

TERLive! #askLBP with Superintendent David Carradice and Chief Inspector Murray Dykes



Chief Inspector Murray Dykes who is based at Corstorphine Police Station and Superintendent David Carradice (shown in our main photo with Edinburgh Council Vice-Convener, Jim Orr) of Lothian and Borders Police will be joining us here at 5.30pm to discuss the police force's latest projects to highlight the need for road safety.

If you have questions for them you can either join in on Twitter by using the hashtag #askLBP or send us your questions by email theedinburghreporter@gmail.com.



Or join us here later and send us your questions live. Our two former motorcycle cops will try their best to answer any queries although of course they are not able to comment on any live criminal investigations.

Five things you need to know today



Royal Infirmary Inspection – TERLive #askLBP tonight at 5.30 – Police appeal for help with unsolved murder case – Council Education meeting – Greenside

The Royal Infirmary has been the subject of an unannounced inspection which find the hospital lacking when it comes to looking after older people. The Health Inspectorate, Healthcare Improvement Scotland, has suggested 23 areas for improvement. They said after the inspection:-“Some mealtimes seemed poorly organised. Patients who needed help with their meals waited for a long time before that help was provided. We had significant concerns about the provision of meals across several wards and how some patients were assisted to eat their meals. On a number of occasions, we had to intervene and ask staff to provide help for patients at mealtimes.”

You can read the whole report [on the HIS website.](#)

The Edinburgh Reporter is running another live event this evening at 5.30 when we have, not one but two, police officers here from the west of the city to talk about road safety and a new initiative against violence.

We will be joined by Superintendent David Carradice and Chief Inspector Murray Dykes of Lothian and Borders Police. You can join in live under our [TERLive section](#) or on Twitter by using the hashtag #askLBP. You may also send us your questions to theedinburghreporter@gmail.com

The family of an Edinburgh man who was murdered ten years ago have appealed for information to help police catch his killer. Billy Sibbald was last seen leaving his home address at Coillesdene House in Portobello around 8pm on Tuesday, October 8, 2002.

His body was discovered on Friday, January 10, 2003, lying in ground near to an embankment at the side of the A1, between Newcraighall Road and Whitehill Road.

It is believed that the 48-year-old father of three was murdered in the hours immediately following his disappearance, and his body dumped. He had suffered multiple stab wounds.

The Sibbald family has released the following statement on the tenth anniversary of Billy's death:- "We have spent ten Christmases, birthdays and father's days without knowing how or why the one person who should be here to celebrate with us died.

"We have and will always miss having a husband, dad and brother at these family occasions, and we hope someone, somewhere, has the compassion and humility to come forward to help the police and our family."

The Council's [Education, Children and Families Committee](#) meets this morning and will discuss proposals for Castlebrae among many other things on the agenda. [Read our article about Castlebrae here.](#)

Edinburgh City Libraries are putting out a plea for help with their archives about the area at the top of Leith Walk known as Greenside. Before it became home to the car boot sale and office buildings there were homes situated there. Did you live there? Then you may be able to help the City Libraries. On

their website they said:-

“We’ve discovered within the [Edinburgh and Scottish Collection](#), a fantastic collection of images of Greenside dating from the late 1950s before demolition work had begun. The photographs capture the dark and unsalubrious atmosphere of the narrow streets. They also however, show a different side of the neighbourhood. Many of the pictures are taken at Greenside Youth Club, possibly run by Greenside Parish Church, and show a strong community coming together to laugh and play and have fun.

We think the photographer was William Ewing Smith, but unfortunately we haven’t been able to trace him to get in contact. We’d love to hear from you, if you lived in the Greenside area of Edinburgh in the 1950s or maybe you went to the Greenside Youth Club? We’d love to hear your memories and we’d really like to hear from anyone who helped run the Youth Club or knew Mr Smith.

If you’ve any information you can share with us, please contact informationdigital@edinburgh.gov.uk”

Concern grows over the future of Castlebrae High

✖ Politicians from across the political spectrum have called on [Edinburgh City Council](#) to reconsider plans to close [Castlebrae High School](#).

Councillors on the education committee had been expected to approve plans to start a formal consultation process on closing the school in the Craigmillar area of the city when they meet tomorrow morning.

However, [Green](#) councillors have tabled a motion to abandon the plan. They claim that, despite the school having some of the worst exam results in the county, there is little evidence that pupils will fare any better at other schools. The Greens also cite doubts over the building of new schools in both Craigmillar and nearby Portobello as areas of concern.



Councillor Melanie
Main

Commenting on the situation Green councillor, Melanie Main, said she feared that by starting formal discussions on closure the council would find it hard to change course. Main said: "As soon as the Council pulls the trigger to start consultation on closure, it becomes very difficult to turn back the tide. So, when the Labour-SNP administration makes a decision, it needs to be absolutely certain that it is the right path to follow and that it is in the best interests of the children and community.

"There can be no such certainty here. It seems that the Council has jumped the gun, telling parents of its intention to close the school the day before a shock court judgement on land for a new Portobello High School. Since Portobello is one of the main alternatives to Castlebrae, it would be irresponsible to close and bulldoze Castlebrae while the future of Portobello hangs in the air."

Meanwhile senior Labour figures in the capital have also come to the threatened school's defence. Sheila Gilmore MP and [Kezia Dugdale MSP](#) have issued a joint statement rejecting the proposed closure. The statement calls into question the contents of the council report which recommends the implementation of a formal consultation.

On the report Gilmore and Dugdale said:- "The Children & Families Committee will be discussing a report on 9 October

2012 which recommends the start of a consultation on the closure of Castlebrae High School. Having read this report we are concerned that it does not provide a fully rounded view of the role of this Community High School in its community, or fully reflect its strengths.

“We also think that the report does not explain sufficiently the capacity of other schools in the area to cope with the changes required. Capacity is largely looked at in terms of raw numbers, whereas we believe a wider range of issues need to be considered.”

The school is currently two thirds empty, with just 21 pupils enrolled in S1. Exam results have also been disappointing with only 23% of pupils passing five or more standard grades last year while the national average is 79% . Parents and pupils staged a demonstration outside the school last week claiming that the council's failure to invest in Castlebrae had contributed to these figures.

Residents say New Town traffic diversions are a nuisance



We all know that for some time now the city has been a network of traffic diversions with consequent noise and mess. So what can you do about it? Well this week there are two things you might be able to do.

The first is that there will be a meeting held in the City of Edinburgh Council's Waverley Court offices at Market Street tomorrow evening 9 October 2012 at 7.30pm for any city traders affected by tram works. The meeting is also open to members of community councils who are interested in attending, or who have been invited. Tram staff will be on hand to answer any queries you have. Perhaps you might share any queries you are thinking of asking with us in our comments section below? The meeting is not open to members of the public.

The second is that if you live in certain streets in the New Town you are invited to report sightings of HGVs using the city centre diversion, and these vehicles will now be invited to take another route through the city to try and reduce noise and damage to roads and buildings.

In the New Town the chat on the street today is very much about the traffic diversions put in place to accommodate tram works in York Place. There are now more cars and lorries using the diversion route from Queen Street by way of cobbled New Town streets, and eastwards to the Picardy Place roundabout and Leith Street. Our photo shows a motorbike involved in a traffic collision on Abercromby Place with a small van just after the diversion came into effect.

At the Dublin Street/Albany Street/Abercromby Place junction the priority has been changed which appears to make it easier for the traffic to speed along the lengthy stretch of city centre streets largely unimpeded. Previously, the traffic had to give way to other vehicles crossing Dublin Street. The two temporary pedestrian crossings at Abercromby Place and Albany Street do little to stop the flow of traffic regularly enough to make any real difference.

The matter of traffic has been discussed by the New Town Community Council at its regular monthly meetings. [At the](#)

[meeting in August the Transport Convener brought along her staff to explain what the traffic diversions would mean for residents.](#) This included showing off a 'modelling' of the ways that the traffic would move around the city when traffic is rerouted. Some New Town residents who attended the meeting simply did not believe the council's data about the average speed of cars and lorries on this route which was said to be an average of 23 mph.

Ian Mowat is chair of the Community Council. He put an update out to all residents in the area after the community council meeting just last week, part of which we reproduce here:-

A meeting of the Community Council was held on Monday October 1st.

The key items were as follows:

1. On Saturday September 29th a part of Broughton Street was closed to enable the ducting to be installed to enable traffic lights at the junction of Broughton St and Albany St. Now that this work is complete, the installation of the lights should take place by Siemens within the next week or so- it is understood they will be operational on October 11.

2. The pedestrian crossing at Abercromby Place will be investigated by the Tram team to see if the crossing time can be extended.

3. The Council have confirmed that from late November general traffic will be signed to use North and South St David's Street, the east end of Princes St/Leith Street, as the alternative to York Place. We await confirmation that the new arrangements will be reviewed by the Council after they have been up and running for one month – i.e. in January 2013 – to ascertain whether parking could be reinstated in Albany Street and Dublin Street and the altered junctions returned to their previous configuration.

The next meeting is on Monday 5 November 730pm at the community centre at Broughton St Mary's Church, Bellevue Crescent (entrance by gate on right hand side). Local residents are welcome to attend.

One Albany Street resident explained:-“I totally agree with

observations on the danger this traffic presents. This morning I stood and watched a car overtaking a fast moving lorry headed West-East. Unbelievable.

My biggest fear is that some, if not much, of this current situation remains a permanent fixture in the area then perhaps damage to listed buildings is the only thing that will hold power against people (at the council) who refuse to take any other points into consideration. As yet, I've heard no commitment to changing the parking back to end-on and narrowing Albany again nor changing the priority of the Dublin-Abercromby junction.

As city dwellers we know what it is like to work, live and shop in the area. It used to be a real pleasure to go about business in what was a beautiful city. Wherever we turn, we are living in a depressing building site with ugly and untidy work areas and we residents in these traffic affected streets have even more to contend with."

Anecdotal evidence has brought out many instances of traffic speeding in the area, which is dangerous to all other road users. Alastair Allanach who is Secretary of the Northumberland Street Association said:-" 20 mph signs have been painted on the road in Northumberland Street, and this has served to slow some drivers down from 40mph plus to 35mph.

This is, I suppose, progress."

Other residents have voiced concerns over the dangers of trying to park in residents' parking spaces with the traffic approaching behind, as well as difficulties in crossing the streets and getting in and out of cars.

✘ City Centre councillor, Joanna Mowat is trying to assist in redirecting some of the heavier traffic away from the area, and wrote the following to residents this morning:-

"Further to my email last week regarding the installation of the traffic lights, I have spoken with the Council officers dealing with the traffic and asked how HGVs could be

encouraged to use the new diversion route which will be Queen Street, South/North St David Street, Princes Street, Leith Street and vice versa and will be signed as the diversion route from the end of November.

I know it is the HGVs which cause most noise and vibration and the officers have agreed that if there are companies regularly using the route they would be happy to contact these companies and advise them to use the South/North St David Street diversion. However, to do this we need to identify the HGVs regularly using the route. We would be most grateful if you could email the names of any companies regularly using the route to trams@edinburgh.gov.uk who will collate the information and contact the HGVs to ask them to use the alternative route.

Unfortunately we don't have any powers which could prevent HGVs using this route so will have to try and work with the Companies that regularly use it to ask them to use the alternative diversion route, and if we have these companies identified we can do this but will need to know who is using the route.

I hope you will be able to help us with this."

Work is being carried out in York Place which is now only open to buses from Elder Street going east to Picardy Place roundabout. The noise and pollution from the roadworks is one problem for residents, but the increased traffic on the diversion route is another.

As well as this there is the matter of speed to consider. The 20mph which is now painted on all the affected New Town streets is, it transpires, only an advisory. The imposition of a new speed limit would take a lengthy Traffic Regulation Order process. It seems, according to one reader, that this means all drivers simply ignore the signs. The New Town resident said:- "I've been speaking (via mail) to Chris

Highcock (a council officer) this week regarding the volume and speed of this traffic. In particular, on the subject of the painted 20mph on the road surfaces, I've learned from the police that these 20s are merely advisory and not enforceable in any way. I couldn't understand why the speed was not one bit different post sign-painting, and why nothing was being done to apprehend 'speeders'. Our areas are 30 zones and as such the police tell me that there is nothing that can quickly be done now to make any official reduction, other than by this lengthy TRO business."

Adam Bojelian is a young wheelchair user who lives on Albany Street, and he is very badly disturbed by the increased traffic. His mother Zoe said:-"Adam said the traffic is really continues all night long so it stops him from sleeping.

"This is particularly bad for him as it causes him to have seizures. I did contact Edinburgh but they said they do not have to do a risk assessment despite Adam being a "vulnerable child" as it is a temporary change. I haven't had the chance to check whether this is correct.

"I would also add that at times there is a constant stream of cars doing U-turns outside our house. Some misjudge the turn and end up on the pavement. I have already seen a couple of minor crashes, but I am expecting more and much worse, especially when the bad weather starts. It is a cliché, but it really is an accident waiting to happen."

Broughton Street was closed completely earlier in the summer but was then re-opened on 14 July 2012. Now it is only the lower part of the street between Albany Street and London Street which is currently closed, and a new set of traffic lights is to be installed at the Broughton Street/Albany Street junction by Thursday of this week. It is hoped that this might slow the traffic, even a little.

Another local asked whether the new traffic lights might

result in some or all of the heavy traffic being diverted away from Abercromby Place and Albany Street, and asked:-“This week we’ve been having chunks of mortar falling to the basement from parts of our building and are currently investigating. It would seem that the facade has been subject to wind and rain aplenty over the years and so we are highly suspicious that the new and ‘unusual’ vibrations from this heavy fast traffic is the cause.”

The Council have advised another of our readers of the changes which will take place next month:-“The restrictions on South St David Street will remain only until the works at South St Andrew Street are completed in late November. At that point in time the signed diversion route for the New Town will be removed, and diverted traffic will be sent past York Place via Princes Street.

At that point, whilst we would anticipate a large proportion of traffic following the new signed routes, it is likely that some residual traffic will remain on the New Town diversion as this route. We will continue to monitor flows and speed on Albany, Northumberland and on Great King Street until the tram works on York Place are complete.”

Over the last few days a new traffic monitor has appeared on Abercromby Place which will count traffic numbers at least. But locals are keen for the speeding traffic to be brought to a halt.

We have taken some snippets of video on different dates which we reproduce for you here:-

Bamboo plantation set up for the pandas



Things have been a bit quiet on the panda front since the unsuccessful mating attempts earlier this year. But the pandas are still in the zoo and they need to be fed each day, so a bamboo plantation has been established within the zoo grounds to satisfy their appetites in the future.

Next to the famous giant panda enclosure, after visitors have met the black and white pair they can wander into the Zoo's new bamboo nursery. The small working nursery is packed with 250 bamboo plants and contains five different species of tried and tested bamboo species that are tried and tested to be Sunshine and Sweetie's favourites.

Eventually the working nursery will feed the two giant pandas, although its main goal is as an extra panda visitor attraction for the thousands of visitors that flock to see them each week. Incredibly it represents only 1% of the pandas' total bamboo supply each year! A larger off show bamboo nursery will be developed onsite next year that makes a much greater contribution to panda's daily diets.


A beautiful feature, the garden explains the story of bamboo – from its many uses, to how it grows – as visitors tour around it. A shrine to bamboo, and also recycling, the garden even includes left over bamboo chips underfoot and a perimeter fence of bamboo poles that pandas Sweetie and Sunshine have discarded.

Simon and Eva Paton were on hand today to have a closer look.

Photos Katie Paton



Council to sue parents over truants

 The City of Edinburgh Council has commenced criminal proceedings in the Justice of the Peace Court against three parents who it is alleged have failed to ensure their child attends school regularly. The Council is taking these steps to help improve attendance at school and pupil participation and performance.

Once a child's attendance drops below 85 per cent this triggers a formal process to look into what issues are causing this absence.

New targets for the current school year are to increase attendance in primary schools from 94.5 to 94.9 per cent, which is the equivalent of around 17,000 additional pupil days. The target for secondary schools is to increase attendance from 91 to 91.4 per cent which is the equivalent of around 13,000 pupil days.

Councillor Paul Godzik, Education, Children and Families Committee Convener said: "Prosecution is a last resort; before we consider it we will use all available recourses and statutory interventions to try and improve a pupil's attendance. If, however, these steps do not help, and parents do not take adequate measures to improve their child's attendance at school, then they will need to answer for their child's poor attendance in court."

“This sends out a clear message to parents that poor attendance at school has serious consequences, and also that we as a Council will do everything possible to help children get the education they deserve.”

For those found guilty, the penalties include, a fine of up to £1,000 or imprisonment of up to one month as outlined in the Education (Scotland) Act 1980.

Under this Act local authorities are obliged to address the issue of non-attendance and to support the on-going work of the Area Attendance Advisory Groups and the Attendance Order Review Group.

The current process usually follows similar steps;

- child is absent from school regularly
- referral to Education Welfare Officer who will visit and work with the family, despite this intervention absences continue
- parent asked to appear before Area Attendance Advisory Group
- still no improvement – parent will be summoned to appear before the AORG (Attendance Order Review Group)

Complaints have been lodged in three separate cases to the Justice of the Peace Court. It is believed these cases will first call in court in the next 4-6 weeks.

Edinburgh Castle was besieged this weekend



This weekend Edinburgh Castle travelled back in time to the year 1640 to the time when the Castle was besieged by the covenanters for seven months.

The garrison surrendered in September 1640 after they ran out of food and water but not before they had killed over 200 of Edinburgh's citizens during their bombardment of the city. So that might be why you thought there was an extra firing of the One o'clock Gun yesterday!

Community Engagement event in the Calders this afternoon



A package of measures is being introduced to improve security on the landings of housing blocks in the south west of Edinburgh.

The Landing Upgrade Project will provide new digital CCTV cameras, screen doors and upgraded fire resistant paint in the six blocks in the Calders.

The improvements, which will cost £600,000, has been officially unveiled at a special Community Engagement event in

Dunsyre House South this afternoon.

Work to the landings on the first floor of the tower block have now been completed and similar upgrades are planned for the remaining landings over the next 18 months.

The blocks currently have CCTV cameras which cover the entrances, the ground floors and lifts. The aim of the project is to reduce vandalism repair costs and give residents in the blocks a greater sense of security.

It is also hoped that today's Community Engagement event will encourage residents to form two residents groups for the high and low rises. It follows on from the successful Operation Cipher campaign which was launched in the Calders last month.



Vice-Convenor of
Health, Social
Care & Housing –
Cammy Day

Councillor Cammy Day, the city's housing leader, said: "I am sure these improvements will be welcomed by people living in the Calders. The new measures are designed to improve safety and give them a greater sense of security.

"Today's activities reinforce the commitment made by the Capital Coalition to involve local people in decisions on how Council resources are used. I would urge everyone to come along to the Community Engagement event and make their views heard."

Maude Wylie, a member of the Wester Hailes Community Council, approved of today's Community Engagement event.

She said:- "This project was discussed at the community council with local young people who were very supportive. They felt it was a great chance for the local community to get

involved in not only improving their local area but also finding out about what services can help support them.”

In addition to the unveiling of the first upgraded landing there are other events happening in the Calders this week.

Between 3pm and 6.30pm today Council staff, along with various partner organisations, will be available to meet residents to discuss any housing, recycling issues, promote the investment in the area and encourage resident involvement in the future of the estate.

Staff from Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade will also be on site today to encourage residents to use the recycling facilities available to minimise potential fire risk, due to residents storing rubbish/bulk items inappropriately.

Recycling skips will also be available for residents to dispose of any unwanted bulk items.

There will also be a Community Clean Up tomorrow and Wednesday between 9am and 4pm with staff from British Gas.

What's on the menu tonight at The Scotsman Supper Club?



The Scotsman Hotel have just started to offer a supper club menu only on Monday evenings between 5.30 and 7.00pm. The three course menu changes each week but the price remains the same at £25 for three courses with a glass of wine.

Here is tonight's menu just in case you are tempted to eat out after a hard day in the office!

Warm courgette and thyme mousse with a parmesan sauce and courgette flower fritters

Loch Lomond Arctic charr poached in "summer harvest" Perthshire rapeseed oil, with a warm salad of Ayrshire new potatoes and grilled leeks and a mint hollandaise sauce

Baby spinach and almond soup with marinated feta cheese

~o0o~

8oz Flat iron steak topped with the Scotsman's famous "Auld Reekie" whisky and smoked cheese sauce served with chunky chips and grilled Portobello mushrooms

Globe artichoke and lemon thyme risotto with broccoli and parmesan

St Mungos beer battered fish of the day served with chunky chips and homemade tartare sauce

~o0o~

Hot chocolate mousse with toasted marshmallow ice cream and crunchy milk rocks

*Sticky toffee pudding served with hot butterscotch sauce
and clotted cream ice cream*

Homemade ice cream of the day

For further information or to book, please contact 0131 622 2900 or email scotsman-northbridge@thescotsmanhotel.co.uk www.thescotsmanhotel.co.uk

Ardbeg Reserve sells for £27,000 for St Columba's



The St Columba's Hospice Live Life Ball, held at the newly refurbished Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh, raised a record £400,000 on Saturday evening. The one-off bottle of St Columba's 'A0IBHINN' Ardbeg Reserve, in a unique bottle designed by Maeve Gillies, raised £27,000 alone.

Janice Gammell, Chair of the Live Life Ball Committee, said:- "This is an amazing result, and I speak for the committee when I say we have been humbled by the support we have received. Raising £400,000 is more than we ever imagined and it's a privilege to know that thousands of people over the next 35

ys of St Columba's Hospice will benefit from one night of generosity and kindness."

Margaret Dunbar, Chief Executive of St Columba's Hospice, said:- "Our ambitious plans for a £26 million rebuild of St Columba's Hospice are well underway and this amazing result will bring us one step closer to completing the project. We offer our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who contributed to the success of this event. We will return to our spiritual home in Trinity, overlooking the Firth of Forth, in Spring 2014. Our new St Columba's Hospice will allow us to continue to provide the highest quality of care for the people of Edinburgh and the Lothians for the next 35 years."

Lesley Christie, Fundraising Director, St Columba's Hospice, said:- "This is without doubt our most successful fundraising event ever and we have been overwhelmed by the support and goodwill which has been shown towards St Columba's Hospice. We are enormously grateful to our Live Life Committee for their incredible commitment to making this event such an overwhelming success, and to everyone who came long and supported us on the night."

Photo Malcolm Cochrane Photography

Five things you need to know today



Man charged with further offences – Problems with rubbish – Liveblog with Lothian and Borders Police – West Bowling Green Street – easyjet to add 24 more routes in 2013

A man who was arrested and charged in connection with a sexually motivated assault in Ratho has also been charged with other reported sexual offences.

As a result of enquiries into an incident where a 15-year-old girl jumped into the canal to escape an attack, the 18-year-old has been linked to seven other incidents, which happened within Ratho and the West of Edinburgh between July and October.

He will appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court today.

We were able to help a couple of our readers out yesterday who Tweeted to us that they still had loads of rubbish for collection. Environment Convener, Councillor Lesley Hinds, is keen to hear from you if you are still encountering difficulties. And there is a webpage where you can get details of what the current position is and where to send your email. But if all else fails then please contact us and we will try to help! theedinburghreporter@gmail.com

Tomorrow evening at 5.30 we will have not just one but two police officers with us for a liveblog about policing in the west of the city. Superintendent David Carradice and Chief Inspector Murray Dykes will be joining us to talk about their road safety initiative and another Lothian and Borders Police initiative to reduce violence. Interesting that both of them have worked as motorcycle cops in the past! Send us your questions to theedinburghreporter@gmail.com or by joining in live via Twitter with the hashtag #askLBP or join us on our [TERLive! section here.](#)

[Greener Leith](#) have a story about the closure of West Bowling

Green Street which they are fearful may turn into a permanent closure.

easyJet, Scotland's largest airline, has announced further routes as part of its Summer Schedule this week with low-fares now available on an additional 24 routes from its Edinburgh base.

Some 4,000 flights are now on sale at www.easyJet.com, enabling passengers to secure the best fares early with more than 700,000 seats available for travel from 17 June 2013 through to 8 September 2013.

Key routes for summer 2013 include popular sun destinations to Athens, Alicante and Cyprus. Routes to leading city break destinations such as Nice and Lisbon all feature in the schedule.

The airline is also continuing to expand its offering to business passengers with more than 140 flights in and out of London each week as well Amsterdam, and Belfast both available in next year's summer schedule.

Man dies after collision in Nicolson Square

✖ Lothian and Borders Police can confirm that a 19-year-old man who was injured during a road collision on Saturday 29 September 2012 has died.

Akim Merchant from California, USA, was involved in a collision with a blue Volkswagen Passat in Nicolson Square at around 4.45pm and was taken to hospital with serious head injuries.

Despite the best efforts of medical staff, he passed away on Friday evening.

A 20-year-old woman who was also involved in the collision with the vehicle suffered minor injuries.

The driver of the Passat stopped at the scene and continues to assist police with their enquiries.

Officers are again urging anyone who witnessed the collision or who has information that can assist with their investigation to come forward.

Anyone with any information can contact Lothian and Borders Police on 0131 311 3131, or the charity Crimestoppers in confidence and complete anonymity on 0800 555 111.

Serious assault in George Street

✖ Lothian and Borders Police are appealing for witnesses following a serious assault in Edinburgh's city centre over the weekend.

The incident happened yesterday around 3am on Sunday 7 October on George Street.

A 25-year-old man had been in the Le Monde nightclub and was standing near the Hard Rock Café when a male approached and

punched him in the face. The suspect then made off and the victim also then left the area with friends.

An ambulance, which had been called by members of the public who witnessed the attack found the injured man on Rose Street and he was taken to hospital for treatment on a broken jaw.

Officers are now keen to speak to anyone who can assist with their enquiries into this assault.

The suspect is described as white, over 6ft tall, between 20 and 25 years-old with a slim build and short fair hair spiked at the front. He was wearing a checked shirt, dark skinny jeans and dark shoes.

It is believed he was with another male who was similar in age, but was shorter and wearing a t-shirt with light-coloured stripes, blue jeans and white trainers.

Detective Constable Graham McIlwraith said:- "We are currently still trying to determine the full circumstances surrounding this attack.

"Given the time at which this incident took place, there were potentially a number of people leaving the various establishments in George Street who may have seen something suspicious.

"Anyone who witnessed the assault or who can help identify the male responsible is asked to contact police immediately."

Anyone with any information can contact Lothian and Borders Police on 0131 311 3131, or the charity Crimestoppers in confidence and complete anonymity on 0800 555 111.

Audio – Interview with Councillor Cameron Rose the new leader of the Conservative Group



Today is the first business day for the newly elected leader of the Conservative Group, Cameron Rose. Councillor Rose represents the Southside/Newington Ward and has done since first being elected in 2007. On Friday he was elected leader of the political group of 11 Tory councillors which provides the main opposition to the Capital Coalition of 38 SNP and Labour councillors.

We spoke to him this morning when he had hardly had time to get his feet under the desk – in fact his desk was to be moved! The prospect of leading the Conservative group in opposition is not one that he finds daunting in any way as you will hear during our interview with him:-

[listen to 'Interview with Councillor Cameron Rose, newly elected Conservative Group leader, on his first day at the office' on Audioboo](#)

His email address is cameron.rose@edinburgh.gov.uk

You may also follow [Cameron Rose's blog here](#) and he is on [Twitter](#) too.

The African Children's Choir from the Jubilee Concert to SING in Edinburgh




After stealing the hearts of the nation during their uplifting performance of the number one single 'Sing' with Gary Barlow at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, the famous African Children's Choir have been invited back to the UK to tour their inspirational talents.

The Choir are currently delighting Scottish audiences with their energetic concerts, and will be performing at **Colinton Parish Church, Edinburgh on Friday 12 October 2012 at 7.30pm.** After their Scotland dates the choir will be travelling to Northern Ireland and then onto England later this year.

The 38th African Children's Choir comprises of 17 children from Uganda, whose smiles have recently been lighting up North America.

Music for Life, the official fundraising charity of The African Children's Choir, work in seven African countries, and have educated over 52,000 children as well as impacting the lives of over 100,000 people through its relief and development programmes during its 28 year history.

 The African Children's Choir travels the world, acting as the ambassador for Africa's most vulnerable children, raising much needed awareness as they go. Funds raised contribute to the continued development and support of the Music for Life programmes that help educate some of the

continent's most in-need children, providing them with better opportunities; creating **ChangeMakers** for the future of Africa.

The choir has attracted fans from all over the World, including some celebrity admirers. Talking about the choir, International superstar Annie Lennox said "I first encountered the African Children's Choir as they were heading towards the stage to perform for Nelson Mandela's 46664 campaign ... Since then I've come to appreciate more and more, just how uniquely special they are."

The concerts reflect the energy, beauty, dignity and unlimited ability of these incredible children through song, music and dance. Many of the choir children have lost one or both parents to poverty or disease. The performances are both uplifting and humbling and are an opportunity to experience the vitality of the youth from this challenged continent.

Venue dates and booking details can be found at www.africanchildrenschoir.org.uk

IT advice – Back up!



EVERY BODY NEEDS BACK UP

Richard Walsh, managing director of It-atWork provides advice on how to keep that all- important computer information safe and sound.

Computers are great. We can access all the information we need in an instant. But, never forget that 'catastrophic' PC

failure can happen at any time.

So, how do you protect yourself from losing data that is vital for the smooth running of your business – and your life? Back-up is crucial. We all know this, but as an IT consultant, I often discover that not everyone does it, or that it is not done as often as it should be. The fact, though, is that if you don't want to lose data, you do need to back it up – regularly.

And if you are already in the good habit of backing up, a word of advice: it can be wise not to back everything up in the same place. If you do this, you only have one level of back up and this can cause problems.

For instance, what if you removed 20 pages of a business proposal believing them no longer relevant – then you are asked to reinstate them?

You find that each back up overwrote the proposal stored before on your single flash drive so the pages are gone. Disaster.

This can be avoided by keeping a series of backups reflecting the state of rapidly-changing data at different points in time, and by keeping some of your data off-site. On-line back-up solutions can be worthwhile, but again, not as your only, or even primary, method of backup.

Why not? Because anyone can lose your data – even Amazon, who offer cloud storage services for PCs. In April 2011 Amazon was unable to recover 0.07% of the data lost during what they described as an 'outage'.

So , to sum up, always back up your data – and back up your back up, by having at least two levels of storage.

It-atWork, based in Edinburgh and Angus, provides IT support and consultancy to businesses and other PC users throughout

the east of Scotland. Further information is available at www.it-atwork.co.uk.

Five things you need to know today



Rubbish – Barnardo’s – Oxjam – Liz Lochhead at the Central Library – Swingers

Some readers are still reporting problems with uncollected rubbish. If that is you then please get in touch by email with your postcode or address and the council’s Environment Convenor, Lesley Hinds, has promised to get someone round to pick it up. Refuse collectors are now working 7 days per week to deal with any lingering problems. theedinburghreporter@gmail.com or use our Contact Us page

One of our readers who tweeted to us this morning, albeit as a last resort, has had the problem rubbish outside his house dealt with today. But, the Environment Convener is aware that there have been problems across the city with people simply depositing their rubbish next to bins which are already overflowing, only adding to the problems.

Barnardo’s Scotland is pleased to announce that tickets for the MGA Academy show ‘A Christmas Wish’ on Saturday, 15 December, are now on sale from the Usher Hall box office, with proceeds from the show going towards helping the most vulnerable children in Scotland.


This event, billed as, 'an evening extravaganza of song, dance and festive cheer' is a magical winter spectacle which involves over 200 young people taking to the stage and warming your hearts with a selection of Christmas themed performances from an immensely talented cast.

A Christmas Wish has been produced in aid of children's charity Barnardo's Scotland.

The MGA Academy and performers look forward to welcoming you to this sparkling night of entertainment in the knowledge that you are supporting the vulnerable children and young people who need it the most, especially at this time of year.

Make a ticket to this show one of your Christmas Wishes...

Tickets priced at £15 (Concessions £12.50) are on sale now from the Usher Hall Box Office 0131 228 1155 or via the Usher Hall website www.usherhall.co.uk/whats-on/family/2921/5622/a-christmas-wish.html

 Oxjam takes place on 20 October in Edinburgh. Full line up is [on their Facebook page](#) but the venues are the Oxfam music shop in Stockbridge, Three Sisters and Cabaret Voltaire with an after party at HMV Picture House. Get your tickets now!

Scotland's Makar, Liz Lochhead will be appearing at the

Central Library on 15 November 2012 in a free event . The Edinburgh libraries blog Tales of One City explains:-

"We're thrilled that she'll be joining us for a special 'Edinburgh Reads' event on Thursday 15th November where she'll be discussing her latest collection '[A choosing](#)' and discussing some of her favourite poems with Robyn Marsack, Director of the Scottish Poetry Library.

[Book online](#) to reserve your place at what is sure to be a memorable evening."

And in today's [Daily Record](#) it is reported that the Carlton Highland Hotel has cancelled a party which they discovered would be for swingers. The hotel was fearful for its reputation.

Edinburgh v Treviso, RaboDirect PR012



Report and Photos by John Preece

Edinburgh came away from their latest encounter at Murrayfield wondering where it had all gone wrong. Fielding what was, on paper, a strong starting line-up, The Edinburgh side were well beaten by their Italian visitors, the final score of 27-22 to Treviso doing them a fair injustice,

It started well for Edinburgh with two penalties in the first

five minutes, but only one going over from Greg Laidlaw, to give the lead to the home team and it looked as if a favourable result was on the cards. But the visitors came back strongly and pushed Edinburgh hard, keeping them pinned back in their own half for long periods. Around the half-hour point, a series of penalties, taken as scrums, on the Edinburgh five metre line forced the referee to give Willem Nel his marching orders from the front row. Another couple of failed scrums and the referee was again left with no choice and awarded the visitors a penalty try under the posts – a decision that would come back to bite him later on – and the easy conversion was popped over by Alberto di Bernardo.

From the kick off a short game of 'tennis' ensued between the backs, from 22 to 22, to see who would blink first and run the ball. Treviso took the bait and after five or so minutes of to-ing and fro-ing, a mistake by the visitors was pounced on by David Denton, who got the ball out on the wing to Tim Visser near the half-way line. The Dutch 'Scotsman' (or Scots Dutchman?) took off down the line and beating off and jumping over a succession of tackles, ran in to score his eighth try of the season under the posts. With Laidlaw scoring with the kick, Edinburgh retook the lead.



Or, at least, they did for a short period. Another penalty from di Bernardo drew the sides level and on the cusp of half time, Laidlaw dropped a pass and Treviso's No. 8, Robert Barbiero gathered the ball to charge in for the visitor's second try, Matt Scott just failing to stop Barbieri crossing the line. Another easy kick for di Bernardo took the Italian side into the break 17-10 ahead.

With Edinburgh starting the second half as they had finished the first – pinned in their own half – Treviso went further ahead from another penalty, before, 14 minutes in, an

attempted clearance kick was charged down and Barbieri crossed the line for his second try on the night. Yet another successful di Bernardo conversion stretched the score out to 27-10 in favour of the visiting side.

At this point a bit of a cabinet reshuffle took place among the forwards and Edinburgh seemed to awaken from their game-long slumber. Two minutes was all it took for them to secure possession, pass the ball around a bit, to leave Lee Jones with a not inconsiderable gallop to score his first try of the season. Laidlaw missed the conversion, but Edinburgh were back in the game 27-15.

The momentum had shifted and Edinburgh put the Italian side under extreme pressure deep in their 22. A succession of scrum penalties lead to a yellow card for Lorenzo Cittadini and this is where it all went wrong for the referee. Seven penalties came the Edinburgh way in the space of about ten minutes, five of which were taken on the five-metre line as scrums. On two occasions, the Edinburgh scrum blew apart their opposition and were marching towards the line, only for the referee to inexplicably blow up for the next penalty. The question could be asked of how, after the scrum fell over a couple of times, were the Italians awarded a penalty try, when Edinburgh clearly had the ascendancy and were pushing the Italians all over the place, was just another penalty awarded?

The sixth scrum of the 'sequence' just went all wrong. Feeling somewhat aggrieved, the host side put in an almighty effort, only to see the scrum deemed to have gone through 90 degrees and the ball awarded to Treviso. A whole lot of effort for no reward.

Reward of a fashion did, however, come two minutes from time when, after a series of Edinburgh attacks and desperate Treviso clearances, a wide passing move got Dougie Fife (Main photo) through a gap in the defence to touch down between the posts. Laidlaw saw this kick over and a bonus point, at least,

was in the bag.

The visitors, quite rightly, took an age to kick off, but even with time up, there was no holding back a, finally, rampant Edinburgh. Retaining possession through the forwards, they fought their way up from their 22 and stuck the ball in the hands of (choose your own descriptive) Visser, who launched himself up the side line. Evading another couple of tackles and with only one man to beat, he choose to kick over, but the last defender was too quick and touched the ball down in the goal area to bring the game to a nail-biting finish.

27-22 was a lot closer than it should have been given the relative performances and although Edinburgh struggled at times, they nearly pulled it out of the bag, but they are going to have to play for more than 20 minutes of a match if they are going to lift themselves up from the depths of the league this season.

Still, Heineken Cup rugby next match (K.O. at 1:35pm on Saturday 13 Oct.) and we all remember how that went last season. Don't we?

Recipe – Chocolate Beetroot Brownies



A recipe for Chocolate Beetroot Brownies from the owner of Cafe Musa.

I've made brownies many times and always enjoy them, but I also enjoy trying recipes with a bit of a 'twist'. If you do

too, you might like to try the chocolate beetroot version.

Beetroot provides brownies with an unusual and unexpected sweetness that you can't quite place (unless you know beetroot is in the mix). It creates a different texture too.

Making brownies is easy, whether you include beetroot or not, so they're ideal if you're a cake baking beginner.

It really is just a case of mixing the ingredients and putting it in the oven. Do remember to line the tray with greaseproof paper, though, as otherwise the brownies will stick to the tray.

When they're done, I like to add a dollop of creme fraiche to mine, although you might prefer vanilla ice-cream. They are also delicious on their own, with a cup of good coffee, hot chocolate or a mint tea.

CHOCOLATE BEETROOT BROWNIES

Ingredients

250g unsalted butter

250g dark chocolate

3 eggs

250g caster sugar

2g salt

150g self-raising flour

200g beetroot – fresh, or vacuum packed preferably, but tinned in water will also work (as long as it is unflavoured) grated

Crème fraiche or ice cream to serve

Method

Heat oven to 180 degrees

Grease and line a 20cm x 25cm baking tin (important to do this so you can lift it out and cut easier)

Gently melt butter & chocolate over a bowl of hot water, allow to cool slightly.

Whisk the eggs and sugar in a large bowl until pale colour, then add chocolate mix – whisk gently till smooth.

Gently fold in sifted flour ,salt and grated beetroot.

Bake for 30 minutes, allow the top to form a crust whilst centre remains soft.

Allow to cool in the tin for 30 minutes, then turn out onto a wire rack.

Cut into squares and serve with crème fraiche, to balance with the sweetness.

If you want to add anything to this recipe then a good suggestion is walnuts or cashew nuts (approx 75g). Or, or if you are feeling brave 1 small red chilli spices it up!

Sue Mitchell is owner of Cafe Musa on the Mound, 16 North Bank Street www.cafemusa.co.uk Twitter @musaonthemound [Facebook.com/Cafemusa](https://www.facebook.com/Cafemusa)

Entrepreneur conference in Edinburgh next week

SCOTTISH ENTREPRENEURS INVITED TO LEARN FROM INDUSTRY EXPERTS

The cream of the Scottish business community, including the brains behind popular brand Morphsuits, will come together next week for the inaugural WeDO Scotland conference.

Taking place in Edinburgh on 11 October 2012, the first conference to be hosted by leading entrepreneurial network WeDO Scotland will give high flyers from across the country the chance to learn from each other as well as hear invaluable advice from some of the industry's most acclaimed experts.

Speakers at the event include non-executive director of Robert Wiseman Dairies, Jack Perry CBE, who previously held the role of Chief Executive of Scottish Enterprise; along with Morphsuits co-founder Gregor Lawson; former Wall Street trader turned managing partner of Genesis Asset Management, Mike Williams; and IT specialist Martin Mutch who is co-founder and chief executive of software consultancy Rocela.

Alongside the expert talks, workshops on everything from banking disputes to the future of social media will take place during the event.

Founder of WeDo Scotland, Belinda Roberts said:- "WeDO Scotland has an ethos firmly built on nurturing Scottish business and through events such as the WeDO Scotland conference, we strive to celebrate and encourage the amazing entrepreneurial spirit we have on offer in this small but feisty country.

"WeDo Scotland's first ever conference is arriving with a bang, offering wisdom to Scotland's business community from some of the best in the business.

"I am delighted to welcome our four expert speakers who come with their own wealth of experience and are able to offer valuable advice on a wide range of hot topics."

Open to Scottish business owners and founders, WeDO Scotland members meet regularly to share ideas, experiences and

knowledge at topic-based events which are selected for their relevance to entrepreneurs. Those involved in the organisation range from start-up businesses with high growth potential to multi-million pound turnover companies.

The conference will take place at the Point Hotel on Bread Street, Edinburgh. Registration will be at 8:45am and the event will begin at 9:30am sharp and finish at 5:30pm.

Space at the event is limited, however there are a number of tickets still available to both members and non-members. These will be issued on a first come first served basis.

To book your place at the conference please email: support@wedoscotland.co or call 08708 759793.

Council to look into zero tolerance approach to industrial waste

Edinburgh is set to explore options for a more robust approach to dealing with business waste in a bid to help reduce clutter on the city's streets.

A report to the [Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee on Thursday 11 October](#) will consider whether a zero tolerance approach to large and bulky on-street containers could be explored further. This would follow in the example of other local authorities in the country, such as Westminster and Manchester, who currently adopt this approach to the storage of waste on the streets.

In both cities this has developed into a policy that requires

all waste to be stored on business premises and presented just before the time of collection. This effective management of trade waste has led to streets being less cluttered as well as improving the cleanliness of the area.

It is proposed that The City of Edinburgh Council explores the options and implications of taking a more robust approach to trade waste enforcement with an initial focus on the city centre.



Convener of
Transport &
Environment –
Lesley Hinds

Councillor Lesley Hinds, the city's Transport and Environment Convener, said: "Communities, particularly in the City Centre and Leith area, have frequently highlighted this as a concern as large, trade waste containers can have a detrimental impact not only on the look of an area but also the cleanliness.

"We now need to look at the options for how this can be better managed so that there is more of a balance between the needs of businesses and the needs of residents."

The report can be viewed [online](#). If approved next Thursday, a further report on the options will be presented to a future meeting of the committee.

Five things you need to know

today



Man arrested – Live blogs with Lothian and Borders Police – Portobello Market – Competitions – Rockin for Tots

An 18-year-old man has been arrested and charged in connection with an [alleged sexually motivated assault](#) that happened in Ratho on Wednesday, October 3.

He will appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court on Monday.

This month we have two live blogs with Lothian and Borders Police for you to join in with. The first is on Tuesday 9 October at 5.30 and we will be talking with Superintendent David Carradice about a road safety initiative which he is leading and Chief Inspector Murray Dykes from Corstorphine Police Station about his officers' work in the west of the city. Join us on Tuesday under our [TERLive section](#) or by using Twitter #askLBP or email us any questions you might have for them. theedinburghreporter@gmail.com Then on Tuesday 16 October we will be talking to Superintendent Bryan Rodger who is based at Craigmillar Police Station and who is responsible for policing in the south and east of the city.

This Saturday is Portobello Market Day, run by local group PEDAL – Portobello Transition Town. The scheduled musical entertainment has unfortunately been cancelled, however, there are a fabulous range of stalls this week with two brand new businesses: Blossoming Gardens and Goodness Cake.

And of course, all the usual traders and a few more will be there for your shopping needs, from award winning oils, fresh fish, locally produced fresh meats, continental deli products,

great fresh bread, artisan cheeses, hand-made soaps, cards & gifts, seasonal veggies, sushi & noodles, organic herbal teas, knitted crafts, Fair Trade products and a first class BBQ for all you hungry people, plus hopefully a provider of latte, cappuccino etc.

[A full list of stallholders is available here.](#) Brighton Park, Brighton Place, Portobello, Edinburgh, EH15 1LJ 9.30am – 1.30pm

We have two competitions for you this weekend. One only runs till Monday and you must be fast to win! There are two £50 gift cards to be won for [M& S at The Gyle](#). And separately we have a [Hue and Cry](#) competition running until 15 October. We have three sets of tickets for their concert to give away. Enter today!

No plans for this evening? There is a fundraiser for the Special Baby Care Unit at Simpsons with lots of music on offer at Teviot Row later . [More details here.](#)

Tranent couple want to raise awareness about teenage cancer



A Tranent couple, who have just returned to Scotland after spending two months in America getting medical treatment for

their daughter, are keen to raise awareness of childhood cancer, and urge all parents to be on the lookout for warning signs. They also want to express their gratitude to everyone who supported them during their daughter's illness and who donated to their fund.

In January the lives of the Yates family were turned upside down when 12 year-old daughter, Niamh, was diagnosed with an undifferentiated sarcoma on the base of her spine. All childhood cancers are rare, but this was a particularly rare form of tumour. Treatment initially began with a seven hour emergency spinal operation to prevent what was becoming serious nerve damage to the lower part of her body.

Niamh gets on-going physiotherapy to help overcome the difficulties she has developed during six cycles of chemotherapy at Edinburgh's Royal Hospital for Sick Children. On 13 July this year, the family travelled to the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute in Jacksonville for a seven week course of proton beam radiotherapy.

A daily commute and treatment averaged three hours each day, and in addition to the excellent treatment provided at the institute, part of the recuperation process involved the Florida sunshine where Niamh quickly lost the 'chemo pallor' and also benefitted from daily swims in the nearby pool with physiotherapist, Tom, and younger brother Conor.

With plenty of spare time, the family quite rightly made the most of their stay in Florida, and managed to take in some WWE wrestling involving some big names including John Cena, CM Punk and Daniel Bryan, as well as visiting the famous Cocoa Beach and the Kennedy Space Centre, where they tried a rocket flight simulator, viewed the Imax Hubble Telescope experience and the Cape Canaveral Launch pads.

At Hollywood Studios in Orlando, they saw the Indiana Jones Show and tried the Star Wars ride, while at SeaWorld, Niamh

enjoyed all the shows especially Shamu the killer whale, and Pets Ahoy where pets adopted from animal rescue shelters feature star in it.



Niamh was also able to swim with the dolphins at Marineland which is reputedly the oldest dolphin park in the world and also has the world's oldest dolphin in captivity there, aged 59.

Despite their adventures, no-one in the family ever lost sight of the real reason for being in America as mum Julie explained:- "Yes, we're in Florida, it's a wonderful place and perfect for Niamh's recuperation, but we are here on our own, no family apart from each other, no friends I can see for a wee chat – we are just the four of us dealing with it all together. It's bloody hard work actually and anyone who thinks we are having a "holiday" out here can think again. It's not a holiday. Yes it's hot, yes we've been making the most of our time here when we can (thanks to the wonderful generosity of family and friends) but it feels far from a holiday to us. The stark reality is that we are here for a reason, to get our lovely Niamh well again, back to her normal self, cancer free, back to school, back with her friends where she belongs."

Before coming home, the family managed to take in the sights of Washington DC where they saw the White House, the Washington Monument, the WW2 Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Capitol Hill, Korean War Memorial and Vietnam War Memorial, as well as three of the Smithsonian's (Natural History, American Indian and Air and Space).



Finally, after 36 sessions of proton lasting seven weeks, Niamh was rewarded with a party at the institute, where gifts and a cake were the order of the day.

Julie continued:- “It’s been hard work with the best part of three hours a day taken up with the appointments, not to mention trips to the Oncology team and also her physio. It’s been gruelling and tiring for her (and us) but she has done amazingly well. Her doctor here said she has tolerated the treatment very well (and she’s had a lot of radiation) and they are very, very pleased with how it’s gone. We are just pleased it’s all over so we can move on with our lives. Hopefully she won’t require any more treatment whatsoever apart from regular scans and check-ups. We will not get an MRI scan for a while due to inflammation at the tumour site, so until then, we concentrate on getting Niamh fit and ready to return to school.”

The final stop before returning home was the Big Apple where the family stayed on the 46th floor of the Crowne Plaza Hotel over the Hershey’s shop in Times Square, and took a helicopter tour of the city which included a close up of the Statue of Liberty.

They also did the obligatory ‘tourist’ type things in New York, and went for meals at The Hard Rock Cafe and Bubba Gump’s Shrimp Company. The fact that Niamh was able to do it all without using her wheelchair was particularly encouraging.

A visit to Manhattan for children would not be complete without a trip to ‘ToysRus’ in Times Square which ended with the unusual sight of four policemen arresting a man dressed as Elmo outside the building.

Both Julie and Paul are desperate to raise awareness about children’s cancer, and urge all parents to look out for the signs as early diagnosis is vital.

Julie said:- “September is Childhood Cancer awareness month (in the USA). Early diagnosis is the key, but lack of funding and research into children’s cancers means that GPs often don’t recognise the symptoms and therefore there’s always a

delay in being diagnosed. This delay can be the difference between life and death. So you, as parents, must educate yourselves on the signs of cancer in children and trust your gut. It's not as rare as you might think. Check out this website for more information Bechildcanceraware.org.

"I get so angry sometimes at the situation – this ***** tumour and what it's done to her. Watching her limp around in tears, clinging onto Paul for support trying to "walk it out" breaks my heart. It took a good hour before it eased off for her. How dare cancer do this to my child! It has robbed her of almost a year of her life. It has affected our family in ways I cannot even begin to explain. There are still things that occur on a daily basis due to the tumour even 7 months after her operation that I can't begin to go into here. It's an ongoing battle for her and us which will continue for some time to come. All she wants is to be normal, a normal teenager but she can't be. Not yet anyway. The cancer treatment has ravaged her body, made her sick, had her hooked up to machines for days on end, put poison into her body which may have caused long term side effects, caused catastrophic damage to her nerves and shattered her confidence. We still have a long road ahead of us, but we're getting there.

"After that it's hopefully back to normality with no further treatment as soon as possible – Paul is looking forward to returning to work and Niamh to school.

"Thank you so much to all who donated to our fund and who continue to support us – we really really couldn't have done this without you and send gratitude from the bottom of our hearts. we can't thank you enough and hope to continue fundraising to help other families affected by paediatric cancer on our return!"

Anyone wishing to contribute can do so at http://www.gofundme.com/allaboutniamh?utm_medium=wdgt

Scottish National Portrait Gallery hosts new exhibition about India



A collection of beautiful and rarely seen photographs, which offers a fascinating insight into the role played by Scots in the British Raj, is to feature in a new exhibition at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery from today.

Lucknow to Lahore: Fred Bremner's Vision of India will chart the remarkable career of Bremner – a commercial photographer who left Scotland for India in 1882 and spent the next 40 years working there. This selection of 24 outstanding images, beautifully printed by renowned photographer Pradip Malde from the original glass negatives, will offer a rich, personal perspective on the people and places that Bremner encountered.

The exhibition will open a season of photography at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery this autumn, which also includes the work of the multi-award-winning Czech-born photographer Jitka Hanzlová, and *Leading Lights: Portraits by KK Dundas*, which captures many of the stars who have studied at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, in Glasgow.



Bremner, Boat Scene, Karachi, about 1890

Born in 1863 Aberchirder, Aberdeenshire, Bremner began his career in his father's photographic studio in Banff, before accepting an offer to work with his brother-in-law G W Lawrie, an established photographer in Lucknow, India. His

assignments took him across Northern India, and in 1889 he set up his own studio in Karachi, followed by premises in Quetta in Baluchistan, and in Lahore and Rawalpindi in the Punjab. Travelling incessantly over vast distances, and working in rarely photographed areas, Bremner created a captivating record of Imperial India's rural life, landscapes and people.

The exhibition will help to illustrate how imperial expansion in the nineteenth century provided photographers with a powerful stimulus, as well as great opportunities and rewards, as they followed in the footsteps of colonial armies, traders and adventurers. Of the British territories, India was the most photographed, and the work of men like Bremner provided knowledge that was vital to imperial interests. His photographs both reveal how British India was imagined and reflect the complex attitudes of its rulers.

Portraiture was the core of Bremner's business, with regular commissions to photograph not only colonial officers and their families but also members of the native aristocracy: his striking portraits of *The Khan of Kalat and his Sons* (c.1893) and *Nawab Sultan Kaikhusrau Jahan, Begum of Bhopal (1858-1930)* (c.1920) are among the highlights of the exhibition. Like many commercial photographers, however, Bremner also found time to complete personal projects. His fascination with the diversity of local customs and his determination to record them can be seen in memorable images of fishermen on the River Indus and the dramatic *River crossing, River Jhelum, Kashmir* (c.1896).



Fred Bremner, Group of five men and a boy,
'Baluchistan'

A skilled craftsman himself, Bremner produced a series of large glass plate negatives showing Indian artisans at work. His photographs of woodcarvers and carpet-makers hint at the material wealth that placed India at the heart of Britain's

colonial economy.

The exhibition will also look at how Bremner (like many of his contemporaries) sought to transpose a European conception of the picturesque onto his photographs of the Indian landscape.

Speaking of the exhibition, Sheila Asante, Migration Stories Curator at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery said, "This is a fantastic opportunity to catch a glimpse of rarely seen images of the Indian Empire. Fred Bremner was one of the first photographers to capture the very north-western edge of the British Raj. An accomplished photographer, he had an eye for dynamic compositions. This intimate exhibition of his work offers an extraordinary insight into how one Scot viewed 'that far off land known as the Indian Empire'."

LUCKNOW TO LAHORE:

FRED BREMNER'S VISION OF INDIA

6 October 2012 – 7 April 2013

Scottish National Portrait Gallery

1 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JD

Telephone: 0131 624 6200 | Admission free

www.nationalgalleries.org

New Gaelic school has a name

But just try pronouncing it!

The new Gaelic primary school which will take the place of the former Bonnington Primary School has been named 'Bun-sgoil Taobh na Páirce' or 'Parkside Primary School'.

Extensive refurbishment work is underway at the school to the tune of £3.53 million in order to prepare it for its new role.

Councillor Paul Godzik, Education, Children and Families Convener said:- "Parkside Primary School will be a very welcome addition to our list of schools and we are already looking forward to it opening its doors next August. I think 'Parkside' is a good choice and I'd like to thank all the staff, pupils and teachers involved in the naming of the school."

A steering group involved in the planning for the new school comprised of teachers, officers and parents has been set up. This group spent time working with pupils of Tollcross Primary Gaelic Unit to come up with a name for the school. This involved considering the location of the school and history of the area.

The school will replace the existing Gaelic Medium Unit (GME) based within Tollcross Primary School which was established in the 1982. The GME unit has steadily seen its roll rise over the years as demand for GME education has grown.

The new school is due to open in August 2013. Registrations for next year's P1 intake will begin in December when a new Head Teacher will also be appointed.

Rockin' For Tots Fundraiser



There will be a fundraiser tomorrow evening for Simpson's Special Baby Care Unit at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

The fundraiser has been organised by husband and wife, Andy and Gill Cowe, after the devastating loss of their twin daughters in 2000 at 36 weeks due to acute twin to twin

transfusion syndrome.

They explained:- "This was a truly devastating experience, but as a way of dealing with our loss we decided to hold a fundraiser in their memory in aid of Simpsons Special Care Babies. In 2001 we held the "Heavy Natal" a rock night at the Corn Exchange in Haddington. Through the rock night, raffle and auction we raised £8,400 which was put towards the purchase of an EEG machine (brain scan) for use on premature babies in the Neo Natal Unit. In 2005 we held "Rockin for Tots" at The Exchange in Grove Street, Edinburgh.

This time of course we had our son and daughter so organising was a little more difficult but through the rock night, raffle and auction we raised £6,500. The money raised was put towards the purchase of a ventilator. The auction was a great success with us having received several signed items from various people including the Stereophonics. We purchased an Iron Maiden biography for £9.99 and had Paul Dianno sign it. We then approached Rod Smallwood and got the book to go on tour with them until all band members could sign it. This was then auctioned on Ebay and raised £107!!!

We had been thinking for a while now about holding another fundraiser at some point in time, but due to our friend Christine losing her grandson recently we felt it was time. We enjoy organising these events and hope that folks that attend have a really good time. If we can help with the survival of even one baby, then we have done what we set out to do. So, now it is time for some work in sourcing items for an online auction and raffle for another rock night.

Venue and bands all now confirmed and as follows:

DATE: 6 October 2012

VENUE: Debating Hall at Teviot Row, Edinburgh

BANDS: STILLIFE Formed in 2000, Stillife have supported bands

from Nazareth to Staind in venues like Glasgow Barrowlands and Perth Concert Hall, played the T-Break showcases, appeared in Kerrang magazine and on Radio 1 until they went their separate ways to take up different projects in 2009.

ROADWAY ROADWAY are an energetic and honest rock band who are here to simply put on a great show, have fun and take the audience with them on their journey through their material.

SCHTICK OF ROCK Bursting with talent, oozing charisma and electrifying energy, Schtück öf Röck deliver a hit filled, singalong set list that will leave your vocal cords in tatters for days... In this one amazing show, you'll hear the greatest hits of Ozzy, Journey, AC/DC, Whitesnake, Def Leppard, Bon Jovi and many many more.

RUFF CUT BLUES BAND Borders based Blues/Rock band – a superb talent!

BOTH BARRELS a 4-piece hard rock band from Dunfermline, Fife with influences from Alice In Chains, GnR, Metallica and Alter Bridge. Both Barrels were runners up in the Edinburgh final of Hard Rock Rising Competition for 2012

Comedy entertainment will be provided by Edinburgh's very own Gordon Brunton, Fringe performer for the last 17 years, veteran of 4 Fringe shows, 2 national tours, various TV and radio appearances and also appeared with Jo Brand, Kevin Bridges, Bill Bailey, Ewan McGregor and Captain James T Kirk himself, William Shatner.

So get a ticket before they sell out you can purchase here:-

<http://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/ents/event/1604/?skin=eusalive&template=event> or buy on the door on the night raising money for a great cause all that entertainment for a tenner.

To find out more go to: www.rockinfortots.co.uk

Album Review: Dead Sea Souls – We Were Always Electric

✖ Managing to pack the strength of their live shows on to the frailty of a compact disk, Dead Sea Souls debut sounds like a grenade going off beside your head. *We Were Always Electric* jumps, jives and is forever changing – creating a collection of songs that not only excite but keep you perpetually off balance for its dizzying 40 minutes.

After a waltzing intro jam the album opens up into the behemoth that is 'Trendsetter'. Deceptively anthemic, lead singer Gary Burns' vocals come dripping in equal measures of passion and venom. A return volley against another band's criticism of the West Lothian four-piece, the stinging chorus of "*I'm so sorry that I don't dress the way you like/I'll never be in NME/And I'm not worthy of your time*" is a broadside against the posers and phoneys that the Scottish music scene attracts in their droves. Safe to say the Dead Sea Souls had the last word here.

The only criticism of 'Trendsetter' could be that it casts a long shadow; taking the sting out of the following few tracks. However things are once again heading skywards on 'Six'. More a refined 21st century ballad than supercharged riot, its restrained riffs and pulsating drums demonstrates a level of finesse on top of the band's palpable power.

Next track 'Young Team' acts as a charming foil to this slice of solemnity, sounding delightfully juvenile and showing that they are a band with a song for every occasion. Jangling vocals and funky guitars breeze their way through this short interlude before it's back to the bread and butter of indie

rock on 'New Vibe'.

Album closer 'Danny Bell' kicks off like a South American carnival – all trumpets and chants – before returning to Burns' swinging vocals. Its ska beats leave the album on a particularly high note as the band metaphorically dance off into the distance.

We Were Always Electric is an album that spans genres and should have something to keep everybody entertained. Bristling with energy and exuberance, it is a listening experience that will only be enhanced by seeing the band in the flesh.

We Were Always Electric is out now
<http://deadseasouls.bandcamp.com/album/we-were-always-electric>

Broomhouse showcases community empowerment



Broomhouse Health Strategy Group, a community-led local health project had a whirlwind summer of volunteer work, resulting in the fantastic colour transformation of Broomhouse Market in South West Edinburgh where they are based. It's community empowerment at its best – local volunteers teaming together to change their area for the better!

After being awarded funds and over 250 litres of paint from Dulux through their Let's Colour community initiative in June, the Broomhouse Health Strategy Group commissioned the artists

MSCreative to draw up designs for the large mural wall, 5 shop shutters and 2 other large wall surfaces – over 450m² of surface area! Over the summer design workshops were held with local residents and youth groups, resulting in some amazing designs.

Here is what it looked like before the makeover....



The practical work took place over three weeks starting at the end of August. Over 60 local and business volunteers contributing over 200 days of hard practical work! Alongside local volunteers of all ages, there were groups of volunteers from The Prince's Trust, Tesco Bank and ESPC.

It's an amazing example of community empowerment – the local community came together to make it happen. The result is not just a colourful facelift, but also an increase in social connections within the community, with some very proud active local volunteers and a local community that has had its self-esteem significantly raised.

Some of the local comments show that the initiative is very much appreciated:-

I think it's a brilliant idea as some places are pretty grim!

Has made such a huge difference to the area, brilliant!

Puts a smile on your face!

The colours hit you as you come round the corner!

I painted the seaweed, it was really relaxing!

Makes you feel happy in the morning.

It's so much less intimidating

Fantastic – a brilliant achievement with such a small amount of money!

Called out of a passing car “beautiful, it looks beautiful”

It made me feel like part of the community

It feels like Broomhouse has its own identity – feels like home

Makes me feel good and happy – good for Broomhouse!

Cheers me up daily!

I made lovely friends

How happy it makes my daughter to be home!

There isn't anything I don't like apart from I wish it had lasted longer!

It's far better and you should do a lot more of it

An inspiring attempt to encourage people to become more involved in improving their own community.

The Chinaski Sessions at Brunton Theatre



David Hughes Dance To Premiere The Chinaski Sessions At The Brunton Theatre

Edinburgh based David Hughes Dance Scotland will premiere

their new show, THE CHINASKI SESSIONS, at The Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh, on 13 October 2012. Between 15 October and 10 November this modern and entertaining show that features both dance and theatre within a live rock concert, will tour to 14 venues throughout the UK.

With a wink to Charles Bukowski's cult character Henry Chinaski, Australian choreographer Kylie Walters coaxes seven testosterone-crazed men to live through an evening of debauchery and revelation. Trapped in a rock-band's home studio as they try to finish their new album, this live concert collides the virtuoso Belgian rock duo I Love Sarah's scorching math rock with five superb Scottish based performers amongst copious amounts of bravaderie and chaos.

In a halfway house for low lifes, where a band, their mates and their fans hang out, play, dance and dream, the live sessions become a playing field for old grievances, one-upmanship and reconciliations. Vicious drumming, cutting wit, frenzied theatre and a myriad of visceral choreographic skirmishes form a microcosm of manhood stretching from juvenile misbehaviour to sublime creative insight.



For The Chinaski Sessions David Hughes Dance Scotland has brought together a diversely talented group of Scottish based performers. Matthew Foster, Martin Lindinger, Michael Sherin, Jack Webb and Rob Heaslip seamlessly merge their individual dance styles (contemporary, breakdance, ballet, Irish) with dynamic physical theatre, surreal humour and live music on stage from Belgian musicians Jeroen Stevens and Rutger De Brabander.

Unplugging the force of the body and coaxing the movements from their most recognizable anthropologic beginnings to the most accomplished technique, the dancers wildly romp over the stale ground of contemporary dance as they emulate the frank expression and shameless inventiveness of rock.

Choreographer, Kylie Walters, said: 'My challenge for The Chinaski Sessions was to create a true hang-out on stage which would allow for all sorts of possibilities – be they humorous or sinister. From there, I wanted the energy to be free to surge into both moments of formal beauty and of high chaos – to discover personalities without the ball and chain of 'character'. I hope that The Chinaski Sessions brings the federating energy of live rock music, the rapture and fierce elation that it inspires in people, through into the realm of dance.'



The creative team behind The Chinaksi Sessions includes Kylie Walters, a European-based performer, director and choreographer working across theatre, dance and music, creative producer David M Hughes and lighting designer and production manager Simon Gane.

The Chinaski Sessions is supported by Creative Scotland and the Traverse Theatre, in addition to public funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

Premiere – 13th October: Brunton Theatre, Ladywell Way, Musselburgh EH21 6AA 7:30pm

£11/£9/£6.50 Box Office: 0131 665 2240
www.bruntontheatre.co.uk

Conservative Group elect new leader



The Conservative Group on The City of Edinburgh Council have appointed Councillor Cameron Rose, who represents Southside and Newington as their leader, to succeed Jeremy Balfour who is now to head up the Audit Committee.

Rose said:-“It is an honour to have been elected as the new leader by my fellow Conservative councillors. I thank those who have put their trust in me by electing me as a councillor, and I thank my colleagues who have now entrusted me with the role of leader of the main opposition on The City of Edinburgh Council.

“ Edinburgh is a wonderful city, but it is no secret that the city faces a number of challenges in the coming months and years. With its reputation tarnished by trams, by the statutory notices scandal and now with basic waste collection faltering badly, Edinburgh needs a different approach.

“The task before me and my colleagues is to play a full and constructive part in restoring confidence in Edinburgh and enabling residents to feel proud of their city once again.

“Our job as the main opposition on the council is to work constructively for the good of the city by scrutinising effectively the record of the Labour/SNP administration. Our job as Conservative councillors is to take every opportunity to promote efficiency, challenge bureaucracy, and ensure hard-pressed council tax payers get value for money.”

Councillor Cameron Rose lives in the ward he represents, Southside & Newington. After 30 years as a policeman, with

his five children grown up and away from home, he turned to local politics, successfully standing for the first time in the 2007 council elections. Over the last five years he has built up experience in local government finance, pensions, planning, economic development, social care. He was education spokesman for Edinburgh Conservatives in the last administration.

He runs two blogs. One, [Southside and Newington Newsblog](#), has published over 2,500 posts in the last 5 years, featuring information and news for local people. The other, [Climate Edinburgh](#), expresses his local perspective on what he sees as panicked (and expensive) public policies which are based on flawed assertions and assumptions playing on exaggerated fears.

The City of Edinburgh Council is run by a coalition of Labour and SNP councillors who have 38 seats between them out of the 58 available. The other Conservative councillors on the council are:-

Councillor Elaine Aitken Colinton/Fairmilehead

Jeremy Balfour Corstorphine/Murrayfield

Councillor Nick Cook Liberton/Gilmerton

Councillor Dominic Heslop Pentland Hills

Councillor Allan Jackson Forth

Councillor Mark McInnes Meadows/Morningside

Councillor Joanna Mowat City Centre

Councillor Lindsay Paterson Almond

Councillor Jason Rust Colinton/Fairmilehead

Councillor Iain Whyte Inverleith