

Five things you need to know today



Are Leith Shops Better? – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee meets today -Film and TV training course – Supreme Court appointment – Fundraising Ceilidh

[Greener Leith](#) tell us that Leith shops have been judged better than shops elsewhere in Edinburgh, and that the recent [Edinburgh People's Survey](#) has also produced the result that Leith Parks are better than others in the city. According to the charitable organisation, this follows the improvements to the [Leith to Portobello cycle link](#).

The Edinburgh People Survey will be discussed at the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee this morning. Also on the agenda is the decision to either fund or not fund some organisations. Here is an extract from the report:-


- Awards which are affordable are identified totalling around £22.9m applications for 220 organisations. A small number of applicants are to receive no award.

The grants are made to third sector, cultural and sporting bodies across the city, and the report proposes what is really a status quo position.

The whole report can be viewed here:-

[Item No 7.1 – Council Grants to Third Parties 2013-14 – Proposals for Expenditure](#) by

If you want to break into film and television drama...[then here is the course for you.](#) This one day intensive training course consists of a series of practical exercises which will equip you with the knowledge, tools and experience to help you break into the industry according to the organisers, a partnership of Screen Academy Scotland, a Creative Skillset Film and Media Academy and Edinburgh Film Focus supported by the Creative Skillset Film Skills Fund. Deadline is 12 March and the course is on 22 March 2013 at Edinburgh Napier University.

 **Lord Hodge will be sworn in as a Justice of the Supreme Court later this year.** He will succeed Lord Hope, one of the two Scottish Justices, who retires on 27 June 2013, when he takes up his new position at the beginning of the new legal year, in October 2013. Following training with Edinburgh firm, Brodies, Patrick Hodge was appointed a Senator of the College of Justice in 2005, and regularly sits in both the Court of Session and High Court of Justiciary in Edinburgh.

The appointments of Lord Hodge along with English judges, Lord Justice Hughes and Lord Justice Toulson, were made by Her Majesty The Queen on the recommendation of the Prime Minister and Lord Chancellor, following the recommendation of an independent selection commission. The commission consulted across each of the Supreme Court's three United Kingdom jurisdictions before making their recommendations.

Lord Neuberger commented:- "Recommending three appointments for a Court of twelve naturally represents an important set of decisions. All members of the selection commission were keenly aware of the significance of the task we faced. We encouraged applications from a broad qualified pool, and took careful soundings from all those who were statutorily required to be consulted.

"The three names which have emerged represent a talented trio of judges, all of whom have already made notable contributions

to the development of the law in their judicial careers. Lord Justice Hughes, Lord Justice Toulson and Lord Hodge are each replacing an outstanding member of the court, but they are jurists of the highest calibre and I very much look forward to working alongside them in their new roles.”

Lord Justice Hughes said: -“This is a great honour for me. I look forward to the challenge.”

Lord Justice Toulson said: “I am extremely fortunate to become a member of the court which has supreme responsibility, subject to Parliament, for upholding and developing the law in the UK, and deeply conscious of my obligations to the judicial system and the public which it serves.”

Lord Hodge said: “I am very honoured to have the opportunity to serve as a member of the Supreme Court. I look forward to working with my colleagues from the three jurisdictions of the United Kingdom.”

Lord Hope’s forthcoming retirement means that a new Deputy President must be appointed. Expressions of interest will be invited from the existing Justices, and the process will be supervised by the same selection commission which sat to make the recommendations to the Supreme Court.

Stockbridge Pipe Band hold their ceilidh this weekend! This is what they say:-“Fundraising Ceilidh this Saturday, 2nd March at Teviot House, Bristo Square. Doors open 7pm with the excellent Pentlands Ceilidh Band kicking off the first dance at 7:30pm. Both the Davidson’s Mains & District novice juvenile pipe band and Stockbridge pipe band will be performing and with a raffle and licensed bar open until after midnight, you’d be daft not to pop in for a wee hoolie! Tickets are £8 adults/£5 U16s.”



Five things you need to know today



All eyes on Edinburgh – Fair Trade laughs – Juniper Green Community Council – Networking events in March – FOMBL newsletter

All eyes are on Edinburgh in the wake of Cardinal Keith O'Brien's resignation as the leader of the Scottish Roman Catholic church yesterday.

[[View the story "Cardinal Keith O'Brien " on Storify](#)]

Scottish Fair Trade Benefit Tuesday 26 February at The Stand Comedy Club, Edinburgh at 8.30pm.

Stand-up comedians, Phil Differ and Bob Doolally, help to launch Fairtrade Fortnight 2013 with a [show at the Stand Comedy Club](#) in Edinburgh. Come along and hear the remarkable story about the beginning of the end of the use of child labour in the production of footballs. "Scotland may have failed to qualify for yet another World Cup but can stand proud in the promotion of Fair Trade, it will be a game of two halves with Fair Trade footballs the winner".

Juniper Green Community Council has a meeting tonight 19:00 – 21:00

Location:

Juniper Green Village Hall

Baberton Avenue

EDINBURGH

See map: [Google Maps](#)

No Excuses run regular business networking events in Edinburgh. The next ones are taking place in March...

There's still time to book your place at the No Excuses evening networking event on Friday 8 March, 6-7.30pm and No Excuses breakfast-time networking on Monday 11 March, 8-9.30am. As well as regular attendees, 18 first-time visitors are planning to come along to the evening event and 16 first time-visitors are planning to attend the breakfast event.

No Excuses events have attracted hundreds of Edinburgh's most successful and interesting business-people over the last few years.

Here are just some of the benefits attendees have gained:

- new clients*
- employment*
- support*
- new connections*
- stronger business relationships*
- business ideas*
- a higher profile*
- marketing opportunities*
- social invitations*

- expert business tips*
- trusted suppliers*
- collaborations*
- repeat business*
- an insight into other local businesses*
- the ‘buzz’ of mixing with like-minded people*

In other words, positive results and value for money.

The format

Our Friday evening event is informal: you can network as much as you wish, or just enjoy socialising with other members of the business community. Either way, it’s perfect for winding down after a busy week, while continuing to market your business. Our breakfast-time event is also informal, combining networking, introductions, and an interactive speaker session, offering expert business tips and information about local businesses. Attendee lists will be provided after the events, to everyone who comes along.

Booking details

If you’d like to attend the next evening or breakfast-time event (or both), please just RSVP to info@noexcusesedinburgh.com, to make your booking, as soon as possible, stating which event(s) you would like to attend. We will be meeting at city centre locations and venue details will be provided along with payment details on receipt of your

RSVP. There is no cost to current members and three event pass holders to attend this event.

The cost to first time visitors and guests is £5 in advance, if received by at latest 12 noon on Friday 8 March, or £10 to pay at the event. The cost to attend for previous visitors or previous members is £10 in advance, or £15 to pay at the event.

[Friends of Morningside & Bruntsfield Links Newsletter](#) by

Council seek additional funding for Leith Programme



Following public feedback, the Council is set to seek funding from [Sustrans](#) in order to help improve provision for cyclists and pedestrians in Leith Walk. [The Leith Programme](#) currently has a £5.5m budget for a raft of environmental improvements to Leith Walk, Constitution Street and Picardy Place.

Members of the Transport and Environment Committee will receive an update report on [The Leith Programme](#) on 19 March 2013, with recommendations to seek additional funding for a more enhanced scheme. This follows extensive consultation on a

set of preliminary designs to gather views on a range of environmental improvements. The Council has been delighted with the quality of feedback received through consultation, which highlighted a range of design concepts that could improve the scheme.

These included ideas for more significant enhancements between Pilrig Street and Picardy Place at the southern end of Leith Walk, making it easier for pedestrians to cross at key points and safer for cyclists using the route. These enhancements are beyond the initial budget allocation for the scheme, and as a result, officers are now working to explore possible options to extend the scheme to include these additional elements.



Convener of
Transport &
Environment –
Lesley Hinds

Councillor Lesley Hinds, Transport and Environment Convener, said: “We had some very useful feedback in our consultation and one of the main things people are keen to see in the final design is for pedestrians and cyclists to be better accommodated. The most challenging section for us in terms of delivering this is at the southern end, around London Road. “We recognise the Scottish Government’s commitment to sustainable and active travel and our aim is to work with the Government to deliver the best possible improvements that we can to Leith Walk while we have this unique opportunity to do so.” If funding is found, the enhancements would be the first step in delivering a longer term, more strategic vision for sustainable transport along the entire route from Leith to the city centre. Future priority would include dovetailing with developments such as the cycling route on George Street and the accessible entrance to Waverley train station which is being developed on Calton Road.

The first phase of the Leith Programme, involving [utilities infrastructure](#) works, got underway last week.

New Edinburgh record label signs first act



Edinburgh College Serves Up a Musical Feast

An inspiring Scottish musician has become the first act to be signed to a new Edinburgh based record label set up at the college he graduated from.

Callum Easter, who graduated from Edinburgh College with an HND in Sound Production and is one part of the popular Edinburgh five-piece The Stagger Rats is set to release his first solo single 'Honey Money Bees' in the New Year through Record label Feast. Callum aka Fridgemaster, whose unique sound merges elements of dub, psych and minimal house, said: - "I'm excited about launching my first single through Feast. It has been a very creative process and I've learned a lot. Having time to develop my music whilst learning production techniques has been really rewarding and I am very grateful for the support and advice that has been given to me during my time at College and since my involvement with Feast. My new single is based around the concept of money and power and the feeling of disillusionment that generally goes along with these kinds of issues in the world today.

"It was originally intended to be a folk song when I wrote it playing acoustic guitar but after broadening my palette sonically at Edinburgh College it developed into something more heavy, more fitting to the lyrics and what the song is

trying to portray. For any aspiring artists or engineers out there I would definitely recommend studying at Edinburgh College and working with Feast. The resources are second to none and it is a great place to develop skills and gain experience needed from a realistic working perspective.”

Feast was created by three lecturers at Edinburgh College in late 2010 through an initiative called Bright Ideas and was set up as a sustainable business from an educational perspective – giving past and present students invaluable experience for future employment opportunities.

Those on the label and at the college have access to its vibrant creative centre known as Cre:8 which has outstanding facilities for students and musicians, sound engineers and TV Producers and has already been used to host London punk rock band The King Blues amongst others.

Richard Harrison one of the founders of Feast and a Course Leader in HND Sound Production at Edinburgh College, said: “Cre:8 gives students the opportunity to gain vital practical experience within real parameters and work with ex-students, who are now producers and an army of local talent which gives them scope to understand the processes involved in real time production. Past and present students can learn the tricks of the trade in sound production which made global talent like Dr Dre, Brian Eno and Mark Ronson famous as the recording studios are filled out with cutting edge technology including audio consoles from Solid State Logic and Toft. Solid State Logic was recently used by in-demand mixer and producer Bruno Ellingham to remix Massive Attack’s seminal Blue Lines album and Toft is the baby of Malcolm Toft who is the recording engineer behind the Beatles’ ‘Hey Jude’ and David Bowie’s ‘Space Oddity’.

“This gives you an indication of the type of high end technology we have and who knows how far some of how our students go if they put in the blood, sweat and tears – we

could see the next Dr Dre or Mark Ronson.”

The modern fully equipped auditorium allows performance space for gigs, films and other events. Through this Edinburgh College project, Feast brings together managers, musicians, bands, engineers and even the filming students inline with education to create original music and videos.

Students at Edinburgh College benefit from study and performance opportunities unrivalled in the sector. Previous students have performed live at the O2 Arena and collaborated in a concert with Jon Lord at the Usher Hall, Edinburgh while recent students have attended master classes in music and sound production with the producer of Oasis.

All students are assisted to find employment through a partnership with ‘Music for Scotland’ or provided with the opportunity to start their own business in a college commercial incubator unit.

Edinburgh College was formed as a result of merger between Edinburgh’s Telford College, Jewel & Esk College and Stevenson College Edinburgh. As a £60m business, it is one of the biggest FE colleges in Scotland and accommodates more than 35,000 students – the biggest student body in Edinburgh.

Dancing to raise funds for Queensferry Lifeboat



The RNLi Queensferry Lifeboat Fundraising Branch’s Scottish Country Dance held in the Queensferry High School raised over

£400.00. Over seventy danced to the music of the James Coutts Scottish Country Dance Band and enjoyed a well earned buffet during the interval.



Edinburgh woman supporting Race for Life 2013



An Edinburgh mum who survived cancer has been chosen as guest of honour to start this year's Cancer Research UK Race for Life in Edinburgh with her 11-year-old daughter.

Alison Brown, is issuing the rallying cry 'Cancer, Edinburgh's coming to get you' as she urges women of all ages to join her by signing up now for the event.

Cancer Research UK tell us that "Every hour, around three people are diagnosed with cancer in Scotland – and that's why mums, daughters, sisters and friends of every shape and size are needed to join together as a formidable army and take on cancer at either Hopetoun House, South Queensferry, on Sunday 5 May 2013 or at Holyrood Park, Edinburgh on Sunday 16 June 2013.

Alison, who was diagnosed with breast cancer on Hogmanay 2010, said:- "When I was first diagnosed with cancer, at first I felt scared and devastated. You don't think it will ever happen to you but I was so determined to get through this for my family." In January 2011, Alison began four months of chemotherapy. Surgery followed in June 2011 and then two

months of radiotherapy.

Alison who is a clerk of court, was relieved to find the chemotherapy had been successful and the tumour had shrunk. She said: "I still had these moments where I would think, I might not make it to Christmas but as I came to the end of the treatment I started to think 'maybe I will be okay'. I wanted to get out of hospital to be there for my family, so I could support my son Jamie who was starting his Standard Grade exams and my daughter Rosie who was just eight-years-old at the time."

To celebrate, Alison's husband Andrew suggested a trip to Vancouver, a place the couple had always dreamed of visiting.

Alison continued: "I couldn't believe that I got to spend my 47th birthday at the top of Whistler Mountain as it was something I'd always wanted to do. I also thought I don't want this to be the last time I am here and I've said to my husband if I am still around at 50 I want to come back here. I feel healthier, fitter and more positive than I did before I had cancer. I lost a bit of weight. And I think I just feel more upbeat in how I look at my life. It's a great feeling to be able to do something to help and I am really looking forward to being part of Race for Life."

Alison added: "Taking part in Race for Life is my way of fighting back against cancer. I'm so grateful for the research that has helped me and now I want to help others by supporting Cancer Research UK's work."

Cancer Research UK's Race for Life in partnership with Tesco is running an inspiring women-only series of events which raises millions of pounds every year to help defeat cancer by funding life-saving research. Although the number of people diagnosed with cancer is going up – largely due to the fact that people are living longer and cancer is predominantly a disease of old age – the good news is that, thanks to

research, survival rates have doubled in the past 40 years. More people across Scotland are now beating the disease than ever before.

Cancer Research UK event manager for the Lothians, Hamish Moir, said: "Alison is a real inspiration and we are thrilled she has agreed to start this year's Race for Life event in Edinburgh, setting 3,400 women on their way to completing a 5K. Race for Life is an amazing way to celebrate life and what's inescapable is the power and strength that comes from thousands of women joining together to confront cancer. We hope that women in the Lothians will follow Alison and Rosie's lead and enter Race for Life in either Edinburgh or South Queensferry and raise money to hit cancer where it hurts. There are over 200 cancers and we won't give up until we find cures for them all. It's fighting talk and we mean every word we say. Cancer, Edinburgh is coming to get you."

By raising money through Race for Life, the charity says that people in Edinburgh and the Lothians are helping Cancer Research UK's doctors, nurses and scientists make advances in research which will help more men, women and children survive. Last year, more than 4,000 women took part in the Edinburgh and South Queensferry Race for Life events and raised over £303,000. This year, organisers need just as many women and girls to stride out to help raise money for vital research.

Hamish continued: "Race for Life is always such a great day. Participants may be decked out in pink or fancy dress but don't be fooled by the tutus and tiaras – Race for Life is cancer's worst nightmare."

Participants come in all shapes, sizes, ages and levels of fitness. They are from different backgrounds and walks of life but they are united by their absolute determination to take on cancer and beat it.

Hamish added: "Race for Life is non-competitive. It doesn't matter how fit or fast you are. Taking part is about joining together against a disease that affects all of us. You can walk the 5k route, run it, jog it or even dance your way round if you prefer. Please take the first step by signing up today."

Cancer Research UK receives no government funding for its ground-breaking research but, with help from the people of Edinburgh and the Lothians, the charity intends to bring forward the day when all cancers are cured.

Thanks to the generosity of its supporters, Cancer Research UK was able to spend over £4 million last year in Edinburgh on some of the UK's leading scientific and clinical research. The city is home to the Edinburgh Cancer Research UK Centre where researchers focus on bowel, breast and ovarian cancers.

To enter Race for Life today go to www.raceforlife.org or call 0845 600 6050.

Leith Central Community Council meets tonight



Police appeal for witnesses

Following the arrest of an 18-year-old man in connection with alleged robberies within a McDonald's car park in Telford Road, Lothian and Borders Police continue to appeal for potential witnesses to come forward. During one of the incidents reported to police, a 30-year-old woman was robbed in Wester Drylaw Drive on Monday 21 January 2013 and gave chase to a male onto Wester Drylaw Place.

Various members of the public came to the woman's aid, including two men within a white van and a man wearing a Kwik Fit uniform.

These men and anyone else who can assist with these enquiries are asked to contact police immediately.

Anyone with information can contact Lothian and Borders Police on 101, or the charity Crimestoppers in complete anonymity on 0800 555 111.

Citadel put on a play in Leith



CITADEL ARTS GROUP PUT ON A PERFORMANCE

Residents from Port of Leith's Jameson Place sheltered housing complex and pupils from St Mary's Primary school were treated to a play presented by Citadel Arts Group. 'Granny was a Rock

Star', written by Jim Brown, highlighted the importance of recycling and community responsibility. The cast of Andrea McKenzie (wee Donny), Iona Soper (her big sister Sandy) and Corinne Harris (Kath, the former rock star) raised laughter and tears in this heart-warming play. The primary five pupils will now explore some of the play's themes through drama with Citadel Arts Group. They will devise their own play and perform it for the Jameson Place residents after Easter.

Liz Hare Artistic Director at Citadel Arts Group, said:-“The play looked at exploring green issues in a fun and informative way. The pupils liked the songs and thought it was a great way of getting across important issues. We're very much looking forward to working with the pupils and helping them come up with their own play.”

Elaine Edwards, Scheme Co-ordinator at the Port of Leith Housing Association's Jameson Place Sheltered Housing Complex, said:-“It is a nice treat for the residents to have a fun-filled afternoon and there was a lot of laughter. The children are also so good, always polite and helpful. It means a lot to the tenants here.”

The project is funded by Foundation Scotland, Leith Benevolent and Age Scotland.

Photography Exhibition —

Assembly Rooms Tuesday 26 February



HEARTSTONE & THE COMMUNITY COVENANT 26 February, 2013
From 2-4pm – Assembly Rooms Edinburgh

Tomorrow afternoon (26 February 2013) at the Assembly Rooms from 2-4pm, the first of three main exhibition events will be staged in the Heartstone Community Covenant project being undertaken over 2013/14. The event will conclude with a special ceremony in the evening at 6.30pm in the Great Hall of Edinburgh Castle with special guests the Minister for Youth Employment, Angela Constance, Air Officer Scotland and Major General Nick Eeles from The Castle.

The Reporter spoke on the phone to Sitakumari Director with Heartstone to find out the reason behind staging the one day only exhibition:-

[listen to 'Sitakumari Director of Heartstone talking to The Reporter ' on Audioboo](#)

This is a new way to bring together young people, the communities they are part of, veterans and current day serving personnel from the Armed Forces to build greater contact, understanding and communication. However, the unusual additional facet of this project is that it also provides an innovative route through which to reach potential employers.

Heartstone was successful in securing a major grant from the MoD for this project, confirmed in January, which includes 10 Scottish authorities and which is led by Edinburgh City

Council.

The programme centres on special access photodocumentary coverage undertaken with all three arms of the Armed Forces who have assisted Heartstone photographer, Nick Sidle, since 2000 to facilitate the production of the exhibition which forms the focus of this project around which all the activities take place. The second half of the exhibition includes images from Heartstone's environmental story, 'Without Frontiers' produced with the assistance of SNH, Cairngorm and Loch Lomond National Parks, the RSPB and other major environmental organisations based in Scotland. Assistants for the photographic coverage are often drawn from the Armed Services and the two sections together provide a visually stunning real-life backdrop through which it is possible to take audiences as close as possible into locations they would otherwise not see, and hear from those who have been in those locations about their own personal experiences.



The spectacular images, all the work of internationally acclaimed photographer, Nick Sidle, have not been staged, posed or manipulated and capture a real 'moment in time' and each story has been presented in settings such as the British Museum and the South Bank in London as well as locations such as Pristina, Kabul and NATO HQ in Brussels. For the first time in this exhibition, several stories are coming together, which have taken over 10 years to produce, provide a unique and powerful route to connect people who would otherwise not necessarily meet.

On the day, personnel from all 3 Services who have a connection with the photostories will be there to talk about their own daily life experiences in the context of the exhibition.

This first event has an aviation focus, the second in June taking place at the Royal Botanical Gardens Edinburgh will have a land focus and the third event at the end of the year at the Mitchell Library in Glasgow will have a marine focus. The veterans participating in this project cover all three Services, each event will have a visual representation covering Heartstone's work with the Royal Navy, Army and RAF including photodocumentary coverage in the Balkans and Afghanistan stretching over the last 10 years.

To help stage the exhibition, the veterans and service personnel will be assisted by 9 'Business in a Box' teams of young people drawn from across Scotland covering authorities from Argyll & Bute to Aberdeenshire. Each team is responsible for undertaking its own project in their own authority, staging a miniature version of the main event, selling greetings cards drawn from the 'Without Frontiers' images to raise funds for local causes of their own choice and using the programme to build their own contacts and connections with Armed Services veterans in their own areas who will be assisting in the staging of the local events.

This project is being undertaken with Edinburgh City Council as the lead authority for the initiative together with Edinburgh Castle.

The exhibition is open to the general public for one day only on the 26th February from 2-4pm at the Assembly Rooms. Admission is free.

[Heartstone](#) is a UK-based non-profit organisation established

in 1990 to incorporate and use 'The Heartstone Odyssey', a magical fictional story which addressed a range of issues surrounding prejudice and intolerance in a unique and effective way. From this step into the world of documentary and social issues, the work of Heartstone expanded to cover real-life stories drawn from across the globe using photojournalism as the foundation for its communication of experience, a medium which has proved ideal in terms of its ability to cross language and many cultural barriers as well as appealing to all age groups. In addition to social concerns, Heartstone has also become widely recognised for its impact in raising environmental issues especially where interventions require cooperation across national boundaries. Heartstone has also worked extensively in exploring historical stories related to its contemporary themes.



All photos Nick Sidle/Heartstone

Five things you need to know today



Cardinal resigns – New Town collision – Sport – Fairtrade Fortnight – Edinburgh stagnant?

Cardinal Keith O'Brien, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh has resigned this morning saying that he had already submitted

the resignation some time ago. [Read more in our article here.](#)

Our photo shows the collision last night in the New Town between two vehicles which involved police and ambulance services. The two vehicles collided at the corner of Dublin Street and Albany Street where traffic is currently rerouted away from York Place due to tram works. Police say no-one was hurt.

[Our Sports Round-up](#) is published this morning. If your sport is not included then tell us about it!

The weekend was of course all about rugby....

Edinburgh posted yet another loss on Friday, this time going down 24-7 to Ospreys in Swansea. Two early tries gave the Welsh side a 14-0 advantage before Hamish Watson pulled one back for Edinburgh on the 40 minute mark. However second half yellows for Ben Atiga and Nick de Luca gave the home side a platform to build on their score and run out eventual winners 24-7. The Scottish women's defeat against Ireland on Saturday was bookended by wins for the Under 20's and the senior 15. The U20's played their Irish counterparts at Netherdale in Galasheils in their 6 Nations championship. Taking a 14-3 lead into the second quarter of the match, they had two tries scored against them in quick succession, but held a 14-13 lead at half time. Ireland scored their third try fairly early in the second half, but with eight minutes to go, Boroughmuir's Damien Hoyland scored Scotland's third. Tommy Allan kicked the conversion and the young Scots held on for a 21-20 win.

Under instruction to 'get out there and enjoy yourselves' Scotland played an Under 20 women's match at Lasswade against Finland prior to the full side playing Ireland. Leading 12-0 at halftime, the Scots scored another try halfway in to the second half. After a break to tend to an injured Alex Read, the Finnish women found their feet and scored a consolation

try to leave the final score at 17-7 to Scotland.

Having beaten England and Wales so far this year, Ireland were odds-on favourites to beat the Scots. And this they duly did, but it wasn't quite the walkover everyone predicted. Indeed Scotland opened the scoring with a penalty from Lisa Richie, before Ireland hit back with one of their own and a try. 8-3 at half time was a long way better than expected and the home side were showing a great deal of spirit and no lack of talent. However, the strength and skills of the visitors eventually shone through and a penalty and three tries saw them home 30-3.

This reporter has a great deal of time for the women's team as they exist on a minimal budget and have to rely on the good will of their employers, educational institutions and partners to play International rugby. They use up their own (and their family's) time, holidays and take unpaid leave from their jobs, but they will still be found battling away when 70 points down to England. They are, literally, playing for the jersey. Hats off.

Finally, it was the big boys turn to take on the men from the Emerald Isle. Again, Scotland were down with the bookies for a defeat and, somehow, they defied the odds to take the match 12-8. A rather miserable game played under miserable weather at times still managed to keep the fans on the edge of their seats. With first Ireland and then Scotland having the best of the game, it was a combination of good defence and woeful kicking from Ireland that gave the Scots the win. Leading 3-0 at half time, Ireland scored the only try of the match early in the second half, but newby, Paddy Jackson maintained his dreadful day with the boot and four penalties from Greg Laidlaw for the home side saw the Scots over the line. First back-to-back wins since 2001, but how they managed it this time will remain a mystery.

And so to the clubs. In the RBS Premiership, one Edinburgh

club was guaranteed a win as Heriots took on struggling visitors Boroughmuir and wiped the floor with them, winning 37-5. Elsewhere, Edinburgh Accies lost 29-15 to Aberdeen Grammar at home and Currie also went down to new league champions Ayr 39-13.

In the National League, Watsonians lost 36-14 at home to Kelso, but in a much closer affair in Jedburgh, Stewarts-Melville were only beaten by the odd point, 32-31, by Jed-Forest.

Overall, not quite the disastrous weekend it was last time, but when big clubs like Boroughmuir are only winning three games from fifteen, the old FP system is maybe not as well funded as it was and the best players will and are drifting to the winning teams.

Report by John Preece

ReelReals: steps in the World of Equal Exchange

A series of 2 minute [short films](#) is being released on YouTube, one a day, over Fairtrade Fortnight from Monday 25 February to Sunday 10 March.

[ReelReals](#) is a series of short films showing the work of Edinburgh based Equal Exchange, and some of its partners, who bring you a range of delicious food and beverages. These films contain interviews with the farmers who grow Fairtrade and Organic coffee, nuts and honey. Watch what happens to the coffee when it arrives in the UK and how it makes the perfect cup of coffee. Then see what customers think about Fairtrade, Equal Exchange and their products. Many of the interviews are with women farmers who are part of Equal Exchange's 'Grown by Women' initiative launched in 2011.

We have to agree with the article by Scotsman journalist, Brian Ferguson, about the condition of our city. He refers to the rather odd article written a week or two back by an Edinburgh professor which attracted much comment, accusing

Edinburgh of being in some kind of woeful decline which would affect its status on possible Scottish independence. Ferguson then refers to the plans unveiled by the council which will be voted upon this week at the [Planning Committee meeting](#), and asserts that our city is actually alive with much development across the city, and about to have more with the welcome investigation by Edinburgh World Heritage into the closes off the Royal Mile.

[Our article about the plans for the Royal Mile is here.](#)

One of the other matters to be discussed this Thursday at the planning committee is a report on the council's handling of the planning application for 34 Hamilton Place which was the former Stockbridge Theatre and which the current owner now wants to convert into a restaurant with six flats above. The council appear to have muddled some of their decision making and did not give enough evidence for their decisions, leading to their refusal of permission for the restaurant element being overturned by the Scottish Ministers. This has clearly been a bit embarrassing for the council and the planning officer Mark Turley has given some advice on the way future decisions should be made and evidenced. [You can read the full report here.](#) The planning papers are [here](#) and a drawing of the proposed front elevation can also be viewed on the [council planning portal](#).

Edinburgh catering firm goes bananas for Fairtrade



Hundreds of free bananas will be handed out in Edinburgh by a

Scottish catering giant to show its support for Fairtrade farmers around the globe. Venues across the capital such as the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh, Dundas Castle and Edinburgh Corn Exchange to name but a few will be giving away over 500 pieces of the sustainable fruit during Fairtrade Fortnight, which runs from February 25. Sodexo Prestige, which also provides catering and hospitality services at venues such as Perth and Hamilton Race Courses, Aberdeen Football Club and National Museums of Scotland, is behind the freebies.

Austin Tilsley, Scotland regional director at Sodexo Prestige, said: "We partner with some of the finest venues in Scotland and were determined to do our bit for Fairtrade Fortnight. Now every delegate attending a meeting or conference at one of those venues over the fortnight will get a Fairtrade banana on us. It's a bit of fun, a tasty snack and a perfect way to get people to think about where their food comes from and to focus on the excellent work of the Fairtrade Foundation. Everything we do at Sodexo Prestige is about using locally-sourced, sustainable and in-season produce as widely as possible. Obviously we can't buy locally-grown bananas, but we can make sure those we do buy help the poorest farmers around the world. We already use a range of Fairtrade products across our venues, including sugar, coffee and tea."

Fairtrade Fortnight runs to March 10 and aims to promote the issue of world poverty, encouraging people across the UK to think about where their food comes from and help support smallholders in the developing world. A total of 10,000 bananas will be handed out by Sodexo Prestige, which partners with 17 top class Scottish venues and more than 50 across the UK. It also provides catering for The Open Championship, one of the world's biggest golfing events. Parent company Sodexo

employs more than 1000 people across Scotland, providing catering and a wide range of other services at scores of sites, including council buildings, government offices, courts, schools, colleges, as well as many businesses. The company, which operates globally, has outlined its long term sustainability goals in its Better Tomorrow plan, a worldwide sustainability strategy taking it up to 2020.

James Bennet, Head of Brand and Out of Home at the Fairtrade Foundation said: “In 2013 Fairtrade is challenging businesses to go further for Fairtrade producers. We are pleased to work with Sodexo Prestige on a number of initiatives that drive sales of Fairtrade goods across their sites and raise awareness to their consumers. Over the past few years in line with its Better Tomorrow Plan, Sodexo Prestige has actively engaged with Fairtrade. We look forward to continuing this in the future and across 2013 driving more significant producer impact. “

Operating under the BS8901 Management System for sustainable events, Sodexo Prestige implement a number of practices designed to ensure it acts in a sustainable manner. Initiatives include ensuring all baked goods are made on site or sourced from within 30 miles; using fresh, seasonal and locally sourced ingredients where possible; and consolidating deliveries to minimise food miles.

Cardinal Keith O'Brien resigns



The following is a press release from the Scottish Catholic Media Office:-

The Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI has accepted on the 18 February 2013 the resignation of His Eminence Cardinal Keith Patrick O'Brien from the pastoral governance of the Archdiocese of Saint Andrews and Edinburgh. This information will be announced and published in the Osservatore Romano of Monday 25 February 2013.

The Cardinal had already presented last November his resignation in view of his 75th birthday on 17 March 2013, and it was accepted by the Holy Father with the formula 'nunc pro tunc' (now for later). Given the imminent Vacant See, the Holy Father has now decided to accept the said resignation definitively.

Reacting to the acceptance of his resignation, Cardinal O'Brien said;

"Approaching the age of seventy-five and at times in indifferent health, I tendered my resignation as Archbishop of Saint Andrews and Edinburgh to Pope Benedict XVI some months ago. I was happy to know that he accepted my resignation 'nunc pro tunc' – (now – but to take effect later) on 13 November 2012. The Holy Father has now decided that my resignation will take effect today, 25 February 2013, and that he will appoint an Apostolic Administrator to govern the Archdiocese in my place until my successor as Archbishop is appointed. In the meantime I will give every assistance to the Apostolic Administrator and to our new Archbishop, once he is appointed, as I prepare to move into retirement.

I have valued the opportunity of serving the people of Scotland and overseas in various ways since becoming a priest. Looking back over my years of ministry: For any good I have been able to do, I thank God. For any failures, I apologise to all whom I have offended

I thank Pope Benedict XVI for his kindness and courtesy to me and on my own behalf and on behalf of the people of Scotland, I wish him a long and happy retirement. I also ask God's blessing on my brother Cardinals who will soon gather in Rome to elect his successor. I will not join them for this Conclave in person. I do not wish media attention in Rome to be focussed on me – but rather on Pope Benedict XVI and on his Successor. However, I will pray with them and for them that, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, they will make the correct choice for the future good of the Church.

May God who has blessed me so often in my ministry continue to bless and help me in the years which remain for me on earth and may he shower his blessings on all the peoples of Scotland especially those I was privileged to serve in a special way in the Archdiocese of Saint Andrews and Edinburgh.”

However [STV](#) have a different take on this news, and have reported that the Cardinal has resigned following accusations of improper behaviour. [You may read that article here.](#)

Photo SCMO Paul McSherry

Edinburgh Reporter's Weekly Sports Round-up

This week, the Edinburgh Reporter congratulates the Scotland Rugby team for a fantastic result against Ireland in the Six Nations at Murrayfield. and ponders the future of Hearts following off-field problems. We also highlight Ice Hockey, Basketball, Hockey, Speedway, Volleyball, American Football and Athletics.

Football

The main talking points amongst football fans in the capital this week have centred on the off-field situation at Tynecastle, following the news that the Lithuanian Bank mainly owned by Vladimir Romanov UKIO Bankas had gone into administration, and the assets and liabilities had been acquired by Siauliu Bankas. There remains much speculation as to how this will affect the Gorgie club; however the more optimistic believe that these events will make it easier for a new owner to acquire the club and Tynecastle at a realistic price, leaving the club debt free. Others believe that Hearts will go into administration resulting in an 18 point deduction and possible relegation, whilst Tynecastle will have to be sold to repay some of the debt. Despite numerous opinions on various fans' forums, the bottom line is that, at the moment, no-one knows exactly how this will end.

Two players left the capital during the week; Hearts Andrew Driver signed a loan deal with Texan side Houston Dynamo, whilst out of favour winger Danny Galbraith joined newly promoted Irish League side Limerick.

It was also announced that The Rangers had paid the final instalment of the transfer fee for Lee Wallace. £500,000 was due to be paid at the end of the season, however the cash

strapped Gorgie side accepted a reduced fee of £400,000 for an early settlement.

On the field, Hearts poor league form continued with a 3-2 defeat to Inverness Caledonian Thistle. ICT took the lead from a Gary Warren header in the 16th minute. Jason Holt equalised for Hearts after 55 minutes, but Billy McKay restored the Highlanders' lead seven minutes later. Andy Webster grabbed a goal back for the Gorgie men but Warren added his second of the day to secure all three points. The Hearts' players were booed off the field at the end of the game by frustrated supporters. They remain in 10th position in the SPL.

A shocking refereeing decision cost Hibs two points against Dundee United at Tannadice on Sunday. The Easter Road side went behind to a John Rankin goal following a mistake by Ben Williams, but a James McPake header from a Leigh Griffiths free-kick saw the teams end the first half on level terms. Griffiths then put Hibs ahead with a contender for goal of the season, before United were wrongly awarded a penalty when Ryan McGivern brought down McKay Stevens well outside the box, but referee Alan Muir inexplicably awarded a penalty which Johnny Russell converted. The result sees Hibs climb to sixth place.



In the Image Printers EOS Qualifying Cup Semi Finals, Spartans lost 2-0 to Stirling University at Ainslie Park, whilst Lothian Thistle Hutchison Vale lost 2-1 to Gretna at Saughton Enclosure.

In the Central Taxis Premier Division, Civil Service Strollers lost 7-3 at Muirhouse, whilst Edinburgh University drew 1-1 with Edinburgh City, and Tynecastle beat Heriot Watt 2-0.

In the Central Taxis First Division, Craigroyston beat Gala 4-1, whilst Leith Athletic drew 1-1 away to Eyemouth.

Ice Hockey

The Edinburgh Capitals produced another excellent performance, beating Coventry Blaze 6-2 at Murrayfield Ice Rink on Saturday. Brent Patry gave the home side an early lead and Jordan Steel doubled the advantage before Blaze responded with two goals of their own.

Cutis Leinweber restored the Caps' lead before Marcis Zembergs scored a further three to secure the points.

Speedway

Edinburgh Monarchs' proposed move from Armadale to the Royal Highland Showground at Ingliston will not take place this season; however the club are confident that an entry date of 2014 is a possibility. Improvements to the West Lothian stadium are well under way to make the Friday night experience more enjoyable for the fans.

Volleyball

Edinburgh Jets beat Glasgow Mets II 3-1, 16-25 17-25 25-22 15-25 in Glasgow whilst the City of Edinburgh beat Edinburgh University 3-0 15-25 11-25 13-25 in the Men's' Scottish Volleyball Cup.

In the Women's' Scottish Volleyball Cup, Edinburgh Jets II lost 3-0 to North Lanarkshire 14-25 20-25 6-15 and NUVOC lost 3-0 to Troon Team Ayrshire, 25-12 25-10 25-13. The City of Edinburgh beat St Andrews University 3-0 25-15 25-20 25-12, whilst the Edinburgh Jets beat Glasgow International 3-0 7-25 10-25 19-25 in Glasgow.

Athletics

Olympic athlete Lynsey Sharp has announced that she will not compete in any more indoor events this winter.

Bowling

Portobello ladies beat West Lothian 80-69 in the first round of the Scottish Cup at the Bainfield Bowling Club last week, ensuring a second round tie against East Fife at East Lothian IBC.

Hockey

The top of the table clash between Glynhill Hotel Kenburne and the Grange in the Aberdeen Asset Management National League Division One ended in a 3-3 draw at Bellahouston. The Edinburgh side fought back from 2-0 down to claim an important point and stay in contention for the title. They remain in second place on goal difference with 22 points from nine games.

Elsewhere Inverleith lost 3-2 to AAM Gordonians and they remain in fourth position with 12 points from eight games.

After nine games, the league will split into a Top Five and Bottom Five with points and goals for/against carried forward.

In the second division, CALA Edinburgh beat fellow strugglers Dundee University 3-2 in Tayside.

American Football

Last weekend saw the Edinburgh Napier Knights lose to the playoff bound Glasgow Tigers 36-6.

Unfortunately the Knights had to forfeit the re-arranged away fixture at Stirling scheduled for last Wednesday due to the unavailability of some players and most of the coaches.

Basketball

On Saturday the City of Edinburgh Rocks beat city rivals Boroughmuir Blaze 84-62 in the Senior Men's League to retain top spot.

In the Women's League, The City of Edinburgh Kool Kats beat

Clark Eriksson Fury 88-47 at the Mariner Centre to regain top spot after last week's loss to Glasgow Rocks. The Kats have 27 points from 15 games, although the Rocks sit on third with 25 points from 14 games.

Rugby

And for all things Rugby...*Report by John Preece*

Edinburgh posted yet another loss on Friday, this time going down 24-7 to Ospreys in Swansea. Two early tries gave the Welsh side a 14-0 advantage before Hamish Watson pulled one back for Edinburgh on the 40 minute mark. However second half yellows for Ben Atiga and Nick de Luca gave the home side a platform to build on their score and run out eventual winners 24-7. The Scottish women's defeat against Ireland on Saturday was bookended by wins for the Under 20's and the senior 15. The U20's played their Irish counterparts at Netherdale in Galasheils in their 6 Nations championship. Taking a 14-3 lead into the second quarter of the match, they had two tries scored against them in quick succession, but held a 14-13 lead at half time. Ireland scored their third try fairly early in the second half, but with eight minutes to go, Boroughmuir's Damien Hoyland scored Scotland's third. Tommy Allan kicked the conversion and the young Scots held on for a 21-20 win.

Under instruction to 'get out there and enjoy yourselves' Scotland played an Under 20 women's match at Lasswade against Finland prior to the full side playing Ireland. Leading 12-0 at halftime, the Scots scored another try halfway in to the second half. After a break to tend to an injured Alex Read, the Finnish women found their feet and scored a consolation try to leave the final score at 17-7 to Scotland.

Having beaten England and Wales so far this year, Ireland were odds-on favourites to beat the Scots. And this they duly did, but it wasn't quite the walkover everyone predicted. Indeed Scotland opened the scoring with a penalty from Lisa Richie, before Ireland hit back with one of their own and a try. 8-3 at half time was a long way better than expected and the home side were showing a great deal of spirit and no lack of

talent. However, the strength and skills of the visitors eventually shone through and a penalty and three tries saw them home 30-3.

This reporter has a great deal of time for the women's team as they exist on a minimal budget and have to rely on the good will of their employers, educational institutions and partners to play International rugby. They use up their own (and their family's) time, holidays and take unpaid leave from their jobs, but they will still be found battling away when 70 points down to England. They are, literally, playing for the jersey. Hats off.

Finally, it was the big boys turn to take on the men from the Emerald Isle. Again, Scotland were down with the bookies for a defeat and, somehow, they defied the odds to take the match 12-8. A rather miserable game played under miserable weather at times still managed to keep the fans on the edge of their seats. With first Ireland and then Scotland having the best of the game, it was a combination of good defence and woeful kicking from Ireland that gave the Scots the win. Leading 3-0 at half time, Ireland scored the only try of the match early in the second half, but newby, Paddy Jackson maintained his dreadful day with the boot and four penalties from Greg Laidlaw for the home side saw the Scots over the line. First back-to-back wins since 2001, but how they managed it this time will remain a mystery.

And so to the clubs. In the RBS Premiership, one Edinburgh club was guaranteed a win as Heriots took on struggling visitors Boroughmuir and wiped the floor with them, winning 37-5. Elsewhere, Edinburgh Accies lost 29-15 to Aberdeen Grammar at home and Currie also went down to new league champions Ayr 39-13.

In the National League, Watsonians lost 36-14 at home to Kelso, but in a much closer affair in Jedburgh, Stewarts-Melville were only beaten by the odd point, 32-31, by Jed-Forest.

Overall, not quite the disastrous weekend it was last time,

but when big clubs like Boroughmuir are only winning three games from fifteen, the old FP system is maybe not as well funded as it was and the best players will and are drifting to the winning teams.

There are three match reports this weekend – the [Under 20s](#), the [Women's Rugby](#) and that win by [Scotland v Ireland...](#) All reports and photos by John Preece. Is this one below John Preece's best photo yet?



Rugby Scotland v Ireland Women's Rugby



Scotland v Ireland, Women's RBS 6 Nations, 23 February 2013

Facing the team that recently beat England and Wales, and with only one win in the past three years, it was looking to be an uphill task for the Scots side at sunny, but chilly, Lasswade. Still, the home side started well and kept the Irish more or less confined to their own territory for large parts of the first half, going ahead with a penalty from Lisa Richie early on. It took the eventual Triple Crown winning (hope that doesn't give too much away!) side 21 minutes to draw level with their own penalty from Niamh Briggs. Doing their utmost to keep the Irish pinned back again, a gap in the defence saw a quick break from the visitors come up trumps with their opening try from Alison Miller, but the kick was missed and Ireland were 8-3 ahead. With Ireland keeping the game on the boil, Scotland kept them out with some dogged defence and stopped the visitors having it all their own way. The half ended with Scotland encamped on the Irish 5-metre line, but a

fumble gave the ball back to the visitors who seemed only too glad to kick the ball into touch to end the half.

✖ The first fifteen minutes of the second half were all

Scotland, with Ireland looking decidedly shaky at times. However a series of penalty give-away's lead to the referee handing out a yellow to Tanya Griffith for handling in a ruck. That was all the encouragement the Irish women needed and they piled on the points during the yellow-card period to see themselves 18-3 ahead.

They were clearly in the ascendancy now and, in spite of a mass substitution by the home side, another two tries and a conversion took Ireland's eventual winning score to 30-3.

An apparently easy win for Ireland was tempered by the fight the Scotland side put up for the first 50-odd minutes, and it was possibly the carding of Griffith, that gave them the foothold they needed to turn up the gas. Despite the scoreline, some fine performances from the likes of Megan Gaffney (top picture), in her first season of full Internationals, should mean that the Scottish team can take a whole lot of good from the match forward to their next encounter against Wales in Glasgow.

Report and Photo – John Preece

Web – www.photoboxgallery.com/jlp-photography

Rugby Scotland v Ireland



Scotland v Ireland, RBS 6 Nations, 24 February 2013

Scotland managed to come away with a win in front of 67,006 spectators that, to be honest, they really shouldn't have had. Post match comment on the radio described it as a 'Quasimodo Win' – ugly, but very welcome!

Ireland owned the first half. With almost 70 percent of possession and territory, the men in green must have been scratching their heads as to why they were only 3-0 up at half time. Several close in assaults on the Scottish line, as well as a man advantage when Ryan Grant was yellow-carded, couldn't help the visitors into a lead. It wasn't until 5 minutes before half time that debut stand-off, Paddy Jackson, managed to get a penalty over the sticks for those three points. All-in-all it was a relieved home crowd that cheered the players off the pitch when referee Wayne Barnes blew up for half time.

Three minutes of the second half was all it took the Irish to come up with the expected – and deserved – five-pointer. Getting the ball back from a Scottish upfield kick, play was quickly worked up to the 22, where the forwards combined with the backs to swing the play from one side and back, which left a simple pass out to Craig Gilroy who dived over between two defenders for the touch down. Jackson then missed yet another kick to keep the score at a reasonable 8-0 to Ireland.

From this point the home side seemed to grow in confidence and went on the offensive. Driving Ireland back into their own 22 and keeping them there, it was Scotland's turn to take the initiative. Penalties from Greg Laidlaw (pictured with No. 4) at 52, 59, 63 and 73 minutes got the Scot's noses in front at 12-8 and with five minutes to go, what seemed like a dream at the start of the match was becoming a reality. Could the team hold on for their first back-to-back wins since 2001? History will show that they did, but it wasn't for the want of trying! Letting the Irish back into the game with seconds to go, the visitors won a penalty from a collapsed five-metre scrum and choose to run the ball Hammering at the line with the pack, then swinging the ball out to the left, where debut centre, Luke Marshall dropped the ball and then gave away a penalty for holding on to compound a miserable day for the new boys. Barnes consulted his watch, blew up for full time and

Murrayfield erupted. 12-8 to the unfancied Scottish team, who now, inexplicably, have a mathematical chance of the championship!

✖ So, can the turn around in fortunes be solely down to Scott Johnson and his team. It's likely. The players are mostly the same, the backroom staff are mostly the same and the time given over to International training is the same as it all was back in November. What seems to have changed is the overall ambience around the team. Peter Wright, the former Scottish front rower, said in the post-match radio analysis that the players are all going around with big grins in their faces as they have no idea what Johnson is going to do or say from one minute to the next and, so far, he seems to be keeping at bay the corporate approach that managers in the past may have had. Will it continue if he gets the permanent post? Who knows. We can but hope.

Report and Photos – John Preece

Web – www.photoboxgallery.com/jlp-photography

Rugby – Scotland v Ireland Under 20



Scotland v Ireland Under-20, RBS Under-20 6 Nations

Played 'down the Borders' at Gala's Netherdale ground, the young Scots took the game to the young Irish and came out, totally unexpectedly, winners in a thrilling encounter on Friday night.

Weathering a storm of Irish attacks for the first 10 minutes of the match, the hosts managed to dodge the bullet of a penalty from 25 metres out. On 10 minutes, Robbie Fergusson kicked through the Irish defensive line and 'the perfect bounce' met with the perfectly timed run of Ruaridh Young to net Scotland the opening score. Tommy Allan scored with the kick and the home side were 7-0 ahead. Ireland struck back soon after, as is the way, with a successful penalty from Tom Daly. Sixteen minutes in and with Ireland in possession, Scots winger Damien Hoyland, intercepted an outside pass and shot off up the field to score Scotland's second try to the right of the posts. Young again scored the conversion and Scotland were, if you trust the pundits, unbelievably 14-3 ahead.

However, the second quarter of the match belonged to the visitors. First scoring a try in the left corner, then another soon after over on the right, it looked as if the Irish steamroller was finally getting up to speed and the result was heading their way, Unfortunately – or, maybe, fortunately – their kicker Daly seemed to have brought the wrong boots and neither conversion, nor a last minute penalty were successful, and the teams went into the break 14-13 to Scotland.

✘ The third quarter of the match again belonged to Ireland, with only some desperate defending from the home side keeping out the rampant Irish. It couldn't last, however, and with Will Bordell binned for a ruck infringement near the line, Ireland went for the scrum. The first one was wheeled round illegally to win the visitors another penalty. Again they took the scrum and another illegal wheel left the referee with but one option, a penalty try. Daly scored with his one successful kick of the night and Ireland were 20-14 ahead and Scotland still had six or seven minutes to play before Bordell's return. With him back, the Scots attacked up the left which came to naught and the next ten minutes or so were reduced to a display of opposition turn-over at ruck and maul.

Eight minutes to go, and Ireland looking confident of the win, sub Ali Price delivered the ball from a maul into the hands of speedster Hoyland who bisected two defenders to score his second try on the right a metre in from the line. A hush greeted the kicker Allan and, with the score poised at 20-19 to Ireland, there was no little pressure on his shoulders. A fairly wobbly kick clawed its way over the bar and the ground erupted. 21-20 with five minutes to go and all the Scots had to do was play 'keep ball'. This they managed to do to run out worthy winners in a very close match, 21 points to 20.

A second consecutive win in the Under-20 Championship has given a tremendous boost of confidence to a team who, it can be said, have never shone in their respective 6-Nations competition.

Photos and report – John Preece

Web – www.photoboxgallery.com/jlp-photography

Guest Article from Edinburgh's Worst Drivers...



Some of you will already have discovered the [Edinburgh Worst Drivers Facebook page](#). We really like the way it exposes some of the bad driving that we ourselves observe around the city streets.

We asked the anonymous Edinburgh resident behind the photos and chat to write us an exclusive guest article – on the

subject of driving of course!

When you get caught speeding or on that mobile phone, does the 3 points and £60 fine really make you say to yourself :- "I'm sure as hell not going to do that again."

I think you'll be saying to yourself :- "I'm not going to get caught again."

Thing is everyone gets caught eventually!

This is why I decided to start naming and shaming [Edinburgh's Worst Drivers](#). I think the embarrassment of seeing your car badly driven / parked on the internet is a good way of discouraging bad driver behaviours.

I also believe just points & fines for offences is not the answer. I'm not suggesting cutting the amount of money the government gains from each offence but simply redressing it. How about 3 points, £40 fine and a requirement to sit a refresher type theory test (required to pay a nominal fee £20) and must be passed within 60 days. Failure to do this will result in points being doubled!

Non-compliant drivers will reach 12 points faster and receive a 6 month ban. Drivers should then be required to re-sit their driving test before their full license is reinstated.

Surely a perfect opportunity to ensure driver knowledge and training is current and more likely to be adhered to?

I'm interested in your thoughts so please leave your comments below...



MEP supports his local butcher



ALYN SMITH MEP BACKS LOCAL BUTCHERS AS HORSEMEAT SCANDAL CONTINUES

Leading MEP Alyn Smith is to demonstrate his support for buying local and eating Scottish – by lending a hand at his local butchers.

Alyn, who is on the European Parliament's powerful Agriculture Committee, was working behind the counter this morning at the Mathieson shop in Ratcliffe Terrace in Edinburgh.

The move is being supported by both the NFU Scotland and Quality Meat Scotland (QMS).



Alyn's aim is to demonstrate his backing for Scotland's independent butchers and Scottish farmers as the horse meat scandal continues to grow.

With many Scottish consumers now deeply worried about the transparency of supply chains, shoppers are choosing to return to their local butchers, who they often know and trust.

Speaking ahead of the visit, SNP Euro MP Alyn said:- "I'm really looking forward to doing this and to talking directly to customers about the fantastic quality of our Scottish meat.

"I fear the horse meat scandal hasn't gone away yet. Obviously I welcome the fact that people are now turning back to their local Scottish butcher, but this whole sorry affair has highlighted the need for nothing less than a food revolution.

"Consumers need to connect more closely with retailers and producers – and, of course, by supporting their local meat traders, that's exactly what they are doing."

He continued: "People also need to know about the processes which lead to their fridges being stocked.

“There must also be stronger vigilance to protect against those who would abuse the system for personal gain, and a fairer deal for those who produce our food in the first place. Buy local, and you’ll help with all these things.”

Alyn added: “People want to know where their food comes from. Scottish farmers are renowned for producing top quality produce, so they are in a strong position to benefit from this trend.

“Local butchers often have a long, established relationship with the farmers and know every step sausages, mince or steak take before they reach our plates.”

Robert Wilson, the owner of Mathieson, said: “All produce in the shop is 100 per cent traceable.

“The cattle come from the market in Newtown St Boswells in the Scottish Borders, and I tend to buy from the same farm most weeks. I am a livestock agent so I feed a lot of lambs myself and pigs always come from the same source.

“I buy two or three or pigs from the same supplier every week – they are slaughtered in Shotts Abattoir and delivered here one day afterwards. We make our own sausages in this shop.

“Steak mince comes from our cattle, and lamb mince and pork mince is also prepared on these premises. The same procedure applies to our steak cuts.”

Jim McLaren, chairman of Quality Meat Scotland, emphasised the benefits of a short and trusted supply chain.

“The beef industry in Scotland is in a strong position having devoted a great deal of time and effort to ensuring the Scotch Beef brand has one of the most robust quality assurance schemes in the world.

“Our traceability is second to none and our total commitment

over the past few decades to ensuring the Scotch Beef label is underpinned by some of the most rigorous standards in the world.

“This puts our industry in a position of strength and allows consumers to have 100 per cent confidence in the brand.”

NFU Scotland President Nigel Miller also supported Alyn’s call for shoppers to use and support their local butchers.

“Scottish farmers put their faith in the public and that faith has been repaid in spades by the support shown in the past few weeks.

“The Scottish red meat industry has a great story to tell that goes all the way from the farm gate to the dinner plate.

Local butchers are a vital part of the chain and have always been available to reassure and inform shoppers on the quality and provenance of the meat on their counter.

“It is great to see that customer service being rewarded and increased sales of 20 to 40 per cent through local butchers is good news for Scottish farmers and good news for the high street.”



Photos Alan Richardson

Tel 07831413094

Theatre review: Time and the Conways, Lyceum Theatre

(****)

✖ It's not for nothing that the word 'time' has such prominence in the title of JB Priestley's 1937 drama. For time is almost the play's secret character, unseen yet stalking the fortunes of the middle-class Conway family from the end of the First World War up to the dark years before the start of the Second.

Priestley had complex views about the nature of time, believing in the possibility of three time dimensions, in one of which all possible things co-exist. Thankfully, Jemima Levick's quietly blistering production of his time-travelling, epoch-jumping play, a co-production between the Lyceum Theatre and Dundee Rep Ensemble, takes a simpler view – and an arrestingly moral one. If we could see the profound consequences that even our smallest actions and words may have in the future, would we change them? And could we?

The play opens with a carefree birthday party in the country house of the well-to-do Conway family – whose members, as well as friends and suitors, are memorably decked out in gaudy colours to stand out starkly from the drab, empty interiors in Ti Green's striking designs.

After conversations, altercations and flirtations, we jump forward 20 years to a darker world of financial despair and fractured relationships – the result, we gather, of chains of events set in motion two decades previously. Finally, in an astonishing shift back to the opening party, Priestley seems

to suggest that only through an understanding of time's power can we free ourselves from catastrophes caused by ambition and greed.

Director Levick's fine cast cope well with the stark time-shifting changes required of their characters. Sally Reid is especially memorable as fiery young socialist Madge, whose wide-eyed idealism has evaporated two decades later as she becomes a doggedly pessimistic teacher. Molly Vevers is strong as the youthful Carol, full of vigorous life and enthusiasm – a performance dripping in irony, thanks to what Priestley tells us of her tragic fate.

Andy Clark relishes the revengeful havoc he can wreak on the family as the businessman Ernest Beevers, and Richard Conlon mixes introversion and perceptiveness as the quiet brother Alan, the only family member with an inkling of what's really happening. The brooding soundscape by composer Philip Pinsky matches the mood perfectly, adding yet another layer of bleak inevitability.

At times it's despairing, at others quietly philosophical, but Levick's expertly conceived production transcends the play's inter-war nihilism to stress the work's profound humanity.

[Time and the Conways](#) continues at the [Lyceum Theatre](#), Edinburgh, until 9 March 2013

Roll up for the Circus!



This Easter a Circus with a difference is rolling into Edinburgh – a one day only circus extravaganza Looking for

something to do as a family this Easter? Why not go to a circus with twist? On Tuesday 26 March 2013 from 1pm to 5pm, The Big Top Fundraiser will be held in Edinburgh Corn Exchange in aid of Edinburgh Sick Kids Friends Foundation.

The Big Top Fundraiser is a circus themed, fun-filled afternoon for the entire family, being organised by seven second year Event Management students from Queen Margaret University. They are planning an unconventional circus that will blow spectators minds.

Stefanie Anderson, one of the event organisers said, 'This event promises to be enjoyable for the whole family, and is something different to do while kids are off over the Easter Holidays.'

'There will be plenty of opportunities to meet and take photos with the wide variety of circus performers on show and our special guests, members of the Edinburgh Rugby squad.'

Throughout the event there will be chances to win amazing prizes which have been kindly donated by sponsors; some of which include Murrayfield Stadium and Venture-Photography.

Stefanie went on to say, 'Edinburgh Sick Kids is a very important charity in Edinburgh and the surrounding area, they do everything they can to help sick children and their families. It's a privilege to be able to donate all of our proceeds from The Big Top Fundraiser to them.'

'We are still looking for potential sponsors, so if you would like to get involved contact us at gmuevents2012@gmail.com, to find out what we can do for you in return for your sponsorship.'

Tickets for this event are available online at www.thebigtopfundraiser.moonfruit.com with prices ranging from £7.50 to £15. For more updates check out The Big Top Fundraiser on Facebook.

Five things you need to know today



Fairtrade Fortnight – Rugby travel advice – Portobello roads and footpaths – Out of the Blue Flea Market – It's Good 2 Give are having a Ball

The Lord Provost launched Fairtrade Fortnight in the city yesterday. This starts on Monday and there will be many events to attend.

Running until Sunday 10 March, the campaign will have a series of themed [events](#) taking place across the city, including food and drink tastings, talks, presentations, fairs, fetes and the presentation of the Lord Provost's Fair Trade Awards 2013.

Fairtrade Fortnight brings together consumers, retailers, licensees, businesses, producers and campaigners nationwide to promote awareness and sales of Fairtrade products and to campaign on issues of trade justice. [Read our article](#) and

[watch our video here.](#)

Scottish Rugby have advised spectators to get to the match early tomorrow. Here is what they say on their website:-

**GET TO MURRAYFIELD EARLY – THERE’S A BIG CROWD AND
THERE ARE ROADWORKS!**

There is a sell-out crowd of over 67,000 for Sunday’s game. In addition to the sheer volume of people making their way to and from the stadium, multiple roadworks and diversions are in operation in the centre of Edinburgh and routes leading to Murrayfield, so it is imperative you allow plenty of extra time for your journey to the game. Please allow extra time if you are travelling via Haymarket as there are tram works in progress which will cause delays. For your safety there will be pedestrian diversions in operation so please follow the instructions from the stewards, police officers and our very own “Backing Blue Crew” who are there to assist you. There are plenty of activities to enjoy at Murrayfield before the match, including a Family Zone with bands, entertainers and a “come-and-try” rugby skills area for the children. An array of food and drink outlets are available, covering all tastes from fish’n’chips to curry – so come early!

Today at the Out of the Blue Drill Hall on Dalmeny Street there is a Flea Market where you might just pick up your next best outfit. Also great food in OOTB! [More details here.](#)

Councillor Maureen Child writes:-

“Some of the money from the central Council roads and footways budget is always devolved to the local Portobello/Craigmillar Partnership level for priorities to be decided on by local people meeting together in the Portobello/Craigmillar Environment Forum.

Many suggestions come from local people, sometimes through residents’ and neighbourhood associations. Past and current projects have included the Joppa ‘gazebo’ at the sewage pumping station at the east of the Promenade, Christians Path, a path between Hays Business Centre and the main road, a path from Niddrie House to the No 14 bus terminus at Greendykes, a pedestrian crossing at Coillesdene sheltered housing, more parking spaces at Newcraighall Village, traffic calming on Joppa Terrace.

Some of projects have attracted contributions from other partners such as cycling charity Sustrans and housing associations. These tend to be works that would not otherwise get to the top of any Council list in the foreseeable future but they do make a big difference to a neighbourhood. Have you any suggestions for future projects next year? Phone environment team on 529 3298 or email eastenvironment@edinburgh.gov.uk”

It's Good 2 Give Ball 2013

When? Saturday 2 March 2013, 7pm for 7.30pm till 1.30am

Where? The Sheraton Grand Hotel, Festival Square, Edinburgh

Cost? £650 for a table of ten

Dress Code Black tie and Ballgown

Reception drink, 3 course meal with coffee and entertainment. Music will be provided by the simply fantastic band, Corra. We loved them so much last year we booked them again! Only 3 tables left.

To attend or if you need any additional information, please contact Lynne McNicoll on 07901555352 or lynne@itsgood2give.co.uk

VIDEO – Lord Provost Launches Fairtrade Fortnight



The Rt Hon Donald Wilson Lord Provost of Edinburgh was in Stockbridge this morning to launch Fairtrade Fortnight, which begins properly on Monday 25 February 2013.

Pupils from Stockbridge Primary School today ‘took a step in 2013’ with Lord Provost Donald Wilson and Scotmid’s Head of Corporate Communications, Malcolm Brown, to mark the beginning of Edinburgh’s Fairtrade Fortnight.

Running from Monday 25 February until Sunday 10 March, the campaign will see a series of themed [events](#) taking place across the city, including food and drink tastings, talks, presentations, fairs, fetes and the presentation of the Lord Provost’s Fair Trade Awards 2013.

Fairtrade Fortnight brings together consumers, retailers, licensees, businesses, producers and campaigners nationwide to promote awareness and sales of Fairtrade products and to campaign on issues of trade justice.

The theme this year is ‘Take a Step in 2013’, encouraging shoppers to go further by supporting Fairtrade farmers and workers by purchasing products with the FAIRTRADE Mark or encourage their local shop, school, church or even MP to do

the same.

Lord Provost Donald Wilson said: "The packed programme of events planned for the next two weeks is testament to how far Fairtrade Fortnight in Edinburgh has come since we were awarded Fairtrade status in 2004.

"Through this campaign and the Lord Provost's Fairtrade Awards we are aiming to encourage more and more people to become ethical shoppers while also recognising the fantastic contribution that individuals and businesses are making to fair trade throughout Edinburgh."

Scotmid Co-operative hosted the launch in their Raeburn Place store and will be promoting Fairtrade with local schools and supporting a range of community events over the coming fortnight.

Malcolm Brown, Head of Corporate Communications for Scotmid Co-operative said: "Fairtrade Fortnight is all about raising awareness of the difference we can make to millions of people in developing countries by simply supporting Fairtrade.

"Scotmid is proud to have been a champion of Fairtrade for many years. This fortnight we'll be giving talks at local schools, holding Fairtrade events in our stores and supporting many other initiatives to educate people of all ages about why Fairtrade is so important."

Our photo shows Finlay Nicol, Amreeta Kaur, Lord Provost Donald Wilson, Malcolm Brown, Store Manager Craig McAulay, Morgan Lee, Jasmine Mitchell and James Dixon

Comedy Greats Exhibition opens at Portrait Gallery



DOROTHY PAUL OPENS COMEDY GREATS EXHIBITION AT PORTRAIT GALLERY

A fascinating new exhibition which celebrates 75 amazing years of Scotland's entertainment history will open at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery this weekend. *Tickling Jock: Comedy Greats from Sir Harry Lauder to Billy Connolly* shines the spotlight on Scotland's unique contribution to the world of comedy in the twentieth century. A special press preview, on Friday 22 February, will be opened by legendary actress and comedian Dorothy Paul, who will be available for interviews and photographs.

Tickling Jock: Comedy Greats from Sir Harry Lauder to Billy Connolly tells the extraordinary story of Scottish comedy between 1900 and 1975, charting the careers of performers who went on to become world-renowned superstars and national treasures. Reflecting the comic traditions of the period, the exhibition features 50 stars of music-hall, stage and gramophone, as well as the 'new' media of radio, cinema and television, including Sir Harry Lauder, Ivor Cutler, Rikki Fulton, Andy Stewart, Anne Fields, Una McLean and Stanley Baxter. The exhibition combines portraits, photographs and caricatures from the Gallery's own rich holdings with loans from private collectors, the Scottish Theatre archive and venues including The King's Theatre Glasgow and The Citizens Theatre.

Christopher Baker, Director of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery said:

"We are delighted to be opening this new exhibition with such a vibrant mix of portraits, archive footage and recordings of Scottish comedy greats. We hope that Tickling Jock will trigger many happy memories for visitors and at the same time introduce the comedy stars featured to a new generation. It's a show that should generate a lot of laughter! "



The exhibition is funded by players of People's Postcode Lottery, who have raised over £23m for charities and good causes to date. People's Postcode Lottery Head of Charities Clara Govier added:

"We are really looking forward to Tickling Jock, which we are sure will bring a smile to all its visitors – both young and old. We're delighted that players of People's Postcode Lottery are giving their support to an exhibition that is both full of fun and time-honoured community spirit."

Tickling Jock will also feature gramophone recordings and archive film and TV footage from the Scottish Theatre Archive, (University of Glasgow Library), BBC Motion Gallery, British Pathé and STV. Highlights include rare films of music-hall and variety performers such as Sir Harry Lauder and Will Fyffe; Stanley Baxter as his most enduring creation The Professor, performing *Parliamo Glasgow*; Renée Houston in *That Was The Week That Was* as the irrepressible 'Costa Clyde' landlady; Ronnie Corbett in a 1966 edition of *The Frost Report* performing the celebrated 'Class Sketch' with John Cleese and Ronnie Barker; rounding up with Billy Connolly's 1975 appearance on Parkinson, when he memorably remarked, before telling a joke steeped in dark Glasgow humour, 'I hope I can get away with this, it's a beauty'.



For every star who topped the bill, however, there were numerous performers whose great acts have been largely

forgotten: *Tickling Jock* will also feature comments and memories from members of the Living Memory Association who have worked with the Gallery to paint a rounded picture where footage or recorded material has been lost, from seeing Johnny Victory live on stage in Edinburgh, to memories of Andy Stewart performing in San Francisco in the 1960s in a kilt.

[Tickling Jock: Comedy Greats from Sir Harry Lauder to Billy Connolly](#)

23 February 2013 – 25 May 2014

Scottish National Portrait Gallery

Telephone: 0131 624 6200 | Admission free

Historic Scotland to consult on safety measures at Edinburgh Castle



Latest phase of Edinburgh Castle rock safety programme unveiled

The next stage of Historic Scotland's programme to enhance the safety of Edinburgh Castle's rock face has been unveiled.

The agency is about to embark on a community consultation process to discuss the £1million project for the southern face of the rock which rises above Johnston Terrace.

The proposals will involve constructing a 3 metre high x 170 metre long barrier to form a protective area at the base of the rock on Johnston Terrace, to further improve public safety. This arrangement has been developed following extensive rock-fall modelling and expert advice from specialist geo-technical engineers.

The decision to create this barrier offers enhanced long-term mitigation to the ongoing natural processes of weathering and erosion which can result in rock falls. The proposal is also part of Historic Scotland's long-standing safety management strategy for the faces of the castle rock.

The project will be carried out in two phases. The first being the installation of a temporary barrier on Johnston Terrace during March, which will remain in place during the development of a more permanent solution in the second phase. Phase one will also include spray treatment to eradicate invasive plant growth, which can over time penetrate and loosen rock joints.

The design and the visual impact of the permanent solution will form part of the community stakeholder consultation which will get underway in late March.

While some metal netting has previously been installed over a limited area of the northern face of the rock to provide protection for the railway line, this solution was not felt appropriate for the southern face. It was felt that this would have a significant detrimental visual impact on the castle's iconic south elevation.

Barbara Cummins, Historic Scotland's Director of Heritage Management who is overseeing the project, said: "Firstly, it is important to stress that this work is not in response to

any increased risk of rock falls. This is part of a long-term strategy we have been rolling out over the last few years to improve the safety of the rock which involves taking a proactive approach to minimising the potential for any loose rocks caused by erosion or weathering to reach the ground.

“These proposals will ensure our commitment to public safety around the castle is enhanced.”

Barbara added: “We are about to embark on a consultation process involving numerous community groups and stakeholders to inform them of the proposal and encourage their input to the wall’s design.”

The creation of the wall will result in some minor realignment of the road carriageway along Johnston Terrace. However, two way traffic will still be able to flow on this road once all the works have been completed.

It is anticipated – subject to planning approval and other matters – that the permanent solution will be in place by the end of 2014.

Lifestyle – 10 Weight Loss Pitfalls

 *Advice from Gillian Dalgliesh of SlimThink*

At this time of the year, now that all the seasonal excesses of the festive period are behind us, a lot of people are focussing on diet and exercise. However, the discipline and

will-power to stick to our resolutions in these areas are often difficult to adhere to. Our firm intentions of early January often fall by the wayside after a relatively short time! With respect to diet, I have listed below 10 possible pitfalls you may encounter during your weight loss regime, however, I end it on a very positive note by offering you a very powerful ingredient to transform your expectations and the outcome of any diet you have ever been on before!

Take a very cautious approach to science and health media

Be aware! Often health, fitness and diet information in the media is commonly misrepresented with the facts being presented in a way that intrigues us and feeds our desire for quick and easy solutions! However, fad diets often don't often work and can have very negative side effects!

Drink plenty of water

This is the commonest mistake in a diet. Water may put out fires but it's essential for burning calories! If you are dehydrated, your metabolism slows down and that results in slower weight loss. Studies have shown that adults who drink at least 2 litres per day burn more calories than those who drink less.

Relying on Crash Diets

Slashing your daily calories to less than 1,000 per day can have the weight falling off, but eating so few calories trains your metabolism to slow down and once the diet is over, you have a metabolism that burns calories more slowly – and gains weight more quickly than ever before!!!!

Skipping Breakfast

This seems like a simple way to cut calories – have you heard yourself saying “Oh, I’m never hungry in the morning?” Big mistake! It can lead to unplanned snacking during the latter part of the morning or eating an enormous lunch (making calories soar!). Studies show that those who eat a breakfast each morning are more likely to maintain a healthy weight.

Losing Track of Your Snacks

Don’t forget to count up the calorie content of all nibbles in between meals! If you must have them, then keep a notebook handy!

If you must have a snack ...

Keep healthy, calorie counted nibbles in your desk, fridge or bag so you’ll know that if you can’t resist the urge to have a snack, then it’s going to be something that’s already part of your diet plan.

Be aware that low fat doesn’t necessarily equal low calories!

Eating more than one portion of a low fat food may mean more calories than just one portion of regular food. Get acquainted with fat, sugar and calories by checking the nutrition on the labels.

Weighing yourself every day – a recipe for frustration!

Weighing yourself daily can be very demotivating! Weight loss is unlikely to be a steady daily decline. Better to look for a long term trend with weekly weigh-ins. The results are likely to be far more encouraging!

Setting Unrealistic Goals

Don't set yourself up for failure. Make your weight loss goal realistic and attainable. Little steps that are easily reachable are encouraging and make for steady growth.

Avoiding Exercise

Don't place the entire focus of your weight loss onto your diet. Not only will becoming more active help you to burn calories and increase your fitness, you will release the feel-good endorphins into your system. The key is finding an exercise you enjoy!

The Most Important Ingredient to Weight Loss Success!

The points I have made above are all very valid and worthwhile stating, but when it comes to adhering to them, many of my clients tell me that at times they slip, and often after one or more, moments of over-indulgence, their will-power evaporates, their confidence that they can ever remain on a diet crumbles, and their belief that they will ever attain their optimum desired weight disappears. Before long, they have put the weight back on and are back on the yo-yo dieter treadmill. Sound familiar?

It is essential to realise that when it comes to weight loss,

the thoughts you put into your mind are as important as the food you put into your mouth! Changing your mindset is the key to losing weight and changing your body shape. The power of the mind is the best tool in the battle with weight. At SlimThink we give you the knowledge and skills to access the power of your mind and ensure weight loss success, and more. By following our simple programme, you will become empowered with the knowledge that you are in control. Any moments of weakness will no longer be an issue. You will enjoy the confidence of knowing that you can achieve your weight loss goals and maintain them. With a positive mindset, weight loss and good health become a long term and simple consequence!

Change your mind.

Change your body.

Gillian Dalgliesh

www.slimthink.com

Email: gillian@slimthink.com

Lord Provost launches Fairtrade Fortnight



LAUNCH OF FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2013

Lord Provost Donald Wilson and Scotmid's Malcolm Brown got together with children from Stockbridge Primary School this

morning to mark the beginning of Edinburgh's Fairtrade Fortnight.

Running from Monday 25 February until Sunday 10 March, Fairtrade Fortnight will have a series of themed [events](#) taking place across the city, including food and drink tastings, talks, presentations, fairs, fetes and will culminate in the presentation of the Lord Provost's Fair Trade Awards 2013.

Events

Fairtrade Fortnight 2013 – Go Further This Fairtrade Fortnight

This year's Fairtrade Fortnight will be from 25 February to 10 March. Fairtrade Fortnight brings together consumers, retailers, licensees, businesses, producers and campaigners nationwide to promote awareness and sales of Fairtrade products and to campaign on issues of trade justice.

Every year, thousands of events and activities take place up and down the country in celebration of Fairtrade Fortnight, including food and drink tastings, fashion shows, fairs and fetes. There is a list of events below but here is where it will all end! Put the date in your diary now.



Fair Trade in Innovative Learning Week – Monday 18 to Thursday 21 February

During the University of Edinburgh's [Innovative Learning Week](#) two fair trade student group projects will run, as follows:

- An interview of Fair Trade Steering Group members for short sound bites
- A literature review on fair trade debates

ReelReals: steps in the World of Equal Exchange

A series of 2 minute [short films](#) is being released on YouTube, one a day, over Fairtrade Fortnight from Monday 25 February to Sunday 10 March.

[ReelReals](#) is a series of short films showing the work of Edinburgh based Equal Exchange, and some of its partners, who bring you a range of delicious food and beverages. These films contain interviews with the farmers who grow Fairtrade and Organic coffee, nuts and honey. Watch what happens to the coffee when it arrives in the UK and how it makes the perfect cup of coffee. Then see what customers think about Fairtrade, Equal Exchange and their products. Many of the interviews are with women farmers who are part of Equal Exchange's 'Grown by Women' initiative launched in 2011.

Scottish Fair Trade Benefit Tuesday 26 February, The Stand Comedy Club, Edinburgh at 8.30pm.

Stand-up comedians, Phil Differ and Bob Doolally, help to launch Fairtrade Fortnight 2013 with a [show at the Stand Comedy Club](#) in Edinburgh. Come along and hear the remarkable story about the beginning of the end of the use of child labour in the production of footballs. "Scotland may have failed to qualify for yet another World Cup but can stand proud in the promotion of Fair Trade, it will be a game of two halves with Fair Trade footballs the winner".

Ethics and Environment Forum: Thursday 28 February, 11:30am – 12:30pm, Teviot Dining Room. Edinburgh University Students Association (EUSA) Ethics and Environment Forum.

Fair Trade Academic Network seminar: Thursday 28 February, 1pm – 2.30pm, Seminar rooms 1 and 2, Chrystal Macmillan Building. Come along and hear Dr Alastair Smith from the University of Cardiff give a talk on ['Negotiating the meaning of fair trade: The case of Malawian rice in Scotland'](#). Hosted by Edinburgh University's Fair Trade Academic Network.

Edinburgh University Fairtrade football: Saturday 2 March.

Run by People & Planet. Teams are five-a-side. Student/staff groups welcome to participate, all you need is to get some willing bodies and a team name. Fairtrade snacks and bananas will be available throughout for participants, with some delicious prizes on offer, notably Fairtrade ale, wine and honey. Any queries or desire to get involved, please get in touch with [Lewis White from People & Planet](#).

Fairtrade Coffee Morning: Murrayfied Church Centre on Saturday 2 March between 10am and 12pm. There will be a fairtrade stall, children's craft corner and children's world, smoothie bike, coffee, goodies and chat. Entrance £2 (children free). All welcome!

Fair Trade Wine Tasting Evening: Saturday 2 March

The Priory Church, Hopetoun Road, South Queensferry at 7pm. Queensferry Fairtrade Group celebrates South Queensferry's Fairtrade Borough status with a tasting of fair trade wines.

Fairtrade at the Meadows Marathon: Sunday 3 March

Fairtrade bananas provided by Edinburgh University Students Association EUSA at the Teviot Dome for Meadows Marathon runners.

Fairtrade producer talk: Tuesday 5 March, 12noon – 2pm

Edinburgh University Fairtrade Café at the Chaplaincy. Fairtrade producer Tomy Mathew from India, will give a talk from 1.10pm – 1.20pm, and will be available for informal chat before and after. Tomy Vadakkancheril (or Mathew) is Founder and Managing Director of Elements India, the trading arm of Fair Trade Alliance Kerala, a farmer-support organisation. Elements India exports organic coffee, cashews, peppercorns and other foodstuffs and supplies Traidcraft and Equal Exchange. No need to book a place, just come along. This

student-run café won The Lord Provost's Fair Trade Community Award in 2011.

Fairtrade School's Showcase: Tuesday 5 March, Holyrood High School

A chance for schools to display their Fairtrade credentials and hear from Tomy Vadakkancheril (or Mathew), Founder and Managing Director of Elements India, the trading arm of Fair Trade Alliance Kerala, a farmer-support organisation. Elements India exports organic coffee, cashews, peppercorns and other foodstuffs and supplies Traidcraft and Equal Exchange. People & Planet students will be running a stall and coconut shy along with Scotmid smoothie bike and Fairtrade refreshments from the students of Holyrood High School. Further information from [Claire Soper](#) on 0131 469 3230.

Fair trade at CIPS AGM: Thursday 7 March (members and guests only)

Fairtrade wine tasting and a talk by Malcolm Brown from Scotmid for the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply East of Scotland Branch AGM, hosted by the University of Edinburgh, Procurement Office.

Edinburgh Fair Trade Family Fair & Brunch and Presentation of the Lord Provost's Fair Trade Awards 2013 – Saturday 9 March, 10.30 am – 2.30 pm at the Out of the Blue Drill Hall, 36 Dalmeny Street, Edinburgh. Come and enjoy a special free event for all ages to celebrate Edinburgh, our Fairtrade City!

As well as the presentation of the Lord Provost's Fair Trade Awards 2013, there will be live music, Fairtrade stalls, free refreshments, and a range of activities. There will also be a talk by Tomy Mathew, Director of Elements India and Fair Trade Alliance Kerala, South India.

All Welcome! [Download the poster to find out more about this event.](#)

Balerno Fair Trade Fair: Saturday 9 March, Ogston Hall and St Joseph's Centre, Balerno Parish Church, 10am to 12 noon.

Balerno Fair Trade Group holds its annual Fairtrade food and coffee event along with craft stalls and children's activities. At 10.30am awards will be presented to the winners of Dean Park Primary School's competition to design a Fairtrade tie. Refreshments, will include fairtrade tea and coffee, from The Mill at St Joseph's, along with Fairtrade home baking and Fairtrade tastings. A selection of stalls will sell fair trade foods and crafts from around the world. Children can help create a sculpture from Fairtrade packaging and take part in facepainting and henna painting. Donations from this event will be made to Dean Park Primary School's Malawi Link and the St Joseph's Development Fund. If you would like to help at this event please contact [Lesley Henderson](#) on 0131 449 4484.

ReelReals – steps in the World of Equal Exchange: Sunday 10 March, Summerhall, 4pm to 6pm

A free ReelReals showcase of all the films posted, one a day, during Fairtrade Fortnight, with refreshments. Summerhall, the former Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in Edinburgh, on the eastern corner of the Meadows, serves Grown by Women coffee all year round.

[ReelReals](#) is a series of short films showing the work of Edinburgh based Equal Exchange and some of its partners who bring you a range of delicious food and beverages. These films contain interviews with the farmers who grow Fairtrade and Organic coffee, nuts and honey. Watch what happens to the coffee when it arrives in the UK and how it makes the perfect cup of coffee. Then see what customers think about Fairtrade, Equal Exchange and their products. Many of the interviews are with women farmers who are part of Equal Exchange's 'Grown by Women' initiative launched in 2011.

Grown by Women Promotion – For March/April 25% off

Equal Exchange's Grown by Women range of coffees and rooibos are on promotion at 25% off during March and April at most of their major wholesale outlets.

Equal Exchange's "grown by women" was launched in 2011. This quality organic and fairtrade coffee and rooibos is sourced from women in farmer co-ops in Uganda, Nicaragua, Peru and South Africa where most farm work is done by women. It is helping redress gender imbalance and gives the women a voice in their communities as well as additional financial benefits. Find out more on the [Equal Exchange](#) website.

Lord Provost Fair Trade Awards 2013

Nominations for the The Lord Provost's Fair Trade Awards 2013 are now closed. Now in their seventh year, the awards recognise the difference that residents, businesses and schools make in promoting fair trade in Edinburgh.

Thank you to all those who nominated their favourites in the following four categories – Achievement; Newcomer; Faith Community and Fair Trade School.

The awards will be presented during Fairtrade Fortnight, which runs from 25 February to 10 March 2013.

Portobello Fair Trade Town

In December 2012, Portobello was awarded Fair Trade Town status. Portobello Fairtrade Forum was set up about a year ago and worked hard to secure fairtrade status. Over 500 signatories to the campaign were obtained. Fair Trade Town status is granted to towns supporting fair trade by using and selling associated products in retail outlets, workplaces and community organisations. Portobello exceeded the required fairtrade qualifying criteria by having: 7 retail outlets and 3 catering outlets selling fairtrade products; 5 of the 7

local churches use fairtrade products; 4 of the 6 schools and 5 workplaces. The campaign has also had local and city news coverage.

Edinburgh University

[s Fair Trade webpages">Edinburgh University](#) has been recognised for its long-standing commitment to fair trade. The University was selected as the winner of the 2012 Fairtrade Foundation's Best Steps Activity award and for the ninth consecutive year has been granted Fairtrade University status.



Five things you need to know today



Improving the Royal Mile – Community Gardening survey – Bongo Club – Balerno Village Screen – Wine Tasting in March

The council want to improve further stretches of the Royal Mile in much the same way as the area outside the City Chambers which has been pedestrianised at some times during the day by installation of bollards. The surface has been made pedestrian friendly to encourage tourists and residents alike to amble down the important street. This also allows street performers to have a captive audience both during the Festival and at other times during the year. Now the council has more plans for other parts of the link between Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood Palace. They will be concentrating on the lower part

towards Holyrood and the upper area at Castlehill, but are carrying out consultation on the plans first . [Read our article here.](#)

Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust has been charged with the responsibility of carrying out a survey of local people who might be interested in some community gardening near Harrison Park.

You will find out more on the [ELGT website](#) and also find a [link to the survey.](#)

The all new [Bongo Club](#) opens on Saturday 23 February 2013. It is now housed in premises underneath the Central Library but has its address at Cowgate.

Their first event will have its roots in reggae:-

“The opening event at our new venue – hosted by the timeless and mighty Messenger Sound System with their annual tribute to the great Robert Nesta Marley. Respect. Tonight you’ll hear top class Wailers tunes from start to finish, featuring guest MC Burning Bush

Roots reggae rocking – foundation tune, fresh dubs, vibes alive, rockers, steppers, rub-a-dub.

Scotland’s original [and biggest] roots and culture rasta reggae sound system, Messenger has been spreading the word on their own custom built bass-heavy rig since 1987, with a flame burning brighter than ever today.”

Balerno Village Screen is showing several films over the coming months. They have put up details for 2 March, 6 April and 11 May. [The screening calendar](#) includes Intouchable which The Reporter just loved. Here is a little taster for you....

La P'tite Folie restaurant's up-coming Italian and Spanish Wine tasting with Adrian Laird Craig from WoodWinters takes place on Tuesday 5th March at 7pm – £25pp including nibbles of charcuterie & cheese. To book or for further details please contact Le Di Vin Wine Bar direct – 0131 538 1815 info@ledivin.co.uk.

Council planning improvements on The Royal Mile



The council has big plans for improving The Royal Mile. Parts of the historic street which lie opposite the City Chambers were part-time pedestrianised some time ago, in a move which planners believe has been to best advantage. The vision announced today is to extend that further, keeping cars and HGVs to a minimum and allowing pedestrians more space to wander. We have a slideshow at the bottom of this article of photos and video of some of the areas to be targeted.

In January 2012 a series of planning charrettes were held to discuss what to do with the street running from the Castle to Holyrood Palace, parts of which are known to be underused.

Visitor numbers at Edinburgh Castle are believed to be about three times as high as they are at Holyrood Palace. Edinburgh Castle welcomed 1,314,975 visitors in 2011-12, the most recent figures available and The Royal Collection Trust report 2011-12 states:-“The Palace of Holyroodhouse received 267,000 visitors during the year, an increase of 14 per cent on the previous year (234,000); and a further 53,000 people visited The Queen’s Gallery (up 23.5 per cent from 43,000 in 2010–11) Planners believe that what is needed is a better pedestrian route between the two attractions to encourage tourists and residents alike to walk down the Mile to Holyrood and to visit shops and businesses in between.

The plans are just proposals at present, and the council is now going to consult with all interested parties to firm up what will begin to take shape later in the year. But the planning officials think that once finalised the planned improvements can be brought into effect quite quickly. Some of the plans do not need too much in the way of infrastructure change, and can be implemented by way of temporary planning measures which can then be made permanent once they are seen to work.

After the planning charrettes in 2012, there was a Royal Mile Spring Clean, and a Royal Mile Manager was employed to oversee what might become a voluntary contract among all the businesses and residents living and working along the historic route, an important milestone in fulfilling the council’s vision for the street. The council owns the pavement and indeed owns many of the shops and premises in the High Street. As owner of the pavement space they have legal power to ensure that shops do not display their wares hanging from the exterior which has been greatly criticised in the past.

As landlord of 46 retail properties in the High Street, the council can enforce who gets to lease property from them, and they can impose certain restrictions on the kind of shopfront new tenants create there. This is one of the ways they keep

control over the kind of businesses operating along one of the main tourist routes. But it is not just tourists who will benefit from the changes. If the other plans to improve at least some of the closes and the hinterland off the High Street also come to fruition then residents will have a nicer place to live too. Some of the closes are used by those who sleep rough from time to time, and can also be a location for many types of anti-social behaviour, due in part to poor lighting, which is off-putting for tourists and residents alike.

[Edinburgh World Heritage](#) themselves have an office in Bakehouse Close, but have recently been working on compiling a list of the closes in and around the High Street. They thought at the beginning that there were 74 but seem to have discovered two more during their recent investigations and now think that there are 76!

A spokesman for Edinburgh World Heritage said:- “Following the Twelve Monuments Project, our next major public realm initiative will be to enhance twelve Old Town closes. The project is still being planned, but the aim will be to encourage people to explore the Old Town beyond the Royal Mile and to improve the environment for visitors and residents alike. As the success of the recent [Scotsman Steps](#) project has shown, conservation-led regeneration can be highly effective in bringing public spaces back to life. It is likely that improvements will include lighting, stonework repairs and interpretation.”

Councillor Ian Perry, Planning Convenor, said:-“The plan to increase pedestrian space in the Royal Mile would be of huge benefit to both businesses and the residents who live in the area. If you reduce the amount of cars, you create a better experience for pedestrians. The area outside the City Chambers is a case in point. There was a lot of initial opposition but now it has proved to be a great attraction during the Festival, and at other times of the year, when street

performers have a proper area to attract an audience. It is not cars who shop – its people

We would like to have what is called shared space in some areas similar to the situation outside the City Chambers. This will allow cars and delivery loading and unloading at definite times, but buses and pedestrians at all times. We will also be speaking to cycling organisations with a view to improving access to and from High Street.

The possibility of introducing a low emission zone will also be discussed as part of the consultation. Discussions have taken place with Lothian Buses about the possibility of using low emission buses on the 35 route which serves the high street. We hope to improve the environment for pedestrians and enhance their experience.”



The street is to be split into six separate areas, as shown on the map above, stretching from Castlehill to Canongate, with the closes behind included as a separate area. It has been recognised that the street developed from different beginnings and there is a different character in each separate division. The various parts are:-

1. Castlehill
2. Lawnmarket
3. Civic Zone (George IV Bridge – Anchor Close)
4. High Street Zone (Anchor Close – St Mary’s Street)
5. Canongate & Holyrood.
6. Closes and Hinterland

The arrangements for Castlehill have still to be discussed with the Army who actually own Edinburgh Castle, but thoughts on changes include moving tour buses to Johnston Terrace rather than allowing them up Castlehill onto the Esplanade.

At Canongate Kirk the area might be raised up so that the road

and pavement flow into each other at the same level. This will form a kind of traffic calming barrier which will mean traffic slows, but pedestrians will also find it easier to use. Whether or not any changes would be made at the bottom of the street would have to be discussed with both Holyrood Palace and also The Scottish Government owing to security requirements.

The proposed development at Caltongate might also eventually draw more people down the High Street, although clearly that is still at the planning stages.

The area around the Lawnmarket might become a low emission zone, and Lothian Buses might use a single decker Low Emission vehicle for their number 35 service which goes from the airport to Holyrood. Councillor Perry explained that the council ideal would be to have only public transport buses serving the area, but admitted it is a difficult thing to enforce any of these restrictions. He said that although the council's long term ambition is to look at local pollution hotspots and the introduction of low emission zones, even if the type of vehicles using the roads is restricted, it is not always possible to restrict their number.

What will happen now is that a series of consultation workshops will be conducted between next month and June with a view to a final plan being drawn up for the planning committee to adopt in August. This means that all the work would be done after the buzz of the Festival has died down. It is recognised that this is an iconic street and the council are determined to split the work up into manageable chunks, not only for ease of execution, but also to learn by doing so what will work on this street where people work, live and walk.



Council recommends closure at Castlebrae

A [report](#) detailing the outcome of a recent consultation on the proposed closure of Castlebrae Community High School will be considered at the Council meeting on 14 March 2013. A decision will be made by Council at that meeting on whether or not the school should close from the end of the 2012/13 school year. The report details the extensive consultation process undertaken, responds to the main issues raised during the process and provides recommendations on how to proceed.

The [report](#) concludes that pupils at Castlebrae continue to experience very poor educational outcomes as a result of the very low roll and that the needs of young people in the Castlebrae catchment area would be better met at neighbouring schools where there is capacity to do so. It recommends that current pupils at Castlebrae Community High School would be offered a place at Portobello High School, although parents could choose to send their children to other city schools if places are available.

The Director of Children and Families, Gillian Tee, considers that the case for closure is strong. She said:- "I am recommending the closure of Castlebrae Community High School as, with all things considered, I strongly believe that pupils will receive a better education elsewhere. This is not a recommendation which has been made lightly; all responses received and views expressed during the extensive consultation process have been carefully considered."

“For those issues that were raised we have looked at the impact and whether we can provide solutions to ensure concerns are addressed. Should the closure be agreed we will work tirelessly to ensure the proposals I am putting forward will help address these concerns and ultimately ensure the best outcome for the young people of Castlebrae and the wider community.”

In the [recent budget](#) the Council reaffirmed its commitment to delivering a new secondary school in the Craigmillar area and funding of £618,000 was set aside for initial work in 2017/18 on the intended new school which it is currently projected will be required in 2020. Regeneration will bring more families into the area for which a new, modern school will be necessary once the pupil numbers in the area rise to a level that requires it.

A variety of opinions and concerns were raised within the consultation responses. Two of the most frequently cited issues surrounded the potential impact on community activities that currently run at the school and whether vocational training would also be affected. The report details how both programmes could be accommodated elsewhere, with popular community activities being re-provided locally and arrangements being put in place to ensure vocational training continues to be provided for pupils at their proposed new school.

Some concerns were expressed about the difference in distance that pupils would have to travel and also about the safety of some routes to the proposed new school. Although no issues were identified regarding the availability of safe walking routes to Portobello High School, in response to the concerns raised it is being recommended that free home to school transport is provided for those pupils who would transfer to Portobello High School.

Issues were also raised about the costs of having to provide

new school uniforms; to help address this it is proposed that £10,000 be made available for replacement uniforms for those pupils transferring to new schools.

Further to this, substantial support will be provided to help pupils transition to their new school to help ensure they have the best possible start there. A proposed annual reinvestment of £120,000 into the Craigmillar area would provide additional support for pupils who would move from Castlebrae Community High School and those in catchment primary schools.

It is also being recommended that, should closure be agreed and the school demolished, any income arising from the disposal of the site would be ring-fenced towards the cost of delivering a new secondary school in Craigmillar.

The detailed report on the findings has been published and will be considered at the City of Edinburgh Full Council meeting on 14 March 2013.