](#) written by the community council to Transport Convener, Councillor Lesley Hinds, about the ongoing issues with reinstatement works to Leith Walk stemming from the tram works carried out there some years ago now, and the terms of a report to the March Transport Committee.

The letter calls for action and clarity both as to the timing of the works and the extent of what will be done.

Councillor Hinds attended the Leith Business Association meeting at the beginning of April and spoke to that group to allay their concerns over the same report from the March Transport committee meeting. She explained then that the council wants to get as much funding as possible for the street, and that the budget is now £5.5m plus all the other costs which are being met elsewhere, but explained that all of the work cannot be done at once.

Instead the utilities works are due to be completed by the end of April, and then the council will carry on with the next stage. The next phase of works due to be carried out in Constitution Street and Bernard Street was due to begin at the end of April/beginning of May and it will take until August for that phase to be complete.

Councillor Hinds also outlined that some parts of the works which had been consulted upon were not quite finalised, but that once they were (and after further consultation with Leith Business Association) then under powers delegated to councillors it will be possible to agree the plans without going back to a full Transport Committee. Councillor Hinds also told the meeting that the council is speaking to Transport Scotland who are keen to get involved in a scheme to enhance cycling and walking, suggesting that there might be dedicated cycle lanes coming up Leith Walk but with bikes

sharing the bus lane on the way down.

There are also regular updates by the council officers, the most recent of which explained

“as part of the completion of utilities work on Constitution Street, the contractor will need to do some work in the pavement area out the front of 88 – 90 Constitution Street this weekend. This work can now happen following the removal of scaffolding at that point.

“The work will take place on Saturday 27th April after 1.00pm and possibly into the evening if required, and on Sunday 28th April from 10.00am until the early evening if required.

“As a reminder, the first phase of the main Constitution Street works are due to start on Monday 29th April, with the pavement and road resurfacing commencing in the sections between the Foot of the Walk and Coatfield Lane and the Old Dock Gates to Bernard Street.

Two drop-in sessions will be held next week for local businesses and residents to raise any questions or issues they may have about the works:

Monday 29 April – 3:00pm to 5:00pm in Printworks Coffee, 42 Constitution Street

Wednesday 1 May – 10:00am to 12:00 noon in The Constitution Bar, 48 Constitution Street

The sessions will be particularly useful for those in the immediate area where the works are taking place and it is the intention to hold similar events in future in Leith Walk as the project progresses. ”

So perhaps at least some of the answers to the Leith Central Community Council’s letter may already have been answered?

And elsewhere in the city the tram works have all been

completed in St Andrew Square which is now open to traffic again and free from any road works as you can see from our photograph today.



Another set of walkers were rescued from Cramond Island yesterday afternoon.

Queensferry RNLi volunteer lifeboat crew were called out to rescue four people including a female who was seven months pregnant, who had attempted to cross the flooding causeway from Cramond Island back to the shore.

Aberdeen Coastguard requested an immediate launch of Queensferry RNLi lifeboat after receiving a 999 call from the group who were up to their knees in water on the flooding causeway with the tide continuing to rise around them.

Queensferry RNLi lifeboat *Jimmie Cairncross* was launched at 1.45pm and arrived at Cramond causeway within 10 minutes. The four people, who were almost waist deep in water by now, and a dog were assisted on to the lifeboat and found to be uninjured, just cold.

A further four people were spotted on Cramond Island so they were uplifted by the lifeboat crew also. All eight people and the dog were taken to Granton harbour where an ambulance had been requested to check the pregnant lady. As a precaution she was taken to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary to be checked over.

A Queensferry RNLi spokesman Mike Garfitt said:- 'If anyone finds themselves trapped on Cramond Island by the incoming tide, dial 999 and ask for the Coastguard. The Coastguard will alert the lifeboat. Never attempt to cross the causeway when the tide has started to cover it. We also advise to check the

tide tables at the start of the causeway for safe crossing times before attempting to cross to Cramond Island.”

Queensferry RNLI lifeboat crew were also called out on Friday 26 April at 8.55pm to rescue a yacht with three persons on board which had run aground on the Drum Sands to the west of Cramond. The 23ft yacht was towed to Port Edgar Marina.

Postcode Challenge for walkers and cyclists today down on the cycle paths in the north of the city.

[More information here.](#)



The RHC Cougars RFC have successfully sought funding to start a programme of Rugby Union coaching and playing opportunities for disadvantaged primary age children and especially girls via the 2014 Communities micro grants programme.

SNP constituency MSP, Colin Keir, today congratulated the Club on their £2,000 grant which will go towards much needed equipment and advertising.

Mr Keir said:- “As my local club I am delighted that the RHC Cougars RFC have been awarded this grant. I wish to extend my congratulations to everyone involved for securing this funding which will go a considerable way to starting Rugby Union coaching for disadvantaged children in my constituency and beyond”

The Big Lottery Fund (BIG), the largest distributor of National Lottery good cause funding, is responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised for good causes by the National

Lottery. Today, BIG announced grants totalling £83,155 to 51 projects across the country, including that awarded to the RHC RFC. The 2014 Communities grants programme offers local sports clubs, voluntary and community organisations, community councils and schools grants of £300 to £2,000 to support and stimulate grass roots involvement in sport and physical activity leading up to the Glasgow Commonwealth Games in 2014.

In total £5.8 million will be invested over the lifetime of the fund, which is recognised as part of the Scottish Government's Games Legacy plan.

Jenny MacLean on mind altering weight loss



Mind Altering: why you need to change your mind to be able to change your body

Losing weight and becoming fitter and healthier takes time, discipline and motivation.

It also takes belief in yourself, to achieve your goals.

Sometimes, this is the hardest part. But you can make it easier by first changing the way you think about yourself, in connection with food and fitness.

So, if you started 2013 with the best of fitness intentions, but have hit a few stumbling blocks, it could be useful to look at why.

For instance, some people have an 'addiction' to a certain food, that just isn't good for them and they find it hard to give it up. Or, deep down they can't picture themselves as fit and healthy. And they don't know how to overcome these obstacles.

This is where neuro-linguistic programming (NLP) can help. For those who haven't come across it before, it is a set of powerful techniques which help change the way you think – for the better. NLP gets to the subconscious 'root' of your food, or exercise related issue and helps you overcome behaviours and thoughts that are preventing you from reaching your goals.

In other words, it provides you with a long-term solution, to long established attitudes and beliefs that are holding you back.

If you'd like to give it a try, seek out a registered, qualified practitioner, to help get to the source of any persistent obstacles. It could be the first step towards achieving the health and fitness results you thought were beyond your reach.

Jenny MacLean of EnergyWise Health & Fitness offers both Pilates classes and one to one fitness and Pilates training. Jenny also recently qualified as an NLP practitioner, to enable her to further enhance her fitness services.

Further information about EnergyWise Health & Fitness is available at www.energywisefitness.co.uk (07775 621465), on Twitter @nrgwise and on Facebook at EnergyWise Health & Fitness

Mane attraction at Edinburgh Zoo



Edinburgh Zoo is offering visitors £70-a-time tickets to feed raw meat to the lions.

The 'Carnivore Magic Moment' package gives Big Cat fans the chance to feed Asian lions Jayendra and Kamlesh by placing meat on a feeding pole and poking it through a double-mesh fence.

It is hoped the 30-minute-long experience, will prove popular with visitors looking to get up close and personal with the carnivores.

The zoo stresses that a full safety briefing will be provided.

[More from Deadline News...](#)

Solar Meadow opens at Edinburgh College



A five acre site at Edinburgh College's Midlothian Campus has been transformed into Scotland's first Solar Meadow. Designed and installed by energy company SSE, the innovative £1.2m construction project has around 2,560 solar panels installed on the site, which will be planted with biodiversity grasses and wildflowers.

The site will generate the equivalent of the energy the campus requires to meet its electricity needs from renewable sources and reduce its carbon emissions by 300,000 kg per annum.

Importantly the solar meadow site will act as a research centre, focusing on the interaction between biodiversity and solar technology and analysing the effect of environmental conditions such as weather, pollen and dust on the output of the panels. The data will be of particular interest as these panels are situated on one of the most northerly sites for solar power in Europe. Edinburgh Napier University is supporting the project with a research assistant, who will work with staff and students at Edinburgh College to collect and analyse data.

Engineering students at Edinburgh College will be able to enhance their studies, using the site as an outdoor classroom. Interacting with the panels allows students to develop key skills which are increasingly sought after for Scotland's growing renewable energy sector.

Professor Steve Tinsley, Vice Principal, Corporate Development at Edinburgh College, is leading the Solar Meadow project. He said:- "It's great to witness the culmination of such an exciting project which has created this unique solar power site at Edinburgh College. In creating the Solar Meadow we are able to show that Scotland is making a strong commitment to advancing engineering innovation and developing clean technologies for a low carbon economy.

"The Solar Meadow is the first teaching facility of its kind in Scotland that will help not only to provide the next generation of engineers with essential skills, but also allow the college to become less reliant on fossil fuel energy.

"We believe the Solar Meadow also looks great and will become a significant attraction for local people as well as visitors

to the Capital. It is also fantastic that the project has enabled the College to engage with schools and local community groups to develop their own renewable energy projects; it really is giving something back to the local community in more ways than one.”

Richard Chandler, SSE’s Head of Green Deal and Energy Solutions, added:- “As the UK’s largest generator of electricity from renewable sources, it made perfect sense for us to be involved in this project which is the first of its kind in Scotland.

“The Solar Meadow will not only generate around 560,000 kW hrs every year – enough energy to power 170 homes – but is also a fine example of how industry and education can work well together. This project will bring benefits to the college, its students and the wider community as well as further strengthening Scotland’s renewable energy resources.”

Twenty three year old Alana Beaton, who is an NC Intermediate Electrical Engineering student from Inverness, said:-“I’m really interested in renewable energy and I’m excited that Edinburgh College is leading the way with the solar meadow.

“We have studied renewable and green technology within the Electrical Engineering course at College, and a great importance is placed on sustainable engineering, so the fact that the College has taken this on board and is using this technology is definitely a step in the right direction. I’m really looking forward to using the solar meadow as part of my course. I think it will further my interests within solar energy technologies and modern engineering in Scotland.”

The launch of the solar meadow is the culmination of Edinburgh College’s Engineering Week, which started with an open day aimed at increasing interest in engineering among school pupils in Edinburgh and the Lothians.

The MacTaggart Scott Hydraulics, Pneumatics and PLC

Laboratory, also situated at Edinburgh College's Midlothian Campus was also opened this week. The result of a long standing partnership between Edinburgh College and MacTaggart Scott, the laboratory represents an investment of £100,000 over 5 years. College engineering staff will use the facility to train MacTaggart Scott apprentices and staff, while engineering students at the college will use the laboratory to build their hydraulic and pneumatic skills.

The next phase of equipment to be installed in the laboratory will include wave and tidal simulators, which will recreate North Sea conditions, suitable for testing wave and tidal technology in the confines of a laboratory. Access to this technology will allow our students to develop crucial skills in wave and tidal energy. Many of them will then go on to be employed in Scotland's renewable industries with companies such as MacTaggart Scott.

Opinion – Waste of money in Dumbryden Grove?

UPDATE:- A City of Edinburgh Council spokesperson said:- "We have listened to the views of the residents of Dumbryden Grove and will respect their wishes. The proposal, which was only at the consultation stage, will now not be going ahead."

Edinburgh Council wastes £75,000 of public funds and makes Edinburgh an uglier city at the same time!

People who live in Dumbryden Grove don't want their currently green grove to be turned into a 'concrete/tarmac' quarter as a result of financially unsound investment.



One may argue that the look is not important and that the people who live here don't need the green around their houses. One may even argue that costs must be the first consideration. The council is investing £75,000 in order to save £100-150 of annual maintenance. Everybody will surely agree that this is extravagant and wasteful spending of public money.

The poorest quarters of the city were selected for further foliage removal in order to minimise ongoing maintenance costs. On closer inspection however this initiative is in our view a clear mismanagement of public money. All the idea is based on removal of public greenery e.g. grass within council housing estate and replacing it with tarmac and concrete. The tarmac is supposed to require minimum maintenance and thus save council money. But does it?



It was confirmed to us that the council agreed to invest £70,000 to concrete and tarmac these green areas and to deploy "Phase 2" of the project. This is estimated to cost up to £5,000 for new trees and bushes around the small grove in small rootpots. We understand the accurate cost for Dumbryden Grove has not been calculated.



We do not believe savings from the projects were calculated.. The people of Dumbryden Grove therefore approached a qualified accountant to help them to estimate it. Dumbryden Grove area is made of three houses, eight doors with approximately 64 flats. The maintenance of this small square cannot require more than 10 hours of maintenance a year. Given the standard gardener charge, this should represent approx. £100-150/year. The pay back from the investment project is therefore more

than 500 years. The accountant we consulted confirmed that no economically thinking person would invest in such a project.

We were advised to survey the areas where the project has been completed. We did look at the neighbouring areas. We believe that the Edinburgh council has given the word "hideous" completely new meaning. It is also apparent that the self-maintenance of those places failed. Trash and debris which would naturally decompose in the former greenery now lay on the tarmac. This gives Wester Hailes a deprived look of dirty concrete and tarmac with a minimum of foliage.



This waste of public money is executed against the background of disapproval from local residents. The people of Dumbryden Grove are united in their disapproval of this project. This is evidenced by the petition that was signed by 35 people in just four hours. It was also established that approximately 20% of these people have not been officially informed of the investment plan.



Will the council follow the will of the people who elected them? Will the Council consider the cost versus benefits analysis of the investment and start behave rationally as any other subject in this current economic environment? It certainly does not appear so. The building permission has already been granted and the council is now on track to waste your (=taxpayer's) money and make Edinburgh an uglier city at the same time!

On behalf of the people of Dumbryden Grove.

Submitted by [Ivo Novak](#)



Animal Invasion at Holyrood on Sunday!

Wild animals have overrun Holyrood Park – or at least they will tomorrow, Sunday 28 April.

The [‘Holyrood Swagger’](#) will see participants take part in a 5k walk around Arthur’s Seat whilst wearing their finest fancy dress. The event is organised by the Multiple Sclerosis Scotland Society in the hope of raising awareness and valuable funds.

Fundraising and event’s organiser, Angela Cassidy, explains why the public should go along this weekend:-

‘It’s going to be a real fun day out and it’s for all ages. We’ve got a lot going on. We’ve got Castle FM coming to do a road show, we’ve got Sarah from Fitness Chicks doing a warm up and it’s hopefully going to raise a lot of money for a real good cause.’

MS is the most common disabling neurological conditions to affect young adults and it is estimated that 10,500 Scots have already been diagnosed.

The charity is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year and they hope to continue their research to find a cure. Currently funds are used to support sufferers across Scotland and provide information about every aspect of MS. The charity depends on fundraising and volunteers to help raise awareness about this condition.

Anyone that is interested can meet in the car park of Holyrood Palace on Sunday the 26th of March from 1pm onward. For more

information, please head to
<http://www.mssociety.org.uk/scotland>

Submitted by [Sarah Vesty](#)



Five things you need to know today



Woman who died in road collision named – Roller Disco – Leith Library – John Knox – Tomorrow at The Queen's Hall

Police Scotland can now confirm the identity of a woman who died following a collision on Lasswade Road earlier this week.

She is 24-year-old Sarah Helen Laftavi from Loanhead.

Miss Laftavi's Volkswagen Passat was involved in a collision with a Lothian Bus just after 7pm on Thursday 25th April, resulting in her suffering serious injuries.

Emergency services were in attendance. However, she was pronounced dead at the scene.

Enquiries are ongoing into the full circumstances surrounding this collision and anyone with information that can assist police with their investigation is asked to come forward immediately.



The Corn Exchange is the place to be today if you would like to get your roller blades out and skate to the music.

The Edinburgh Corn Exchange is proud to present "Spin" – Scotland's Ultimate Roller Disco! The event will take place Saturday 27 April 2013 with limited availability! Special guest DJ's to be announced!

Family sessions will take place 3pm until 5pm and an over 18's roller disco event will run from 7pm – 11pm.

More details here on [The Corn Exchange website.](#)

Today at Leith Library you can take your clothes off..... NO! Sorry you can take your old clothes along and swop them for some new ones.

The library are hosting a clothes swap party open to all members of the public to bring along clothes, bags, shoes and jewellery that don't fit or don't suit and swap them for something else, completely free. As it's in a library, luggage tags will be provided so you can write a story about your favourite top or handbag and swap stories as well as clothes.

You can take away as many items as you bring, providing everything is in good condition, and anything left will be taken to a charity shop.

[More information here.](#)

On 2 May there is a free event at The Edinburgh Bookshop all

about John Knox. Marie MacPherson will be speaking about her new book, *The First Blast of the Trumpet*, which takes on the life of John Knox, about which relatively little is known. "This well researched novel captures the period which led up to the Reformation in Scotland, in which decay and despotism led eventually to a new regime.

This event is free and Marie will be available to sign copies of her book after." More details about the event and [how to book a free ticket here.](#)



Tomorrow at The Queen's Hall the Edinburgh Academy Spring Concert takes place starting at 7:00pm. [More details here.](#)

Muirhouse community food co-op opens this week

A food co-op and community information point is set to open next week in Pennywell Shopping Centre. Local group Tenants and Residents in Muirhouse (TRIM) have set up the shop along with Julie Crawford from community project Link Up.

The shop which will sell quality fruit and vegetables in the old butcher shop which closed down last year after nearly thirty years trading in the shopping centre.



This great initiative was put together following a community information day held last year when many local people visited the shop for information. It was then decided to try and set the shop up on a permanent basis.



A spokesperson from TRIM said:- “We are delighted that the community will have what it needs. The shop will hopefully see many more residents using the centre. We would also like to Thank Julie Crawford for her support. It will be run by the community for community, selling good quality food and vegetables at affordable prices.”

The shop will be open for business on Monday morning so pop in and say hello and the food co-op opens on Tuesday 30 April 2013 at 9am.

The Reporter met Julie of Link Up when the premises were being used as a community information centre:-

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service test emergency plans for firefighting at sea

Firefighters from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) took part in a marine firefighting multi-agency exercise yesterday morning at BP Hound Point Terminal at South Queensferry .

The exercise involved a pretend explosion being heard on board a tanker and a report of a possible fire along with reports of

people missing on board the vessel.

Senior SFRS officers from the city of Edinburgh and crews from Crewe Toll, McDonald Road and Liberton fire stations joined forces with representatives from BP Dalmeny/Hound Point, Forth Ports PLC, Targe Towing Ltd and Smit International Ltd to test their emergency plans for dealing with such a scenario.

Group Manager Andrew Girrity from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service said:- “The main objective for us is to test how robust our emergency plans are and how we would work with partner agencies in the event of a fire on a ship.”

“Our primary concerns were that to happen, would be to protect and minimise the risk to the public, personnel on site at Hound Point, responding emergency crews from all blue light services and to ensure the safety and security of the site whilst ensuring any risks to the environment and plant are managed safely.”



“Each of the agencies involved has detailed emergency plans which are regularly exercised to ensure that if an incident did occur we would be in the best position to respond and work together in challenging circumstances for a safe outcome.”

“These types of training events allow us to test our command and control systems as well as the role of the incident commander and firefighting crews, equipment and procedures for dealing with a stricken vessel. It will involve practising the manoeuvring of tugs for the master of the vessel and testing communication links and coordination between the SFRS, Forth Ports, BP Dalmeny Control Room, Hound Point Marine Terminal and the Hound Point tugs.”

Pictures: Ruth MacLeod

Film Review – Flying Blind Flies Back Into Town – TONIGHT ONLY

Flying Blind is showing tonight at The Filmhouse – for one night only.

In **Flying Blind**, a woman who has dedicated her life to her career, as a designer of military drones, finds her carefully constructed world falling apart when she falls in love with a man who might be more than he appears.

The first thing to note about Flying Blind is something that in an ideal world would not be in the slightest bit noteworthy: here is a feature film where the central character is a single woman in her forties, who is neither depressed by her singledom nor embarrassed by her sexuality.

As Frankie, Helen McCrory is a captivating presence. She has the intelligent eyes of an aerospace engineer, the beaming smile of someone in the first flush of a new relationship, and the potty mouth of a woman in a traditionally male-dominated profession. It is absolutely no surprise that a man twenty years her junior would fall for her. That man is Kahil, a French-Algerian refugee on a student visa, whose interests in Frankie may or may not extend beyond the romantic. The exoticness of Kahil's Muslim background soon gives way to suspicion when Frankie is told that he is a person of interest to the Security Services.



Helen McCrory and Najib Oudghiri in Flying Blind (photo by Nick Wall)

This is the point where Polish director Katarzyna Klimkiewicz gives us the central questions of the film, which are whether anyone can really be trusted and, in this world of heightened security and vigilance we now inhabit, are our preconceptions of someone a help or a hindrance. As Frankie begins to question the motives and intentions of her new man, the story turns from a character piece to a detective yarn with racially-charged overtones. This third act shift could have been dangerously approaching the type of ham-fisted “is he or isn’t he a terrorist” plot we have seen in a thousand oh-so-serious dramas over the last decade and a half (such as *Homeland*, starring McCrory’s husband Damien Lewis). Luckily for *Flying Blind*, the classy cast combined with the director’s restraint and belief in her characters manage to keep things on an even keel.

Speaking of a classy cast, our leading lady is ably supported by Kenneth Cranham as Frankie’s father, and Najib Oudghiri as Kahil, with Robbie Coltrane’s former Cracker nemesis Lorcan Cranitch as Morehouse, the MI6 man trying to keep tabs on all concerned.

After having its World Premiere here at last summer’s Film Festival, *Flying Blind* returns to Edinburgh for a screening at the [Filmhouse TODAY at 6:10](#), followed by a filmmakers’ Q&A.

The movie then heads out west to play at the Glasgow Film Theatre on Sunday April 28th at 5pm, with Kenneth Cranham in attendance.

St Andrew Square cleared of

tram works



Tram progress in the city as St Andrew Square opens

All road and track works are now complete around St. Andrew Square which was returned to public use today. The completion of these works around the famous square follows the full re-opening of Princes Street at the end of 2012. Road and track works between Shandwick Place and Haymarket Junction are scheduled for completion during the summer with York Place scheduled to complete by the end of the year.

Once road and track construction work is finished, further works to install overhead and underground cabling will be carried out. Details of this programme will be made available soon.

Transport Convener Lesley Hinds said:- “Good progress is now clearly visible across the city centre and the removal of barriers and fences at St Andrew Square will be a welcome sight to traders, residents and visitors to the area.

“This is the first of four major city centre work sites to be completed in 2013, all of which are on course to be finished in line with the revised schedule by the end of the year.

“We want to remind people that a programme of overhead and underground cable installation will be carried out in the coming months. This will be planned in a way that limits disruption as much as possible and we’ll make details available once they are confirmed.

“I’m confident that all on-street works and cable installation will be completed by the end of the year, meaning that we can start full line tram testing and driver training along the whole route soon after. 2013 has been a very productive year

so far for the project and I expect that to continue.”

Transport Minister Keith Brown said: “Following the recent Council report which showed that the project is making good progress in relation to the revised timetable, I hope that local businesses, residents, commuters and visitors can take further heart from the fact that another key milestone has been reached today.

“I congratulate everyone involved, however no-one is getting carried away and it’s important to build on this momentum as we enter a crucial period for the city. Work continues apace at several other key sites and we know that some further disruption is inevitable as the programme of cable installation approaches.

“We remain committed to ensuring that there are no further delays, that any opportunity to increase progress is exploited, and that costs are contained within the revised target.”

The access arrangements to St. Andrew Square will revert back to the former layout which means that a clockwise circulation route will be re-established with access into the Square being taken from the North side via North St. David Street and an exit via the South side of the Square.

The contract completion date for the project remains summer 2014. Once on-street works and overhead cabling work has been completed by the end of the year, a programme of rigorous testing and commissioning will take place in early 2014 to prepare the system and the service for operation. The tram project team will report to Council in September 2013 with an update on project timescales.

The project remains in line with the revised budget (£776m) approved by the Council in September 2011, with work either ahead of schedule or in line with the revised timescale reported in December 2011.

Get on your bike for Postcode Challenge

✖ The third Postcode Challenge will take place this Sunday on the north Edinburgh cycle paths. The challenge is a fun, free event for cyclists and walkers, a 'treasure hunt on wheels' (and foot), with the chance to explore around 27km of continuous off-road routes and to enter into the prize draw at the same time.

Dotted around the network will be ten stands, run by local organisations. Find your first one (you can start anywhere on the route) and they will give you a card. Get the card stamped at all ten locations (five if you are on foot) and bring it back to the event HQ at Fiveways Junction by 4pm to be entered into the free prize draw. As well as the main prizes, many of the stands may have freebies and presents to give away too and you'll be able to get your bike fixed and have cycling advice from Hart's Cyclery, Edinburgh Bicycle Co-op and The Bike Station stands.

The event is totally traffic free and great for all ages and everyone is welcome – you can take part on your own, as a family or as part of a team.

Look out for the following stalls on the route:

1. The Bike Station – for bike repairs with Dr Bike
2. Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust
3. The Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop – check out their gorgeous new building!

4. Pedal on Parliament
5. Spokes
6. Sustrans
7. Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre
8. Harts Cyclery – Bike repairs and advice
9. My Edinburgh (MYDG)
10. Edinburgh Bicycle Co-op – Bike repairs and advice

We can't tell you where each stand will be – but once you've found the first one, you're away. If in doubt, head to Fiveways Junction, where people will point you in the right direction.

And thank you to the following for donating prizes: Spokes, the Bike Station, Harts Cyclery Edinburgh Bicycle Co-op and Green Yonder Tours

This event is part of the Innertube project, funded thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery and via the People's Postcode Trust.

Back to Back Bach Marathon to raise funds for Christian Aid



Music lovers in Edinburgh and beyond are being invited to enjoy a unique marathon experience of the works of Johann Sebastian Bach – in 15 hours of continuous performances to raise funds for Christian Aid.

Tickets are now on sale for the charity's first ever 'Bach to Bach Marathon', which will see professional and amateur musicians from across the country come together in St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Palmerston Place, from 9am until midnight on Saturday 4 May 2013.

Organiser Alastair Guild, from the West End, had the inspiration for the event while playing Bach's Chorales with a friend, and has been overwhelmed by the response from musicians in Edinburgh and across Scotland.

Alastair said:- "Bach has something for everyone and this is expected to be a really unique event with around 30 different performances. We've had an incredible response and it's great that we'll hear so many interpretations of his music in the one day, in the wonderful space that is St Mary's Cathedral.

"I'm also excited that we're doing this for such a worthwhile cause. I regularly volunteer during Christian Aid Week at the Edinburgh book sale, and I want the Bach event to be dedicated to the important work Christian Aid carries out around the world."

Professional musicians, teachers, students and others who enjoy Bach's music will perform a variety of pieces on a wide range of instruments, with additional solo and choral performances. Big names at the event will include harpsichordist John Butt, who is musical director of Edinburgh's Dunedin Consort and a leading authority on Bach.

Music at the all-day concert will be interspersed with stories from the life and times of the great composer, and Christian Aid staff will be on hand to provide more information on the charity's work in the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities.

Kathy Galloway, Head of Christian Aid Scotland, said "The concept of a Bach Marathon is very original here in Scotland, and we think it's a really novel way to raise funds. Events

like this one – which will take place right before Christian Aid Week 2013 – enable us to continue our work with partners around the world to eradicate poverty. We would like to thank the organisers and musicians for all the effort they have put in so far, and we'd certainly encourage members of the public to come along and show their support."

Tickets cost £10 and allow entry to the event throughout the day. Light refreshments will also be on sale in the Cathedral, starting with coffee and croissants at 8.30am.

For more information, tickets, and a running order of performances go to www.christianaid.org.uk/bachtwobach

Photo Robert Ormerod

Introducing a New 17 Year Old Single Cask Edition: The Glenlivet Quercus

The Single Malt that Started it All, The Glenlivet, is proud to present a rare and collectible single cask whisky aged for 17 years in American white oak or 'Quercus Alba', The Glenlivet Quercus.

Aged in just one cask, there are only 250 bottles of The Glenlivet Quercus in existence, which will be available in the UK from 7 May for £200 exclusively from The Whisky Shop stores or <http://www.whiskyshop.com>. The Glenlivet Quercus will join

The Whisky Shop's collection of rare and fine whiskies from the Pernod Ricard portfolio, including Royal Salute and Chivas Regal.

Each bottle of The Glenlivet Quercus is individually labelled with the cask number, cask name, age and bottling date; a record of the rarity of the whisky, which will never again be produced.

With thanks to cask strength bottling, non-chill filtration, and of course single cask aging, each bottle of The Glenlivet Quercus is as pure as possible. The American white oak gives The Glenlivet Quercus a wonderful depth of flavour and rich golden hue, with mellow, soft notes and a long finish:

Nose: Soft, ripe red apples intertwined with baked almonds.

Mellow floral notes crescendo into a zesty flourish.

Taste: A soft, smooth, creaminess gradually develops until the whisky hints at chewy, sticky toffee. A delicate floral note creeps in, which lingers tantalisingly until a final burst of Seville orange rounds it off.

Finish: Long, sweet and very slightly dry.

Vicky Wood, Head of Marketing (Champagne, Whisky and Cognac), Pernod Ricard UK said, "In 2005, The Glenlivet released the first of its single cask bottlings, and we are very pleased to announce that in 2013, whisky enthusiasts and collectors alike will be able to purchase The Glenlivet Quercus in the UK, and enjoy its unique and distinctive character."

Andrew Torrance, Managing Director of The Whisky Shop, said: "We're delighted to be able to offer this unique bottling to The Whisky Shop customers at all of our 21 stores, including our Piccadilly flagship, as well as online at <http://www.whiskyshop.com>. The Glenlivet Quercus is a distinctive and rare product that will excite whisky enthusiasts across the country."

Submitted by [THE WHISKY SHOP](#)



Edinburgh firm offers free PR – apply now!

✖ [CATS PR](#) is a new business, based in Edinburgh, helping small and local companies progress in today's difficult market.

In order to gather together a portfolio to show off to potential future clients, we are offering free PR to three small businesses.

The deadline for applications is 8 May 2013 and participants can send a company blurb and the reason why free PR would be useful to them to: CATSPR@mail.com

Good Luck!

Submitted by [Jessica Longstaff](#)

Preview: Leith, in Black and Red



"Brunswick Street Stairs"

It's not just Leith's locals who can boast character. According to artist Tommy Perman there is a bit of the unusual along its streets and shop fronts. A new exhibition at [The Red Door Gallery](#) in Victoria Street explores the unique design

choices made by town planners, local residents and shop owners alike including such playful names as “Bacon Rolls Etc”.

The exhibition will explore strong urban themes through faded glory, heavily guarded buildings hanging ‘Welcome’ signs and practical changes to listed buildings contradicting their original beauty. The art is shown in a variety of applications, print techniques, paper types and editing including limited edition skateboards from local skate shop FOCUS.

All works available from www.edinburghart.com from 27 April 2013

Five things you need to know today



Portobello High School – Fringe app – Queensferry Community High School tomorrow – ECA Fashion Show – Tonight at The Filmhouse

The council have taken a step in the direction of a new school in Portobello by lodging a Private Bill at Holyrood which they hope will allow them to build the school in Portobello Park.

The bill aims to change the status of the land from inalienable to alienable – at least for educational purposes.

The council are still waiting to hear if they have been successful in purchasing the alternative site at Baileyfield from Scottish Power. This is the alternative site, and the council wanted to purchase the land there as a ‘backstop’. If

they are successful in buying the Baileyfield site and it is not used for a school, then councillors say they propose to use it for housing.



News from Edinburgh Festival Fringe:-

*The **2013 Fringe app** has arrived! Download the free app for iPhone and Android and discover the world of the Fringe at your fingertips. Go to edfringe.com/app or search your app store for “Edinburgh Festival Fringe” to download the app for free.*

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



The Edinburgh Reporter was at the Edinburgh College of Art Fashion Show yesterday afternoon. Here is a selection of what we saw:-

More Daniel Day-Lewis tonight at [The Filmhouse](#). In the Name of the Father showing at 18:10. 95% on Rotten Tomatoes makes it a bit of a must see!

Cycling star to lead Pedal on Parliament next month

Graeme Obree to Attend Pedal on Parliament

Grass roots cycle campaign Pedal on Parliament are delighted to announce that Graeme Obree – otherwise known as ‘The Flying Scotsman’ – will be attending the second Pedal on Parliament (PoP2) on Sunday the 19th May. Graeme, two-time individual pursuit world champion (1993, 1995), and two-time world ‘hour record’ holder (1993, 1994) will be joining thousands of others in Edinburgh at 3pm at the Meadows to ride to the Scottish Parliament to present politicians with an eight point manifesto for safer cycling in Scotland. At last year’s demonstration 3000 cyclists, young and old, filled the streets of Edinburgh on everything from expensive road bikes to tiny balance bikes, sending a message that they wanted to see real investment in cycling, making it accessible for everyone from the smallest child to a world champion.

From the start, Pedal on Parliament has been supported by high-profile Scottish cyclists, including Mark Beaumont who attended the last event, and Sir Chris Hoy. After the numbers who turned out last year, far exceeding the organisers’ expectations, politicians have responded with kind words but only a small increase in cycle funding – just £6m, split over

two years. These actions fall way short of the sort of investment required if the Scottish Government is to reach its own target of 10% of journeys by bike by 2020. Unless there is a significant step change in funding very soon there is little chance of this target being met – as the recent Get Britain Cycling report has found, investment of at least £20 per head would be needed to achieve those levels of cycling across the UK. PoP asks for at least 5% of the transport budget to be spent on cycling and 10% on all active travel, which in Scotland would amount to about £25 per head.

Graeme Obree explained his motivation for supporting and attending the event

‘I would love to see Scotland develop a culture which supports cycling and encourages cycling as wholeheartedly as possible, be that for pleasure, leisure, transportation or competition. It’s one of the best ways to experience a town, city or the countryside, so any steps to improve consideration for the needs of cyclist will ultimately improve our country.’

The event itself will be a light-hearted ride, but with a serious purpose. The most recent road safety figures for Scotland show that the numbers of cyclists and pedestrians killed and seriously injured has actually risen. Experts have warned that the numbers of pedestrians and cyclists killed or seriously injured on Scotland’s roads are set to exceed those in cars within a few years.

Olympics and the success of Scottish cyclists Sir Chris Hoy and Paralympians Aileen McGlynn, Karen Darke and Neil Fachie have created a huge interest in cycling, with thousands more Scots taking to two wheels – but they will quickly give up if the conditions they encounter on the roads aren’t safe and inviting, and that will require real investment.

One of the organisers of PoP2, Sally Hinchcliffe said, “We’re absolutely thrilled to have Graeme on board with PoP, even if it’s likely to be the slowest bike ride he’s ever been on.

Professional riders like Graeme have to spend many hours training, and they know what the conditions can be like on the roads. There's a whole generation of children growing up whose parents can't risk letting them out to cycle on their own simply because it's not safe. Not only have they lost the freedom we enjoyed on our bikes, but we risk losing the Graeme Obrees of tomorrow which is a tragedy for Scotland and for the whole world."

The organisers of Pedal on Parliament urge anyone who cycles in Scotland, or who would like to cycle in Scotland but doesn't feel safe, to join them and Graeme for PoP2 and maintain the pressure on the Scottish Government to put cycling at the heart of its transport policy.

Together we can make Scotland a cycle-friendly nation

Fatal road collision

Police in Edinburgh are appealing for witnesses following a fatal road collision.

The incident happened just after 7pm last night, Thursday 25 April, on Lasswade Road, between Lasswade and the City Bypass.

A 24-year-old woman was driving her Volkswagen Passat southbound when her vehicle was involved in a collision with a Lothian Bus.

Emergency services responded to the scene. However, the woman died at the scene as a result of her injuries.

The road remained closed last night while Road Policing Officers continued to investigate at the scene.

Anyone who can assist with their enquiries to come forward.

A Police Scotland spokesman said:- “Tragically, this collision resulted in a young woman’s death and we are currently trying to establish exactly what happened during this incident.

“Anyone with information relevant to this investigation is asked to contact police immediately.”

Portobello High School – Private Bill lodged at Holyrood



A Private Bill to allow the new Portobello High School to be built in Portobello Park was introduced in the Scottish Parliament today.

The City of Edinburgh Council is taking the comparatively rare step of seeking to introduce new legislation as the existing law presents an impediment to the Council building the much-needed school.

The Private Bill, which is being promoted by The City of Edinburgh Council, aims to change the Common Good status of Portobello Park from inalienable to ‘alienable’, but only for educational purposes. This means although the land would remain in the Common Good, the Council would be able to ‘appropriate it’, or change its use, to an educational purpose.

The Council recently consulted on its proposals for a Private Bill and received resounding support to take it forward. The consultation produced the highest number of responses for any Council consultation in recent years, with over 12,000 individual responses received. Of the valid responses received from those who live in the city, 70% supported the proposals with the level of support from those in the local Portobello area being higher at 76%.



Convener of
Education – Paul
Godzik

Councillor Paul Godzik, Convener of Education, Children and Families, said:- “The Council is absolutely determined to deliver a new Portobello High School and today marks an important milestone in the project. The existing school is greatly in need of replacement and it is clear from the response to our recent consultation that the people of Edinburgh support our Private Bill to change the status of Portobello Park to allow the new Portobello High School to be built there.

“We believe we have a strong case to put to Parliament. This by far the best location for the much-needed new school and our open space compensation measures mean that the people of Portobello would not only gain a new park but also see improvements to other green space in the local community.”

Details of the bill are on the [Scottish Parliament website](#).

Edinburgh Greens nominate candidate for Liberton and Gilmerton by-election

✖ Edinburgh Greens have chosen Alys Mumford to contest the Liberton-Gilmerton by-election on [20 June](#). Alys is 24 years old and is currently the director of Jubilee Scotland, a charity which campaigns on third world debt. She lives in the south of the city.

Alys said:-“This by-election takes place a year after the election of an expanded group of Green councillors in the City Chambers and a year of considerable campaigning success – from bedroom tax to better cycling and from school and swimming pool closures to challenging a “we know best” culture . It is also a year where our national messages of a radically different kind of Scotland have made a real impact, of social justice both here and across the world.

“I want to take those and other messages to people in Liberton-Gilmerton and I am confident of that they will strike a chord.” She also paid tribute to former councillor Tom Buchanan whose untimely death has led to the by-election, saying:-“Tom was a popular and well-regarded local councillor and will be a hard act to follow. I cannot promise to be the same councillor as Tom was but I share his passion for making the local economy work in the interests of people and I am committed to working just as hard and listening intently to what local people want me to do.”

Pennywell residents hit out at bin store mess

Residents at a block of flats have hit out at the council for allowing their communal bin store to be full of rubbish. Residents have been complaining for the past six months about the smell coming from the bin area, an area that they don't have access to, and they were shocked when they got in today to see the mess that has built up.

The area has been closed off to tenants for some time, so the mess should have been discovered by council bin men when they emptied the refuse, but residents now believe it has been like this for months.

One resident who asked not be named, said:- "There has been a smell in the stair for months. None of us who live here knew what it was as the area is locked and only accessed by the bin men. I have reported this several times over the past few months. On Tuesday a girl from the Council was here talking about new kitchens and bathrooms and I made her aware of it and she was going to report it.

"The bucket chutes here are often blocked and the tenants have had no access to the bucket area for over two years following a fire. I have spotted mice in the stair on several occasions, and some of the neighbours have also reported issues with mice elsewhere in the block. As well as this horrible mess and smell there are also bars missing from the railings inside the stair and a child could easily fall through it."

Councillor Lesley Hinds, the Council's Environment Convener, said:- "This bin store is in an unacceptable condition. I have asked for it to be cleaned out as quickly as possible and for an explanation on why we have not responded to residents.

A spokesperson for local residents group, Tenants and Residents in Muirhouse said:- “We are aware of it and have been down for a look, we will support the tenants in the stair in way we can.”

Pictures supplied by Robert Pearson

Edinburgh Students raising dough for MS



A group of Edinburgh University students are preparing for one of the nation's most mouth-watering fundraising events – the MS Society's Cake Break.

This year the MS Society is hoping to raise £50,000 from Cake Break across Scotland. It's money that could make a huge difference and will be spent on research, campaigning, information and support.

Cake Break takes place **next week** during **MS Week** (29th April-5th May 2013), which aims to raise awareness of the most common disabling neurological condition affecting young adults. An estimated 10,500 people in Scotland have multiple sclerosis (MS) and it affects almost twice as many women as men.

Emma Wakeling, 21, who helped set up the University's MS Fundraising Society said:-“Many people don't know that MS affects young people and that most people with MS are diagnosed in their twenties and thirties. Our Society aims to

raise both awareness of MS and funds for vital research and support. The fact that we get to have fun making, selling and eating cake is a bonus!"

Pictured here on the Royal Mile's Bakehouse Lane, the students hope to inspire others across the city to hold their own Cake Break events as well.

For more information about organising a Cake Break people can:

Go to www.cakebreak.org.uk T: 0845 481 1577 E:
cakebreak@mssociety.org.uk FB:
www.facebook.com/mssociety/events

For more details on the Cake Break at the University of Edinburgh, go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/edmssoc/>



Lothian Buses want your old phones



The award winning bus company is recycling old phones for charity.

Everybody has an old mobile phone lying around gathering dust at the back of a drawer or cupboard somewhere.

Lothian Buses are asking their staff and passengers to donate their old mobile phones so they can be recycled to raise money for the company's Charity of the Year, It's Good 2 Give.

Mobile phones left on the company's buses that have been unclaimed after a month will also be recycled for the charity.

[It's Good 2 Give](#) is a local based charity offering support to young people with cancer and their families. Their aim is to raise £1 million to fund the build of a purpose-built respite house for young people and their families affected by cancer.

Phones can be handed into any of Lothian Buses Travelshops, located at Waverley Bridge, Hanover Street, Shandwick Place and Jarnac Court, Dalkeith.

Lynne McNicoll, Co-founder of It's Good 2 Give said:-"This is a brilliant way to raise money for the charity – we are delighted and will be encouraging our supporters to hand in their old phones to Lothian Buses offices." Lynne is photographed above launching the new It's Good 2 Give bus which you can see around the city.

Ian Craig, Managing Director, Lothian Buses said:-"Recycling old mobile phones is an easy way for everyone to get involved in helping our Charity of the Year, It's Good 2 Give. I will be looking out my old phone."

Five things you need to know today



Governance Risk and Best Value Committee – Domestic abuse seminar, Edinburgh – The Friends of Water of Leith Basin –

House @42 – Today at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery

The council's Governance, Risk and Best Value committee meets this morning at the City Chambers at 10. All papers are online [here](#) and deal with the slightly boring but important matters of the council's anticipated borrowing and capital position over coming years, and what the council will do to manage it.

The committee last met at the beginning of March when they agreed to pay £10,000 to the charity SANDS. This was recompense for the extra work it has had to undertake in supporting bereaved parents in Edinburgh affected by the confusion over disposal of babies' ashes at Mortonhall Crematorium.

If you can't make it along today then the committee's meeting on 15 August will be webcast on the council website and you will be able to follow the proceedings live.

A multi-agency seminar aimed at tackling domestic abuse in the west of Edinburgh is taking place today.

The south west neighbourhood Domestic Abuse Seminar, which is being held at the Woods Centre in Wester Hailes, will bring together professionals from a range of agencies, including Police Scotland, City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian, and Scottish Women's Aid.

A series of workshops will take place at the event, all with the theme of keeping women and children safe.

Keynote speakers include Heather Coady, Scottish Women's Aid National Children's Policy Manager, who will speak about how abuse impacts upon children and how best services respond to families affected.

In addition, a Police Scotland officer from the newly formed Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit in Edinburgh will provide

delegates with an update on the role of the new unit.

Inspector Stephen Dolan, from Police Scotland, said: "Police Scotland is committed to keeping people safe, and today's seminar demonstrates our commitment to working with local partners in the west of Edinburgh to enhance our approach to domestic abuse.

"The seminar will allow professionals from various agencies to discuss and develop our collective approach to this issue.

"Domestic abuse is a priority for Police Scotland, the NHS and the City of Edinburgh Council and we are committed to challenging attitudes and bringing offenders to justice. We will continue to work with partners in the west of Edinburgh to develop solutions that help us to tackle this problem, which causes so much harm in local communities."

Melanie Hornett, Director of Nursing, NHS Lothian, said: "Domestic abuse and other forms of gender based violence can have an extremely negative effect upon the health and well being of a large number of people across all communities, and we support local events and seminars which help raise awareness and result in improving the quality of care for those affected as well as increasing their safety and access to help and support."

Michelle Miller, Chief Social Work Officer at the City of Edinburgh Council, said:

"We need to make sure that tackling domestic abuse is high on the agenda of our day to day business. Our workforce, whether in children's services, community care or criminal justice, all come across issues of domestic abuse and we need to coordinate workforce training across all agencies to establish a clear understanding of domestic abuse and of our responsibility to keep our communities in Edinburgh safe from harm, neglect and exploitation."



The Friends of the Water of Leith Basin need your help this weekend.

Please come along on Sunday 28th April at 11am to help us plant out all the wild flower plants bought with £1000 that we were awarded by Leith Decides. Meet at 11am at Coalie Park – link below showing the location. <http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=326670&Y=676494&A=Y&Z=110>

*We have some tools but if you have your own trowel or hand fork bring them along.
The weather is forecast to be warm but overcast so an ideal day for planting out.
Please come and join us because many hands make light work.
Everyone is welcome so if any of your friends and neighbours can help bring them along.*

The House @42 continues to offer good music despite continuing to discuss its continuing existence with the council. Tomorrow you can see [The Seznec Brothers](#) described as:-

Appalachian banjo tunes, electroacoustic composition, 1960s West African pop and interactive sound art. Ecclectic, that's their middle name.....



On now at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery is a wonderful exhibition all about the funny people who have

entertained us over the years.

"Tickling Jock celebrates Scotland's masters of mirth and our truly distinctive contribution to the world of entertainment in the twentieth century."

