

Golf – US Kids Golf European Championship



A Primary 1 pupil from Craiglockhart Primary School has been named as the winner of a junior golf competition held on Bruntsfield Links short course last week.

Five year old Sam Watson from Shandon, Edinburgh entered the competition alongside primary school pupils from across the capital and triumphed to win the grand prize of a full set of bespoke US Kids Golf clubs.

The 'Nearest the Pin' event was held by the organisers of the U.S. Kids Golf European Championship, which comes to East Lothian next month, bringing 550 of the world's best young golfers from 40 countries together to compete on five of the county's most historic courses.

Ahead of the prestigious championship, the foundation arm of the organisation held the Edinburgh competition to encourage local youngsters to get involved in the sport and reinforce its commitment to introducing the game to children and families.

Sam entered the competition which gave him two chances to hit the ball as near to a designated pin as possible, and on his second attempt the ball stopped just six paces shy of the mark, allowing him to take home the winning title and the set of bespoke golf clubs.

The youngster was joined by his mum Julie, dad Derek and older brothers Guy and Alex.

Julie Watson said: "Sam's interest in golf started by playing the Tiger Woods game on the Wii and as a result he received golf lessons for his fifth birthday which he has been attending at Swanston Golf Club since January.

"When we heard of the competition we knew we had to bring the kids along and they had such a lovely afternoon.

✘ "We are thrilled that Sam is the overall winner as golf is his favourite thing in the whole wide world as he keeps telling us and the clubs will allow him to further develop his love for the sport!"

The event was attended by Gullane PGA professional and U.S. Kids Golf European Championship co-ordinator Alasdair Good, who was on hand to give the young players hints and tips on how to get the winning shot.

Alasdair said: "The 'Nearest The Pin' event was designed to encourage more young people into the world of golf and give those new to the game, as well as those who are developing their talent, the chance to test their skills with a bit of friendly competition.

"The idea was to make the event as inclusive as possible, with a variety of entrants – both boys and girls of all skill levels.

"The day was a great success and the kids all seem to really enjoy themselves. Even better was the fact that there was some real talent on display and Sam was not the only youngster who hit an impressive shot.

"I hope that we have encouraged some of them into the game of golf and that some of them may even sign up for next year's

European Championships, or even become the Rory McIlroys of tomorrow.”

The European Championships takes place from June 5-7 on Gullane No. 2, Gullane No. 3, Craighielaw Golf Club, Luffness New Golf Club and Longniddry Golf Club. The courses are modified for each age group in order to provide the same level challenge, meaning holes are progressively shorter as the age groups get younger.

It ultimately allows the players to reach the greens in the same number of strokes as the top pros on the PGA tour.

The top finishers in each category will compete in the Van Horn Cup over Gullane No 1 on June 8 – a showpiece event, modelled on the Ryder Cup, where the best European players are matched up against the top golfers from the rest of the world.

The top five finishers in each age and gender group also automatically receive an invitation to the U.S. Kids Golf World Championships at Pinehurst Golf Club, North Carolina, in August.

The U.S. Kids Golf Foundation was launched in 2001 to provide opportunities for kids to play and learn the game through local tours and tournaments such as the European Championships. Since holding its first tournament in 2000, U.S. Kids Golf Foundation now runs some 600 events each year including the prestigious World Championships at Pinehurst.

The Foundation is the charitable branch of U.S. Kids Golf – the world’s largest producer of junior golf equipment. The firm has pioneered the development of golf clubs for young people, eliminating the problem of kids using heavier, cut-down adult clubs which often hurts developing swings and

discourages budding players.

For more information or to register for the U.S. Kids Golf European Championships, visit www.uskidsgolf.com.

Council promotes healthy eating at school



In a bid to encourage healthy eating and to raise money for charity, The City of Edinburgh Council has teamed up with the Wallace and Gromit Foundation to serve up some tasty, healthy pasta meals for primary pupils.

To launch the new meals, Wallace and Gromit visited Currie Primary and Clovenstone Primary today, where kids got a taste for the new meals.

The fun shaped pasta is accompanied by a nutritious sauce, helping kids get the right share of nutrients and vitamins for their lunch.

And for every pack purchased by the Council, one pound is donated to the [Wallace and Gromit Foundation](#) which is a national children's charity to help sick kids in hospitals and hospices across the UK.

Children and Families Leader, Councillor Paul Godzik, said: "There is a real need to promote healthy eating. Here in Edinburgh we've had real success with our breakfast clubs, but we know we need to do more. We hope that these new school meals will help encourage more children and young people to adopt a healthier lifestyle, and at the same time support a very worthy cause."

The right diet has been proven to aid both children's physical and mental well-being and aid concentration. The council is committed to delivering healthy meals for all its pupils and all of the food served up in the city's schools meets the Scottish Government guidelines.

People can find out more about what [meals are on offer](#) in all schools in Edinburgh and the benefits of them online.

Women's Hockey – Scotland v South Africa



Scotland v South Africa – Women's Hockey, 28th May 2012

Scotland's Women are playing a series of International Tests against South Africa in preparation for the latter's Olympic campaign. With four of the top players in the GB squad for the Olympic games in London, Scotland were a little weak, but still fielded a strong squad against the team six places ahead in the World rankings (SA are 12th). Before the start of this, the second match – the first being a 2-2 draw – Catriona Ralph

was presented with a silver quaich and large bouquet of flowers on the occasion of her 100th cap.

To say that South Africa dominated the first half would be to do them an injustice. The Scots barely managed to get out of their own half and it was only a combination of poor finishing and miracle saves from Scotland's Amy Gibson that kept the score 0-0. The inevitable goal from the visitors came from the sixth in a series of penalty corners, scored from a rebound by Sulette Damons.

With the half-time score at 1-0 to South Africa, it didn't look good for the home side, but whatever the coach said at the break it was a different Scotland team that took the field for the second period of play. Three minutes in, Sam Judge sneaked a reverse stick shot past the South African goalie to draw the sides level. Less than a minute later the Scots had another chance to score but the visitors defence easily cleared the ball. The rest of the half was very much an end-to-end affair with neither team really getting on top or creating clear-cut chances. At least until 15 minutes from time, that is, as the Scottish keeper was beaten for the second time. Left for pace, the defence could do nothing to prevent Jennifer Wilson firing a powerful shot into the goal to put the visitors ahead again.

In spite of a couple of penalty corners from Scotland in the last few minutes, South Africa led on to record the win.

With three more matches in the series, Scotland don't look as if they are going to be disgraced against a superior, on paper, South African side – just as long as they play both halves of the games, anyway.

Photo and Report – John Preece

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

Five things you need to know today



Leith Walk – Cupcake of the day – Sara Sheridan – Police seeking witnesses – Community Engagement Event

If you live in Leith and want to have a say as to the development of Leith Walk then you might put this event in your diary. Greener Leith announced it and are part of the organising team:-

Greener Leith has teamed up with [Leith Open Space](#) to kick start a community consultation process that will look in detail at the future of Leith Walk. Everyone who lives or works in Leith is welcome to attend the meeting on June the 5th at [Out of the Blue](#). The event kicks off at 6pm.

There will be no speakers, no presentations, no fixed agenda and no party politics in this meeting. Instead, we aim to provide an open forum where all ideas – whether they be long term aspirations for the street, or short-term quick fixes – can be aired and recorded.

[Your Vision for Leith Walk](#)

Cuckoo's Bakery has a cupcake of the day. And today it is Rocky Road....

The Edinburgh Bookshop is the place to be tonight. They write:-“We’re delighted to announce that **Sara Sheridan** will be joining us on **Tuesday 29th May** from **7.30 – 9.00pm** to introduce us to the wonderful Mirabelle Bevan. Sara, author of *The Secret Mandarin* and *The Secret of the Sands* among many others, has branched out into crime fiction with ***Brighton Belle***. It is 1951 and Mirabelle, former secret agent, is working for a debt collection company in Brighton and trying to come to terms with the death of her long-standing lover. She has sought a quiet life but her interest is piqued when her boss is absent and she looks into the mysterious disappearance of Romana Laszlo. Soon she is embroiled in a web of betting fraud, corpses and a trail of gold sovereigns. With the assistance of Vesta Churchill, bored insurance clerk from the office next door, she calls on her former espionage skills and sets out to find out what’s been going on and what’s happened to Romana...”

Lothian and Borders Police are appealing for witnesses following an attempted robbery in the capital over the weekend.

The incident happened around 5.50pm on Saturday 26 May 2012 in Zetland Place.

A 13-year-old boy was walking in the area toward Netherby Road when another youth approached and struggled with him in an attempt to steal his possessions.

The suspect then made off empty handed and the victim went to a family member’s house and contacted police. Officers are now keen to speak with anyone who can assist with their enquiries.

The suspect is described as male, white, 15 or 16-years-old with a slim build. He was wearing blue jeans, black boots, a

black hooded top with AC/DC in red and white lettering on the front and the hood up. The youth was also wearing ski goggles with an orange lens and a white frame.

A police spokesman said: "The young boy was not injured during this incident, but was left understandably shaken.

"Anyone who was in or around the Zetland Place or Netherby Road area on Saturday evening and remembers seeing anything suspicious is asked to contact police immediately.

"We have a very detailed description of the suspect and anyone who can assist us identify him should also 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.

South West Edinburgh Community Engagement Event today Tuesday 29 May 2012, 6:30pm to 8:30pm at Tynecastle High School, 2 McLeod Street, EH11 2ND

"The meeting is designed to provide communication and information flow between communities and services. This should be beneficial to all groups and will be an opportunity for all present to influence decision making in the communities they represent. This meeting will enable community members, organisations and others to engage with different services like the Police, Council, Fire, Health and various other community organisations.

The meeting will also provide an opportunity to discuss issues

relating to crime, hate crime, antisocial behaviour and general community issues. The meeting will also be used to highlight ways in which people can become involved in community councils and community priority setting meetings.”

This is a FREE event. Snacks and refreshments will be served followed by a cultural programme.

Places are limited, so please confirm your attendance as soon as you can.

(T) 0131 556 0441 (F) 0131 556 8577 (E) admin@elrec.org.uk

Please also let us know in advance of any special requirements you may have.

**One Final Hilarious Delight
for Uke Boogie Co-Founder**

this Wednesday



by Ken O'Neill

Sad to report, but a part of Edinburgh's live music scene is saying 'Auf Wiedersehen' and heading off Berlin-wards. Alex Hight, who co-founded [Uke Boogie](#) in 2008, is heading off to pastures new but is making sure he goes out with a flourish. To mark his departure he's hosting the [Final Hilarious Delight](#) at Old St Paul's Church on Jeffrey Street this Wednesday. The event will include music of various inclinations, poetry, fun and a burrito for everybody.

Alex, and his co-conspirator Pockets, started Uke Boogie as an open mic night in the Winter of 2008. The pair had previously tried to start a general one but found that the event was always populated by guitar players, and filled with songs that people had heard too many times before. The idea behind the night was that by banning guitars, even though they both play the instrument, it would force people to do something different and unusual, avoiding some of the standard guitar-y things that can happen at open mics. The event started at the much-missed Bowery and has grown to become Scotland's biggest Ukulele open mic night and has proved to be a tremendous success. Now firmly established at the [Banshee Labyrinth](#), the session brings Edinburgh the best in undiscovered ukulele talent with performers coming back to play time and time again.

The event is also a fundraiser for [Firefly International](#), a Scottish charity that works to overcome boundaries worldwide through friendship, education and the arts, as well as [the Forest](#), Edinburgh's own grassroots art and social charity. Entry is on the night and tickets are on a sliding scale of

£4-8, with all profits split between the two charities. Not only will your ticket allow you to enjoy the many great performances, but you will also receive a Forest burrito – either vegetarian or vegan – along with a healthy serving of salad, sour cream and salsa. Sharing the bill with Alex are:

- Zorras' fusion of poetry, music and video;
- the Watch Thieves' sharp melodies combined with delicate and melancholic harmonies;
- the Moon, the Sun and the Daughters delivering heart-warming ukulele folkiness;
- Wayward Jane serving up a folk-bluegrass combo;
- plus other special guests on the night.

☒ Alex decided to hold the event as one last hurrah before decamping to Berlin, but decided to have something bigger than the small, intimate gig he had originally planned. "I've never played with as many musicians as I will on Wednesday. Everybody involved is part of the community that Uke Boogie originates from, so it would be strange not to have it as a fundraiser. Originally I didn't see it as a fundraiser but as the plans grew it seemed strange not to have it as one, allowing me to give something back to the community that has supported and encouraged me since I moved to Edinburgh in 2005. I volunteered for years at the Forest, where my Massage Corner was based, and I miss the atmosphere and fun that I enjoyed while a kitchen manager there. That's why there's the food element, to remind people of what's been missing since the Forest left Bristo Place last August. This is going to be a great, chilled out event with a wide variety of performers, not a crazy boozy event, rather friends gathering to celebrate a evening of fun. I also wanted to make it an event that anybody can come to, one that's open to everybody."

Given his time with the Forest, it's obvious why Alex would want to support it. Why did he pick Firefly as the other

charity to profit from the event? “I realised that since last August I hadn’t done any charity work and I wanted to raise money for projects outwith the UK. I know Firefly well and the people behind so know that the donation will fund their work on the ground rather than admin costs. Firefly’s help foster multi-ethnic youth projects in Bosnia and the Middle East, giving young people in difficult situations some relief while showing how they can work together. That’s very important to me – giving people the opportunities that I’ve had, to learn about others through art.”

While Alex is off to start a new life in the German capital, partly to live in a different society and partly because his boyfriend told him to, he says he will miss Edinburgh a great deal.

“I’ve never lived lived in a city where I found my place so easily and received such support for the things I’ve done. I still find it amazing to see how the grassroots puts on so many different events while making everybody very welcome. I really will miss the people. They’ve been wonderful to me over the years and I’m very lucky to have lived in such a warm and giving community. We used to run Uke Boogie at the Bowery, which later became the Roxy Art House.

When it was announced the Roxy would close, we were meant to run an event that evening. That day was really sad, the venue was really coming into it’s own and it was shutting, immediately, for reasons that had nothing to do with it. People were losing their jobs and it was the end of a great Edinburgh arts venue. Typically of the community though, within a few hours the event had moved to the large hall at the Forest and, despite the sadness and adversity, it was a great night. The community still made it happen. I really will miss all these wonderful people and I hope to say goodbye to them all in the best way I know how – with food, good company and music.”

Princess Royal opens new centre at Edinburgh University



HRH the Princess Royal marked the official opening today of the £54 million University of Edinburgh's Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine (SCRM) building.

Designed by architecture practice Sheppard Robson, SCRM is the first large-scale, purpose-built facility of its kind in the UK and is set to become the first laboratory building in Scotland to receive a BREEAM Excellent rating. BREEAM is one of the world's foremost environmental assessment methods and rating systems for buildings. Located at Edinburgh BioQuarter, the SCRM building will provide a sustainable environment for the study and development of new treatments for human diseases based on regenerative medicine.

Edinburgh BioQuarter, located in the South East of Edinburgh, is a medical science park built in partnership between Scottish Enterprise, the University of Edinburgh, NHS Lothian and Alexandria Real Estate Equities, delivering commercial outcomes from the world-class medical research being undertaken in the University of Edinburgh and at NHS Lothian.

Professor Charles Ffrench-Constant, Director of the MRC Centre for Regenerative Medicine, said: "Sustainability is central to the design of the new SCRM, and nowhere more so than in its science. An iconic building, visually striking and functionally state-of-the-art, this new facility provides the magnet we need to recruit the brightest and the best and so

maintain our world-leading science and train the next generation of doctors and scientists in the exciting new field of regenerative medicine.”

Luke Thurman, associate at Sheppard Robson, said: “The building’s internal form mimics a ‘pebble in a pond’ effect with smaller, darker spaces, such as the cell culture rooms, positioned in the centre of the building while laboratory spaces are positioned in the middle and write-up spaces are located next to the outer walls, allowing for natural ventilation and lighting.”

The building has achieved SCRM’s objective of BREEAM Excellent rating through the choice of materials, active and passive sustainable systems and an efficiency of design and detailing.

“As well as the integrated approach to sustainability and the reduction of embodied energy, the placement of the plant on the mezzanine floor within the middle of the building has reduced service runs and simplified connections of the complex service requirements of the lab building,” said Thurman.

“This goes some way towards improving the flexibility of the building and its ability to change with developing technology; a key requirement of all end users.”

Externally, large openable windows at the ground and first floor ensure that natural light is maximised and an open window can provide local cooling and ventilation as required. These glazed screens are augmented with vertical fixed louvres or fins that provide the solar shading required to minimise heat gain. Active sustainability systems include rainwater recycling and a ground source heat pump, powered by the photovoltaic panels on the roof, to reduce energy consumption within the building.

Sheppard Robson worked as part of a design team that included consulting engineers Buro Happold and contractor Miller Construction to deliver a building designed for 250 people but

able to accommodate up to 350. The 8,700 sq m building delivers a 22% reduction in carbon emissions against industry benchmark figures while 76% of its energy is contributed from renewable sources.

The treatment of the external spaces and integration into the landscape strategy for the BioQuarter ensures that the external environment to SCRM is as much a part the building as it is part of the overall master plan site.

“The building is designed to complement the environment within which it sits. The cantilevered laboratory is clad in aluminium fins, which provide maximum impact on arrival to the site while also maximising the views of the surrounding landscape and minimising solar gain,” said Thurman.

Wojtek the Bear at the Scottish Storytelling Centre



Wojtek the Bear by Raymond Raszkowski Ross

Directed by Corinne Harris: Scottish Storytelling Centre 6–9 June 2012

- A bear takes to the stage in *Theatre Objektiv's* new production. A unique bear: Wojtek the Soldier Bear who fought with the 2nd Polish Army Corps at the Battle of Monte Cassino in May 1944 and who was welcomed to Scotland in September 1946 by thousands of cheering people. A legendary bear who loved Scottish music and Scottish beer as well as puff candy and the occasional

cigarette.

- He arrived in Scotland with his adoptive mother, Lance Corporal Piotr Prendys, who had reared him from a cub. Their relationship, the central focus of the play, was as close and loving as it was complex and troubled.

What bonds a man to a bear? What prompts a soldier to mother a bear and then take him into a war? And what might a bear's view be of humanity? Of war and politics? Of love? Which is closer to nature and to God? Man or Bear? Edinburgh author Raymond Ross tries to discover.

In *Theatre Objektiv's* new production we meet Wojtek the Bear, a Son of the Sky God, a Forest Brother and a Four-Legged Human, as he travels through war and peace with his adoptive mother Piotr, a Polish soldier and Gulag survivor. Forever haunted by the fear of rejection and of desertion, Wojtek knows he is bonded with this man in a way Piotr cannot perhaps understand. Equally, Piotr is haunted by the idea that he betrayed what was his duty to love and defend.

As they re-enact their life together in an attempt to reach a true understanding of themselves and each other, we are taken on a journey from a war-torn Poland, through the Soviet slave camps and the Middle East, into bloody combat at the battle of Monte Cassino and, finally, to post-war Scotland.

Wojtek is a rascal of the first order, a wayward child always up to no good, as loveable as he is comic. But he is dangerous. He is wild and a soldier subject to discipline; a soldier, like any other, who smokes, drinks and wrestles with his comrades.

Thousands turned out on the streets of Glasgow in 1946 to welcome Wojtek to Scotland as he marched behind the regimental pipes and drums. He was already a legend – “The Polish Soldier Bear” – and his love of Scottish music was to become another part of that legend during his brief sojourn in the Scottish

Borders.

Wojtek died in Edinburgh Zoo in 1963. Lance Corporal Piotr Prendys, his mother, died five years later.

As our show opens, these are two spirits in search of each other, longing to re-live the good times, the madcap adventures and their comic trials and tribulations; but fearful of what they know lies in store for them as they seek love and understanding – and forgiveness.

Raymond Raszkowski Ross:-

“In the post-war Polish community in Scotland, everyone and their father (Polish mothers being fewer) knew something of the story of Wojtek. I was lucky to be schooled just over the wall from Edinburgh Zoo and grew up with Wojtek as a neighbour. He’s always been a presence in my life; and very much a growing presence in recent times.

It’s some years now since I had a conversation with Tomek Borkowy of Universal Arts about writing a play for this uncanny creature, about putting him on a stage and giving him a voice. ‘How are you going to put the bear on?’ he asked. My answer was instinctive and immediate: ‘An actor. No bear mask. No bear costume. The bear himself.’

And that is the single, most important idea around which this production has been built.

There’s no doubt the real Wojtek had “human” attributes just as there’s no doubt he follows in the footsteps of bears who mothered humans, who were often honoured and even worshipped; and who were traditionally seen as a link between humankind and its Creator throughout the Northern Hemisphere for thousands of years.

Of course a bear can speak. It would be silly to think

otherwise. And if a bear speaks, tradition tells us it would be wise to listen.

Why write about Wojtek? How could you not? Wojtek was, and remains, a symbol of the Free Polish Forces and of a Free Poland which only came into being when the last Soviet combat troops pulled out on the 29th October 1992. For Poland this marked the end of World War II.

Wojtek's been waiting in the wings for some time now and I hope I've done him some credit."

National Bees for Everyone campaign



National 'Bees for Everyone' campaign calls on gardeners to help the humble bumblebee

An ambitious project to help the UK's bumblebees aims to get the nation buzzing. Bumblebee numbers have declined steeply because agricultural changes have destroyed their natural habitats. The project wants the public to help reverse these declines by turning their gardens into bumblebee oases.

The Bees for Everyone campaign is funded through generous grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Scottish Natural Heritage and others, and is run by the Bumblebee Conservation

Trust (BBCT). It aims to raise public awareness of the threats bumblebees face, inspire gardeners of all ages to get planting, and will provide opportunities for people to learn more about these hard-working pollinators. Additionally, the project team will be helping rare bumblebees through active conservation work to safeguard, restore and create habitats for them.

To launch the project, the charity is running a national 'Bee kind' competition to find the UK's most bee-friendly gardens. A custom-built interactive website tool makes it easy for people to get a Bee kind score for their garden, park or window box, then makes suggestions for other plants to include. Beechgrove Garden presenter George Anderson is backing the scheme and prizes will be awarded across a range of garden sizes, from window box upwards.



Speaking at the launch of the project, Stewart Stevenson MSP, Minister for Environment and Climate Change said:

"Bumblebees are of critical importance to green growth in Scotland. A new study published this week estimates that insect pollination of crops contributes over £50 million to Scotland's economy. It is very important that we support pollinator populations in our farms, towns and cities."

BBC Beechgrove Garden's George Anderson, a supporter of the scheme who is urging the public to get involved, said:

"The Bee kind website tool is brilliant – it makes it really easy for people to find out how good their garden is for bees and suggests simple and affordable changes to cater for the bees' needs. Anyone can become involved and it doesn't matter where they live. We can all do our bit just by planting a few colourful flowers, and the Bee kind tool will show you how."

Colin McLean, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund in Scotland, said:

“Bumblebees are a crucial part of the UK’s ecosystem and our natural heritage so it’s alarming to see how numbers have been declining in recent years. The innovative ‘Bee kind’ competition and online tool will help to protect our bumblebees, encouraging people across the country to learn more about these fascinating insects and how to make gardens and window boxes bee-friendly habitats.”

The Bees for Everyone project is also working with landowners, farmers and local authorities to ensure that the UK’s rarest bumblebees have the habitat they need in order to survive.



By working with both the public and large-scale landowners, BBCT’s CEO Dr. Ben Darvill hopes to begin a reversal in the recent fortunes of these important insects:

“In the last 70 years two bumblebee species have become extinct and many more have declined rapidly,” Ben said, “It’s easy to take them for granted, but without their work as pollinators our crops would be less productive and our wildflowers would produce fewer seeds. Important five-a-day fruit and vegetables could become more expensive and our countryside would lose its colour.”

Children from Duddingston Primary School in Edinburgh are already enthusiastic supporters of the project and attended the launch event. The 4-11 year-olds took part in a bee-friendly drawing competition and performed a specially-commissioned light-hearted poem (by award-winning poet Anneliese Emmans Dean), chanting “What do we want? LOTS MORE FLOWERS! When do we want them? NOW!”

Photos by :-

Cate Gillon

Photographer

Tel: 07894 664 288

Email: photography@categillon.com

Web: www.categillon.com

New Edinburgh council homes win award

The development which includes Edinburgh's first new Council homes for a generation has won a prestigious national housing award.

The Gracemount site was given the accolade in the 'Best Partnership in Affordable Housing Delivery' category of this year's [Homes for Scotland Awards](#). The development, a partnership between the City of Edinburgh Council and The Cruden Group, is the first phase of the Council's ambitious [21st Century Homes Programme](#) which aims to build 1,400 homes for sale and rent.



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

Councillor Cammy Day, Vice Convener of Housing at The City of Edinburgh Council, said:- "It's great news that the first development in our exciting 21st Century Homes programme has been recognised by our peers in the housing industry.

"Judges said the entry was a clear winner. This is a clear endorsement of the public and private sector working together to deliver new housing developments including much needed affordable housing. We hope this will be seen as best practice for others to follow."

On behalf of the Cruden Group, Steven Simpson, Managing

Director of Cruden Homes (East) Ltd, said: “We are delighted to have won this prestigious award. It is testament to the hard working and enthusiastic staff of both The Cruden Group and City of Edinburgh Council who have collaborated closely over the last two years to ensure this project is a success in terms of housing regeneration. The development is an example of what the public and private sector can achieve when it works together.”

This is the second major award that the Council and The Cruden Group have won for their development in Gracemount – last year it won ‘Community Partnership of the Year’ in the Scottish Homes Award.

The first phase consisting of 99 new homes, (67 for social rent, 20 for mid-market rent and 12 shared equity) should be completed by this summer. The second phase will consist of 70 flats and 46 houses.

So far 52 homes have been completed in the opening phase with the [first tenants receiving the keys](#) to the new Council home in February this year.

Five things you need to know today



Community Council – Memorials for Forth Bridge ‘briggers’ – Speed of Light – Jobs in Muirhouse – Marco Polo

Leith Links Community Council meet today at the Duncan Place Community Centre at 7 p.m.

We went out to South Queensferry yesterday to have a look at one of the memorials put up for those who lost their lives while building the Forth Bridge. One of those named is The Reporter's great-great-grandfather so it is especially poignant. But there were just too many day trippers there to take any photographs yesterday. We will go back another day to do that, and meantime you can see the memorials in this video showing the First Minister unveiling them just 10 days ago.

Now that some of you have the Edinburgh Marathon under your belt you might be ready for the next big running event in the capital which is taking place in August 2012.

9th August – 1st September This August Edinburgh's Arthur's Seat is the stage for a remarkable fusion of public art and sporting endeavour. The iconic mountain is brought to life in a mass choreographed act of walking and endurance running, as part of [Edinburgh International Festival](#) and [London 2012 Festival](#).

A mesmerising visual display unfolds each night on the ascent to the summit as hundreds of runners wearing specially designed light suits take to the intricate path networks below. The walking audience becomes part of the work, carrying portable light sources set against the dark features of the hill.

With 5000 runners already signed up, NVA has just released extra spaces! Sign up now at www.speedoflight2012.org.uk to take part in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Buy your tickets to be in the walking audience on 0131 473 2000 or at www.eif.co.uk/speedoflight



News of jobs in [Muirhouse Library](#). Services for Communities are looking for the following:-

Library Adviser (5 Posts)

Muirhouse Library, EH4.

Salary: £14,276 – £16,099 (Pro-rata for part time),

Post 1: 11 hours per week (Saturday and Sunday) plus working time payment of £1107.82 per annum (3 Posts)

Post 2: 6.40 hours per week (Saturday) plus working time payment of £644.62 per annum (2 Posts)

These posts are considered Regulated Work with Vulnerable Children and/or Protected Adults, under the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007. From 28 February 2011, preferred candidates will be required to join the PVG Scheme or undergo a PVG scheme update check prior to a formal offer of employment being made by the City of Edinburgh Council.

Closing Date: 7 June 2012

We are off today to have lunch on the cruise ship Marco Polo which is in Leith for the day. The ship is [on Twitter](#) but only has less than 100 followers so far. The ship with its 350 passengers has come from Orkney to arrive in Edinburgh. We will tell you all about it tomorrow!

Fire in Muirhouse



by Barry Dickson

Derelict building fire in Muirhouse

A fire was discovered in a derelict building in Muirhouse tonight at approximately 9.20pm.

6 fire appliances initially attended to tackle the blaze in the first floor flat at 36 Muirhouse Avenue, although this was quickly scaled back to two appliances from Crewe Toll. They had to use 4 breathing appliances and a high pressure hose to extinguish the fire.

Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service have confirmed that there was no-one in the flat at the time the fire broke out, and it was brought under control quickly .

The building is one of two earmarked for demolition as part of a regeneration programme in the Muirhouse area. Do you have any photos? Then please share them with us.



First Minister in Call for climate justice



Scotland will launch a Climate Justice Fund this week to help some of the world's poorest communities tackle the impact of

climate change, it was announced today.

First Minister Alex Salmond will be joined by Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to announce details of the fund. This will deliver on the Scottish Government manifesto commitment to co-ordinate a climate adaptation fund.

Mr Salmond said:

“The huge injustice of climate change is that it is those who have done the least to cause the problem – the most vulnerable from the world’s poorest communities – who are hardest hit.

“That is why Scotland is committed to working towards climate justice. I am delighted that Mary Robinson will join me in Edinburgh to launch Scotland’s Climate Justice Fund.

“Climate justice links human rights and development, and puts people at the heart of our economic system.

“Mary Robinson’s support is testament of the key role Scotland is playing in delivering climate justice. Scotland is providing strong leadership – sending a clear message to other industrialised nations that action is needed – and our climate justice fund is the next step in Scotland’s climate change journey.”

Professor Alan Miller, Chair of the Scottish Human Rights Commission said:

“The international human rights community is increasingly recognising Scotland as a welcome and timely example of a nation dealing with climate change through the lens of climate justice.

“Climate justice is a key issue for many of our sister institutions around the world, especially in developing countries where the impacts of climate change are being felt right now, and in very harsh terms, by some of the world’s

most vulnerable people. Climate change impacts on rights to life, livelihoods and the ways of life of many millions of people in the developing world, and is the greatest challenge to our planet this century.

“The people who have contributed least to the problem are suffering the most. This situation is manifestly unfair and cannot continue. The Climate Justice Fund is a welcome step forward, and should result in Scotland opening up new ways to share technology, experience and expertise, as well as funding.”

Scottish Portrait Gallery photography exhibition funded for three years



THE ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE FOUNDATION FUNDS PHOTOGRAPHY SPACE

The National Galleries of Scotland (NGS) is delighted to announce that The Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation has made a major donation to the new Photography Gallery in the refurbished Scottish National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh. The charity is giving a total of \$300,000 (£190,000) over the next three years, which will be used to support new displays, exhibitions, research and related publications.

The Photography Gallery, which is the first purpose-built photography space of its kind in a major museum in Scotland, will now be called The Robert Mapplethorpe Photography Gallery after the renowned American photographer. The Foundation has

supported the NGS in the past with assistance on the major retrospective of the artist's work at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art in 2006, and through its assistance in helping to create a major holding of Mapplethorpe in ARTIST ROOMS, a collection of modern and contemporary art owned jointly by Tate and the National Galleries of Scotland and established through The Anthony d'Offay Donation in 2008.

John Leighton, Director-General of the National Galleries of Scotland said:- "The photography collections at the NGS count among the finest anywhere in the world. This extremely generous grant from the Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation will help us to unlock the potential of these holdings and create new and engaging displays of international quality. We are enormously grateful to the Mapplethorpe Trustees for helping us to bring world-class photography to a wider audience in this country."

Michael Ward Stout, President of The Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation said:- "Our board of directors is delighted to have the opportunity to further the goals of such a distinguished facility of the National Galleries of Scotland, the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. After getting to know the NGS, and its very impressive Director, John Leighton, we can think of no better European presence for our engagement."

The exhibitions planned for The Robert Mapplethorpe Photography Gallery include a display devoted to the work of Czech photographer, Jitka Hanzlová (17 October 2012 to 3 February 2013) and an exhibition of work by Edith Tudor-Hart. This will be the first full retrospective of the photography of Edith Tudor-Hart, one of the most significant documentary photographers of the 1930s. Bringing together work shot in Vienna, London, Wales and Scotland, it will bring to light some of the most powerful photography of the Depression era and explore the double life of Tudor-Hart as photographer and Soviet agent.

Thorburn watercolour to be sold in Edinburgh

✖ THORBURN OWNED BY FIRST MAN TO PROPOSE REMEMBRANCE SILENCE
TO HONOUR WAR DEAD AT BONHAMS

A splendid watercolour of a pheasant in flight by the celebrated Scottish ornithological artist Archibald Thorburn heads Bonhams Sporting Sale in Edinburgh on 21 June. It is estimated at £20,000-30,000.

Flying Pheasant has a fascinating history. It was owned by Sir Crawford McCullagh, a prominent Ulster politician and the first man to suggest holding a period of silence to commemorate soldiers who had died in the First World War. As the Lord Mayor of Belfast from 1914-17, McCullagh called for a five minute silence for the men of the 36th (Ulster) Division who had died in their thousands at the Battle of Somme on 1 July 1916. The familiar Two Minute Silence was first held at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1919 so that, in the worlds of George V "in perfect stillness, the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead."

Also included in the sale is Thorburn's *Stone Curlew and Red legged Partridge* (est £5,000-7,000).

Thorburn's paintings of birds are enduringly popular and in recent years have realised high prices at auction. A new world record for the artist was established at Bonhams in July 2011 when his magnificent *Peacock and Peacock Butterfly* fetched £252,000.

The Sporting Sale is an annual auction of all things to do with sporting life and features paintings, prints, fishing equipment and books among other collectible objects.

For further sale information please go to www.bonhams.com/scotland

A Man, A Van and A Piano

✖ Known to fans as ‘the OlymPianist,’ Anthony Hewitt is out to change the world. The musician and athlete has combined his talents into a unique fundraiser for music and children’s charities.



He will cycle from Land’s End to John O’Groats, performing 26 scheduled concerts along the way. This week he was in Edinburgh marking day 15 of his 21 day tour and the start of his final week. Hewitt has kept a blog about his journey which can be found [here](#). Each entry tells of the triumphs, trials and tribulations of traveling across the country on a bike, with his piano in a van trailing behind.

Hewitt says he has “a passion for the piano, sport, and travel.” Having given piano performances worldwide for more than twenty years and using some of his spare time to cycle, Hewitt came up with a way to combine his passions and raise money for specially chosen charities. “It was during a long training session with my brother when I wondered how I could combine the physical challenges of endurance sport with some of the philosophical and mental challenges of performing on a concert tour. Thus came the idea to cycle from Land’s End to John O’Groats and play a recital at the end of each day. The concert tour of all concert tours!”

✖ His first Scottish concert was at St John’s Church in Dumfries, but this afternoon he lit up the Mound Precinct in Edinburgh where he played an hour-long concert in the glorious sunshine.

Throughout the tour concerts have been performed in various

venues including arts centres and churches. This venture has raised more than £6000 for Anthony Hewitt's selected charities but he hopes to reach an impressive goal of £20,000 by the end of his journey.

Find out more [on his website](#)

A glimpse of the performance:

Tenth Edinburgh Marathon off to a good start

✖ Scotland's biggest running event which celebrates its 10th anniversary got off to a fabulous start today as more than 3,700 people took part in races in glorious sunshine at Holyrood Park in Edinburgh. The first of the two-day running festival in the capital saw 33-year-old Bryan Mackie race to the finish line of the 10K, in just 34 minutes and 12 seconds, winning the race for the second year in a row.

Bryan, 33, an engineer from Edinburgh, said: "I'm ecstatic to win. I was injured earlier this year but I've got some great friends from Edinburgh Athletics Club who have supported me all the way to help me get back on form. Winning today is a tribute to all of them. I'm definitely going to be celebrating with some champagne tonight."

Patrizia Russo was the first woman home, completing the course in 42 minutes 42 seconds. Dad of one, Robert Cushion dropped to his knees then jumped up and punched the air after winning the 5K race in 17 minutes and 40 seconds. Robert's victory was

all the more remarkable as he endured open heart surgery to mend a hole in his heart as a 14-year-old, then as an adult fought his way back to fitness after being treated for a collapsed lung.

Robert, 35, of Liverpool said: "I went out there to win today and that's what I did. I'll definitely be back next year to do it again. I dedicate my medal to my four-year-old son, Ryan."

More than 700 youngsters took part in the junior races today with Henry Johnson, 14, of Teeside winning the 3K race for runners aged 11-14 and Josh Abbott, 10, coming top of the juniors aged six to 10 in the 1.5K race. And 13-year-old Marleena Tulkki who was the first girl home in the 3K with a time of 12 minutes and 1 second came all the way from Espoo in Finland to run the race. Her cousin Matt Nieminen, 58, is next up- he runs the Edinburgh Marathon tomorrow.

Marleena said: "It is my first visit to Scotland and I'm very happy to win today. I have won races in Finland before but this is my first international race."

Today's events kicked off with a gentle three mile breakfast run to give elite athletes from across the world a chance to warm up and learn something of Edinburgh's history and admire the city's stunning architecture. Tomorrow the elite athletes will join more than 23,000 runners competing in the Edinburgh marathon, half marathon and relay races. The marathon route which starts in the heart of Edinburgh at Regent Road heads out to picturesque East Lothian, along Scotland's golf coast which boasts 22 courses including some of the oldest and admired like North Berwick, Gullane and Muirfield.

Neil Kilgour, Edinburgh Marathon Festival director, said:- "We are proud that the Edinburgh Marathon Festival is the most inclusive festival of running in the UK. From the world's best elites through to the first time marathon runner, to youngsters standing in the start pen for the first time in

their lives, we welcome them all. Each of these people are changing their lives and many are changing the lives of others too through raising vital funds for charity. It is a positive experience for all.”

Together with the Edinburgh Marathon Festival official charity Macmillan Cancer Support and hundreds of other charities, the 10th anniversary organisers are hoping to break all previous records and raise more than £4.5 million in 2012. Forth One are doing live broadcasts from the Edinburgh Marathon Festival all weekend.

Kitty the Lion on iTunes soon

✖ Kitty the Lion Release New Single ‘Duck!’ for **Free** Download
During May, Kitty the Lion’s new single ‘Duck!’ was released for **free** download, in exchange for a Tweet or a share on Facebook of the band’s first official music video! And now from May 30th the single will be also available for purchase from iTunes and a range of other online media stores.

‘Duck!’ is a song about games and game, and predators and prey. Kitty the Lion’s characteristic word-play is in evidence as the multiple meanings of the song’s title are manipulated to full effect, but the overall feel of the song indicates a band that have turned it up a notch, providing a taster for their debut album which is due out in Autumn 2012.

The single was launched with a special show in May at The Old Hairdressers on Renfield Lane, Glasgow, with support from Kettle of Kites and Quickbeam, and included the premiere of the official music video. Entry to the event is £3, and tickets are only available on the door on the night.

To listen to or download the track, follow this secret link: <http://soundcloud.com/kittythelion/duck/s-1v9VP>

Edinburgh company and its award winning dolls



Guys and Dolls – Sales of new Oobicoo soft toy Ollie outstrip Orla 2:1

Boys' dolls are selling twice as fast as girls' dolls according to Totseat founder Rachel Jones, who believes the media have been integral in helping to break down gender stereotypes.

The UK toy industry is worth £2.96bn and since launching the soft toy tots Ollie and Orla last year, multi award winning entrepreneur Rachel Jones has sold twice as many of the boy 'doll' Ollie. Sales of boys' toys take 55% share of the UK toy market and Rachel believes sales of Oobicoo Ollie reflect society's changing perceptions of traditional gender stereotypes.

Rachel says, "We live in a culture where many people look to the media as a guide to behavior and as a result many people conform to majority norms. Traditionally girls have been expected to play with dolls and wear pink and many parents have discouraged their sons from playing with dolls per se, however there appears to be a shift in this gender stereotyping which can only be a good thing."

Oobicoo was originally developed and sold as a mannequin to

display the multi-award winning Totseat; a safe, portable, fabric highchair for families travelling with babies. Rachel soon realised their appeal when they became the unlikely classmates of her daughter Freya and her friends, who loved the fact that they were so big and cuddly!

The adorable, soft toy tot Oobicoo is made from gorgeous soft plush fabric and, at 60cm tall, is the same size as a six month old baby – the perfect size to be an instant baby brother, sister or best friend. They come in their own wee fabric ‘pod’ and are designed to be dressed in hand-me-down-baby clothes. This simple idea not only saves money, it encourages the reuse of outgrown baby clothes, teaches children dexterity and provides Oobicoo with an instant wardrobe.

With sound eco credentials, Oobicoo is filled with recycled polymer, manufactured from recycleable fabric and is raising money for the Children’s Immunology Fund – £1 from every sale goes to the charity. Oobicoo even has its very own dance tune, penned by Emily Philips and Josh Wilkinson who co-write for pop superstars One Direction and Alexandra Burke!

Rachel added, “Oobicoo not only helps your child’s development, they are perfect for imaginative play, great for teaching dexterity in terms of dressing and undressing and because of their realistic size, they give children someone to cuddle!

“We are delighted to announce the launch of Olwyn, our fourth soft toy tot, who has a different skin tone to the other Oobicoo tots. We are keen to encourage diversity and since launching Oobicoo Ed last year, who is entirely bald, we have had great reactions to the entire Oobicoo family.”

Oobicoo Ollie, Orla, Ed and Olwyn are available online at www.totseat.com/oobicoo and retail for £39.99.

Review – Dara O’Briain Craic Dealer

✖ by Craig Denham

Things really did brighten up in Edinburgh this week, and I’m not just talking about the weather. On Wednesday night a few colleagues and I made the wise decision to go and see the stand up comedian Dara O’Briain’s new show at the Edinburgh Playhouse. It’s called Craic Dealer.

In his usual open style, Dara spent most of the first half interacting with members of the audience in an ad-hoc provocative way, encouraging individuals to speak up, with the promise of making them legends for a night. Indeed, the entire front row became his long lost pals, bringing the rest of the crowd in and making it feel more like being in a banterful Irish pub than Scotland’s premiere auditorium.

With the audience in the palm of his hand, the second half was a more polished stand up set with a combination of witty one liners, a dash of physical comedy and intricately woven yarns, brought together like a true raconteur. His breadth of content spanned everything from nativity plays to burglary, astrology to fireworks, proving there truly is something for everyone.

At the beginning of the show, Dara warned of his pacey style of talking and offered no other alternative for the audience than to “listen quicker”. With his rapid, breathless wit and cuttingly intelligent observations, I’m glad I did.

Dara O’Briain Craic Dealer at The Playhouse T 0844 871 3014 tonight and tomorrow. Beg steal or borrow tickets... or

[book here.](#)

Edinburgh wave energy company win European award




Aquamarine Power has won a major European Commission award

Wave energy moved centre stage in Europe when wave energy developer [Aquamarine Power](#) won a major European Commission environment award yesterday.

European Commissioner for the Environment, Janez Potočnik, gave the Edinburgh company first prize in the 'product' category for its innovative Oyster wave energy technology.

The company is currently commissioning its Oyster 800 device at the European Marine Energy Centre in Orkney.

The company received the prize at a ceremony held at the Royal Museum of Art and History in Brussels last night. The awards were one of the highlights of Green Week, the European Commission's annual conference on environment policy.

 Martin McAdam, Chief Executive Officer of Aquamarine Power, said:

"Marine energy has a massive role to play in helping Europe meets its challenging carbon reduction targets. This award recognises the potential that innovative technologies such as Oyster have, not just in moving to a green energy future, but

also in providing new growth areas for European economies and new opportunities for coastal communities reliant on declining natural resources.

“This award is a great honour for Aquamarine Power and we would like to thank the European Commission, the Commissioner for the Environment and the judging panel for this recognition.

“This award is for the brilliant, hard-working and dedicated team at Aquamarine Power and our shareholders, especially ABB, SSE and the Scottish Government, who continue to support the creation of a new marine energy industry.”

The European Business Awards for the Environment are granted to companies that successfully combine innovation, competitiveness and outstanding environmental performance. Aquamarine Power was named overall winner in the ‘Product’ category, which recognises companies that have developed a new product or related service that makes an outstanding contribution to sustainable development.

Aquamarine Power was one of five winners who also included UK retailer Marks and Spencer. Winners were selected from a record 156 entrants, originating from 24 European Member States and candidate countries. Aquamarine Power was one of 14 finalists who hailed from Belgium, France, Germany, Spain, Austria, Portugal, Slovakia, Finland and the United Kingdom.

Applicants to the awards scheme first competed at national level before being selected to compete at European level, meaning that companies awarded the European prize are ‘the best of the best’: the most far-sighted, responsible and innovative across Europe.

Earlier this year, Edinburgh-based Aquamarine Power was also named one of UK’s best companies to work for in the Sunday Times Best Companies Awards.

On announcing the award, European Commissioner for the Environment, Janez Potočnik said:

“Resource efficiency is the key to a competitive, sustainable Europe. These companies show that it is not only possible but desirable to combine a healthy bottom line with environmental protection. They are green growth in action and I applaud them.”

Five things you need to know today



Yes Scotland – St Bernard’s Well – Minimum Pricing on Alcohol – Sick Kids – Cookies

The Yes Scotland campaign launches today at Cineworld at 11a.m. This is the movement for an independent Scotland principally backed by the SNP, but also having some cross party support it seems, now that Green MSP [Patrick Harvie](#) has said that he will vote yes in the 2014 referendum.

Mr Harvie said:

“I’m happy to take part in the launch of a Yes campaign, but feel strongly that it must quickly develop into a genuinely cross-party attempt to draw together a compelling and transformational vision of an independent Scotland. People won’t vote for a pig in a poke, and we should not ask them to.

“Most Greens support independence, but there are many others who have concerns about the SNP’s middle-of-the-road strategy.

They will find it hard to trust a campaign that advocates progressive centre-left values while also promising tax cuts for big business; or promotes climate change targets while hailing another 50 years of oil and gas extraction; or promises to end Trident while floating the idea of staying in NATO.”

In his recent submission to the Scottish Government’s independence referendum consultation Mr Harvie made several key points to underline the Scottish Green Party position:

- Since 1999 we have seen a continued trend toward a centralised Scotland. If we can begin now to move power toward genuinely local levels, many more people may see the point in voting Yes.
- We need a transformation in our energy system, yet energy regulation is reserved while MSPs wring their hands about fuel poverty targets they have little power to influence.
- We need to build a more equal society, yet the tax and benefits systems are determined by UK politicians in the interests of the wealthy.
- We need to challenge the culture of greed and overconsumption, yet the power to regulate business and advertising is not available to us.
- Scottish Greens currently remain open to the idea of a second question but the constitutional choice it refers to must be well defined, and quickly, if it is to be included.
- Scottish Greens strongly support reducing the voting age for all elections to 16.

[STV](#) reported yesterday that the 200-year-old St Bernard’s Well is to be restored.

This was part of a 2008 three year plan between the council and [Edinburgh World Heritage](#) to spruce up some of the historic sites in the city. Here is the report. According to STV the

project is still short of cash. Do you know of any others on the list which either have been restored or not? Comments below please.

[0110475_culture+leisure 29.04.08 10.00am item 10](#)

An unsurprising headline :- “MALCOLM CHISHOLM DEFIES PARTY WHIP TO BACK ALCOHOL BILL”

Commenting on former Health Minister Malcolm Chisholm’s support for the minimum pricing bill at Stage 3 – in defiance his party whip – SNP MSP Bob Doris said:

“Malcolm Chisholm is a former Health Minister and is a hugely experienced politician, and his longstanding and principled support for minimum pricing stands in stark contrast to the petty politics of his Party colleagues.

“He is doubtless not the only supporter of minimum pricing in the Labour party, but he has shown courage and conviction by defying the Labour whip and voting for the legislation today, as he has done consistently since minimum pricing was first proposed.

“Jackie Baillie and Richard Simpson must reflect on why one of Labour’s most capable politicians has distanced himself from them in this way.”

Roseanna Cunningham meanwhile voted the wrong way by mistake....

[View the story “Alcohol Minimum Pricing Bill passed at Holyrood” on Storify]***

The new Sick Kids Hospital may be delayed again. Conservative

Leader Ruth Davidson asked the First Minister about its progress or lack of it at Holyrood yesterday. Davidson said:- "I have a personal interest, as I am one of the many thousands of people across Scotland whose lives were saved by the specialist care that they received at the sick kids hospital in Edinburgh. I know how beloved the old Sciennes building is. However, the site's limitations, the building's age and its distance from an acute emergency hospital mean that the facility is no longer suitable to provide the world-class care that our children deserve into the future.

Plan B is not good enough. Plan A has slipped five times on the First Minister's watch. The Government cannot sit on its hands and let the project fall apart, because it is too important. Will the First Minister now show the political leadership that patients and their families expect? Will he make the hospital a political priority and bring to bear all the power that the Government has to get the players round the table, to get the bricks laid, to get the doors open and to get children treated by 2017?"

Alex Salmond replied by saying that since the Westminster government has cut funding by 30%, a different type of funding will have to be put in place. He said:- "The alternative to keeping our commitments to the people of Scotland—which I say that we shall keep, as another ex-patient of the sick kids hospital in Edinburgh—is to go for non-profit- distributing funding. The securing of non-profit- distributing funding inevitably takes time, but it shall be done.

The capital programme in the national health service in Scotland is infinitely superior to what is happening south of the border. Just occasionally, Ruth Davidson and her colleagues should take a glance at the decimation of the national health service in England, which will never happen as long as we are in government in Scotland."

For any of you website owners you have till this Saturday to comply with the government's rules on cookies. We have already taken steps to deal with this which is why you may have encountered a pop-up screen. The BBC has a [very informative article here](#).

Five things you need to know today



Council meeting – Missing Woman – Ceilidh – Volunteers for the Save the Children Shop – Lightbulbs

The new council will meet for the first time today to discuss real business. Part of what they will do is to approve formally who will do what on the council. We have already told you who they will be. The Labour Group's [nominations are here](#) and the [SNP nominations are listed here](#).

Today the salaries will also be approved. In total the salaries for all councillors are estimated to be £1,235,442 per annum except for expenses which will be calculated in addition. If a councillor buys dinner while out on council business, then they are entitled to a payment of £25 for that meal, or £110 for B & B outside London.

The Council Leader will be paid £48,704.

The Lord Provost will get a salary of £36,528 which is 75% of the Leader's salary and we understand this is unchanged from the last administration.

The amount available for paying Senior Councillors totals £633,144 and could be split between as many as 24 of them, but in any case the maximum amount that can be paid to elected members at this level is 75% of the council leader's salary i.e £36,528. Apart from the Deputy Leader and Deputy Provost, who have already been appointed, the other senior councillor posts have to be agreed at the meeting. Conveners of certain boards are also entitled to the same 75% rate and the vice convenor is entitled to 75% of that, i.e. £27,396. Otherwise a councillor without any special responsibilities will receive £16,234 in line with all other Scottish councillors. Salaries are paid from 3 May 2012, the date of the council election.

Councillors may also claim expenses and the procedure is set out quite clearly in guidance notes given to councillors. The basic rule is that only expenses for which receipts are produced will be paid, except mileage expenses calculated at 45p per mile for a car, and any road and bridge tolls. Councillors may only use the council taxi contract if no public transport is available, and for the purposes of transparency, a Register of Expenses claimed is made publicly available on a quarterly basis.

There has already been one group who have claimed the glory for fulfilling one of their manifesto promises without a decision even having been made at the City Chambers. The Greens have said that they told us they would campaign for council meetings to be live streamed from the city chambers, so that anyone watching at home or in their office can see them. [This is now set to be piloted.](#)

Police in Edinburgh are appealing for information to help trace a 30-year-old woman who has gone missing from her home in the Capital.

Laura Gorrie was last seen around 10am on Tuesday, when she

left her home in the High Street. It is thought that her intention may have been to visit the Cameron Toll shopping centre.

She is described as 5ft 8ins tall, heavy build, long brown hair, and wearing glasses.

When last seen she was wearing blue jeans, a red jacket, and black trainers. She was carrying a Tesco 'Bag for Life'.

A Lothian and Borders Police spokesman said: "Laura has learning difficulties, and while there are no immediate concerns surrounding her safety, she has not been seen or heard from since yesterday, and her family want to reassure themselves that she is ok.

"She has been known to travel widely, and it could be the case that she has travelled outwith Edinburgh.

"Anyone who has seen or heard from Laura since yesterday is urged to contact police as soon as possible. Likewise, we would appeal to Laura to contact either her family or the police so that we can satisfy ourselves that she is safe."

Anyone with information should contact Lothian and Borders Police on 0131 311 3131.



Save the Children are looking for a team of volunteers to help run their new shop opening in Morningside, Edinburgh.

The charity shop is due to open on the bustling Morningside Road on Saturday 9 June 2012 and will be Save the Children's fourth charity shop in the capital.

All volunteer applicants are welcome and there are a number of

exciting different roles to fill.

Alison Byers, Save the Children Retail Regional Manager, said:

“Volunteers are a crucial part of Save the Children’s work and without them we wouldn’t be able to run our charity shops. We’re really excited to be opening a new shop in Morningside. All of our shops are run entirely by volunteers so we’ll need a team of about 15 to help us run it.

“Volunteers from all walks of life are encouraged to get in touch and we’re always hugely grateful for whatever time they can give, even if it’s just an hour a week. Our shifts are flexible to suit volunteers and the work is varied from pricing stock to creating eye-catching window displays to finding treasures amongst the donations and even promoting our wider campaigns to customers.

“This is also a great opportunity to gain or build on retail experience and develop team leading skills, meet new people, and all the while help make a difference to the lives of children around the world.”

Anyone interested in volunteering at the new Save the Children shop can come along to the open day at 390 Morningside Road on Monday 28 May 2012 between 11am and 3pm or contact Alison Byers on 07826 859 127 or a.byers@savethechildren.org.uk

Two Edinburgh MPs, Mark Lazarowicz and Sheila Gilmore have been talking in a Westminster Hall Debate this week about.....lightbulbs.. Yes you read that right. The debate is too lengthy to be reproduced here but you [can read it at your leisure here.](#)

Following the debate Sheila Gilmore summarised the issue:

‘EU legislation means old-fashioned incandescent bulbs are to be phased out entirely by September this year. However

alternative low energy light bulbs such as CFLs and LEDs can aggravate conditions such as lupus and migraines. Estimates of the number of people in the UK affected vary between 30,000 and anything up to 2 million.'

Sheila Gilmore then set out her request for an exemption:- 'In the debate I asked Ministers to obtain an exemption for people who suffer ill health as a result of low energy lighting to continue to purchase incandescent bulbs.'

'The Minister said that the Government takes this issue seriously and he would see if there was any wriggle room to allow such an exemption to be put in place.'

'While I welcome the Minister's response, the Government will have to act fast – if nothing is done before September people who suffer ill health from low energy lighting will be forced to live the rest of their lives in the dark.'

Edinburgh North and Leith MP Mark Lazarowicz also attended the debate, as the issue had been raised with him by constituents also. He said:

'We don't want to discourage people from using low energy light bulbs, as climate change is one of the most significant threats the country faces and reducing our energy consumption is key to tackling it. Equally, however, it is important to realise that for some people there are real health issues arising from the use of low energy light bulbs.'

Road repairs in Colinton



One of our readers has been in touch about the recent road repairs in Colinton Mains Grove. The only way to tell you about this is to show you the photos which he also sent us.....We are not absolutely certain if this was a council repair, or one of the other utility companies but we will let you know when we find out.

The last administration certainly talked about the 'getting it right once and for all' strategy that they were adopting for road repairs...

What do you think? Has your street been repaired? If so, send us photos!

Two youths arrested for stealing mobiles

Police have arrested and charged two youths in connection with a series of alleged mobile phone thefts and robberies that have taken place in Edinburgh.

The arrests, which were made on Tuesday, comes as part of Operation Arable, an ongoing initiative targeting street robberies in the Capital.

The two males, aged 15 and 16, have been arrested and charged in connection with a total of 12 alleged robberies that took place between March and April this year.

Most of the incidents happened in the city centre, and involved either lone female victims or tourists having their mobile phones or other items stolen.

A report has been sent to the Children's Reporter and Procurator Fiscal regarding the two individuals.

Detective Chief Inspector Gary Cunningham, who is leading the initiative, said: "Approximately 60 people have been arrested as part of Operation Arable since it got underway in early February, a number of whom have been remanded in custody awaiting court appearances.

"Lothian and Borders Police is committed to protecting people from the threat of street robbery, and Operation Arable will continue to focus on bringing criminals to justice, as well as preventing such crimes from happening in the first place.

"We invite people to help us protect our communities from muggers by supplying us with information on those who they

think are responsible for such crimes. Rest assured that any information received will be acted on, and treated in the strictest confidence.”

Anyone with information should contact Lothian and Borders Police on 0131 31 3131, or Crimestoppers in confidence and complete anonymity on 0800 555 111.

Local MP supporting Arms Trade Treaty

✖ A campaign to establish the first ever global arms treaty is being backed by a local politician. Ian Murray MP, Labour Member of Parliament for Edinburgh South, has added his name to Oxfam’s campaign for a strong and robust Arms Trade Treaty.

Ian has joined thousands of people worldwide calling for an end to the unregulated trade of guns, bombs and bullets.

This includes David Grimason, whose son Alistair was only two when he was shot dead by a gunman during a holiday to Turkey in 2003. Dr Mick North is also supporting the campaign. His five year old daughter Sophie was killed, along with 15 classmates and their teacher, at Dunblane Primary School in 1996.

The two fathers feature in this powerful new campaign video for the Control Arms campaign which is being promoted all across the world.

Ian Murray MP said: *“Labour believes that it is vital that a robust and effective global Arms Trade Treaty is negotiated*

recommends change in evidence rules



As the law stands, the prosecution in Scotland cannot rely upon previous convictions to help prove their case against an accused person. If an accused, charged with murder, has been convicted of a number of other murders, the jury will not know this when considering their verdict. Other jurisdictions – most notably England and Wales – have rules which allow such evidence. So the Scottish Law commission have considered should Scots law be changed?

This is what they have reported:-

“In our [Report on Similar Fact Evidence and the Moorov Doctrine](#) (Scot Law Com No 229) which is published today, the answer is “yes”. We conclude that the present rules restricting the use of evidence that the accused has acted in a similar way on other occasions – including evidence that he or she has committed similar crimes – lack both logic and coherence. We recommend that the law recognise that such evidence can be highly relevant to the question of guilt or innocence. The Report argues that all relevant evidence – including evidence of similar previous convictions – should, in principle, be admissible. Included with the Report is a draft Bill which would give effect to our recommendations by replacing the present law with a clear and coherent statutory framework for the admission of all relevant evidence in criminal proceedings.

The [project on Similar Fact Evidence and the Moorov Doctrine](#) is the third and final project undertaken under a reference received from Scottish Ministers in November 2007. The recommendations of the first project, Crown Appeals, were

implemented in the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010. The recommendations of the second report, [Double Jeopardy](#) (Scot Law Com No 218), led to the enactment of the Double Jeopardy (Scotland) Act 2011.

Patrick Layden QC, the lead Commissioner on the project, said:

“Evidence of how the accused has acted on another occasion is relevant to whether he has acted in a similar way in relation to the offence with which he is charged. It does not become irrelevant because he has been convicted on that other occasion. This Report, if implemented, will ensure that the jury can consider all relevant information.”

The report is the final in a series of studies commissioned Scottish Law Commission aimed at ensuring an appropriate balance between the rights of the accused and the ability of the Crown to prosecute in the public interest.

Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill said:

“I welcome this report from the Scottish Law Commission. In 2007, in order to strengthen public confidence in the justice system, I asked the Commission, with its track record of independent analysis and Scots Law reform, to look at specific issues relating to evidence and criminal procedure. This is the third and final report from the Commission in this area.

“Previous recommendations on Crown Appeals and Double Jeopardy have now been enacted in law and prosecutors are currently reviewing cases which can be prosecuted anew under the Double Jeopardy Act as a consequence.

“Taken together, this comprehensive programme of reform has taken significant steps towards improving the public’s confidence in the justice system and in ensuring that our criminal law is fit for the 21st century.

“Today’s report makes a strong case and I am grateful to the SLC for its thorough and authoritative work since 2007. I will consider the recommendations carefully.”

The first report, on Crown Appeals, was published in July 2008 and has been followed up by the enactment of sections 73-76 Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010.

The second report, on Double Jeopardy, was published in December 2009 and has been followed up by the enactment of the Double Jeopardy (Scotland) Act 2011.

Council Leaders meet Local Government Minister and Finance Minister

✖ Finance Secretary John Swinney and Local Government Minister Derek Mackay today met with The City of Edinburgh Council’s new leaders – the first in a series of meetings with Scotland’s new council administrations following the May elections.

During a meeting with City of Edinburgh Council Leader Andrew Burns, Deputy Council Leader Steve Cardownie and Chief Executive Sue Bruce, Mr Swinney and Mr Mackay reaffirmed The Scottish Government’s ongoing commitment to positive, productive partnership working with local authorities.

Mr Swinney congratulated Mr Burns and Mr Cardownie on successfully forming a coalition . He also set out the importance of Public Service Reform in improving the delivery of services, in delivering economic growth, and improving

quality of life for individuals and families across Scotland.

Mr Swinney and Mr Mackay plan to meet with all of Scotland's council leaders in the coming months.

Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth John Swinney said:

"A strong and effective partnership between the Scottish Government and local government is central to improving quality of life for people across Scotland, and to delivering sustainable economic growth in a tight public sector spending environment.

"Edinburgh makes a significant contribution to Scotland's economy and success and today Derek Mackay and I met with council leaders in the capital to discuss the coalition's commitments to the people of this city.

"Over the last five years this Government's approach to partnership working has given local authorities new financial freedoms to address local issues. Together we have worked to sustain our economy, to support older people, to clean up communities and to drive up standards in our schools.

"Although local authority budgets have been maintained, it's important that we adjust to substantial reductions in the overall Scottish budget, as pressures on public services increase. Today we had a productive meeting with Edinburgh council leaders who share this Government's commitment to improve the lives of individuals and families, and to tackle inequality and deprivation. Our approach to public service reform is key to achieving this and there already good examples of joined-up action in Edinburgh.

"Building a partnership for progress across the country will be essential as we work together to address challenges of the tight public sector spending climate, which is why I look forward to working with new administrations and new Council

Leaders in the years ahead.”

Leader of the City of Edinburgh Council Councillor Andrew Burns said:

“I was pleased to welcome the Ministers to the City Chambers and it is appropriate that the capital city was their first port of call when looking to set the partnership tone for the future.

“Our coalition is firmly committed to working in a co-operative way while listening and working with local people and other stakeholders to improve how decisions are made. We have over 50 pledges to the people of Edinburgh and we outlined our coherent programme and commitment to delivering those to the Ministers. Priority issues for discussion included our determination to complete the tram project and resolve the current property conservation issues. We also focused on promoting the City to investors, business rate receipts and Edinburgh’s affordable homes crisis.”

Deputy Leader Councillor Steve Cardownie said:

“Clearly this is the start of a constructive ongoing relationship and I’m delighted this coalition is in the front line when looking to resolve some of the big ticket issues. We agreed that more detailed discussions would be followed up by our officials and then picked up again by us at a later date.”

Scottish Government launches

Marine Renewables Commercialisation Fund

A multi-million pound fund to help develop Scotland's first commercial wave and tidal power arrays was opened today.

Addressing the AllEnergy conference in Aberdeen, First Minister Alex Salmond announced that Scotland's Marine Renewables Commercialisation Fund (MRCF) was now open for bids by marine energy developers.

He also announced:

The first award from the £70 million National Renewables Infrastructure Fund (N-RIF) – a £500,000 grant to support the transformation of a strategic dock, ten miles from Glasgow city centre to create a key manufacturing location for renewable energy.

A new Centre for CO₂-Enhanced Oil Recovery in Scotland, to examine and develop opportunities for Carbon Capture & Storage technologies to boost North Sea resource gains and support efforts to reduce costs related to the development of CCS projects (details will be available shortly at The University of Edinburgh website)

Mr Salmond said:

“Europe's greatest wind, wave and tidal resources are heavily concentrated in the waters around these islands and Scotland is at the forefront of developing offshore and low carbon energy generation technologies. The new fund brings together the marine renewables expertise of the Carbon Trust, Scottish Government and our enterprise agencies. It will help move the wave and tidal sector from prototype devices to commercially-viable arrays, producing increasing amounts of electricity

solely from the power of the seas and deliver a lasting legacy for future generations.”

Dr Stephen Wyatt, Head of Technology Acceleration, the Carbon Trust, added:

“Scotland has a world leading resource and is a hot bed of innovation and deployment making marine energy an exciting green growth sector. We are delighted to be involved in developing and delivering the new Marine Renewables Commercialisation Fund over the next three years. This new fund will be critical to tackle the next set of challenges and innovate to drive down costs of both wave and tidal power.

The First Minister also announced the initial grant award from the N-RIF – which aims to ensure ports and manufacturing infrastructure around Scotland are equipped to capitalise on the rapid development of Europe’s offshore wind and marine renewables sectors.

WB Westway has secured £500,000 to support the development of its 53-hectare industrial site in Renfrewshire. It will support work to dredge the dock area, create a navigable channel on the River Cart and deliver quayside improvements to allow loadings from heavy components manufactured on site for the offshore renewables sector. The improvements have the potential to accelerate wider development plans for a further 30 acres of land, with a master-plan that could see up to £70 million invested in the area over the next decade.

The First Minister said:

“This initial funding award will help Westway to transform the site, to win new tenants, as well as new orders for existing tenants, which include Steel Engineering – an exciting, dynamic Scottish company that is increasingly expanding its renewables business. Further awards are expected later this year to support additional investment in key port locations around Scotland – ensuring communities across the country are

ideally-placed to seize the huge opportunities of the global renewables revolution.”

Lena Wilson, Chief Executive, Scottish Enterprise, said:

“We have been working intensively with port owners across Scotland to look at existing infrastructure and investment required to support Scotland’s growing renewables sector. Glasgow and the West has much to offer the sector and has already claimed a place on the renewables map attracting energy heavyweights and pioneers in the offshore wind sector such as Scottish and Southern Energy, Iberdrola and Gamesa.”

The MRCF will be available to boost the roll-out of wave and/or tidal power arrays, to support the marine energy sector to make the next step towards commercial maturity, and help planned developments in the Pentland Firth & Orkney Waters, and other marine locations around Scotland. It is open for bids, for two months from today, with the announcement of successful projects to due to be announced towards the end of this year. The Carbon Trust is working alongside the Scottish Government and enterprise agencies in administering and delivering the Fund. For further information see the Carbon Trust website.

The £18m fund forms part of £35 million that the Scottish Government and its enterprise agencies will provide in direct support to the wave and tidal industry over the next three years. It is in addition to the £103 million Renewable Energy Investment Fund, part of which is earmarked to support wave and tidal energy, as well as previous WATES and WATERS wave and tidal funding schemes.

The £70 million National Renewables Infrastructure Fund (N-RIF) has been established to support the development of port and near-port manufacturing locations for offshore wind turbines and related developments including test and demonstration activity, with the overall aim of stimulating an

offshore wind supply chain in Scotland.

This fund is in addition to Regional Selective Assistance (RSA) and other funding that will be available for companies creating new jobs in this industry in Scotland. Scottish Enterprise (SE) and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) are leading the allocation of funding and will follow the clear approach set out in the National Renewables Infrastructure Plan (N-RIP).

Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust Book Awards – vote in June



Twenty titles shortlisted for Scotland's largest literary prize

Twenty authors have been shortlisted to win £30,000 in the Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust Book Awards 2012, in partnership with Creative Scotland.

Spread across four categories – Fiction, Non-Fiction, Poetry, and First Book – the Awards recognise and reward the literary talent of authors from or resident in Scotland, or those whose book is of particular Scottish interest.

One finalist from each category will be selected in June. Each of the four will receive £5,000. The finalists will then go on to compete for the overall Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust Book of the Year, to be announced at the Edinburgh International Book Festival in August, and the

winner will receive an additional £25,000.

Dr Gavin Wallace, Chair of the Judging panel and Portfolio Manager for Literature, Publishing and Language at Creative Scotland, said:

“In this Year of Creative Scotland 2012, the Book Awards – the largest literary prize in Scotland and the fourth largest in the UK – are a chance for us to celebrate and reward Scotland’s literary talent. As a nation we are replete with literary excellence and rich diversity across all genres, as this year’s shortlist amply confirms.”

The shortlist is:

Fiction

Alan Bissett, Pack Men (Headline)

Jane Harris, Gillespie and I (Faber)

J M Ledgard, Submergence (Chatto & Windus)

Ali Smith, There but for the (Hamish Hamilton)

Zoe Strachan, Ever Fallen in Love (Sandstone Press)

Non-Fiction

Bella Bathurst, The Bicycle Book (Harper Collins)

Janice Galloway, All Made Up (Granta)

Roger Hutchinson, The Silent Weaver (Birlinn)

Kapka Kassabova, Twelve Minutes of Love (Portobello)

Emma Rothschild, The Inner Life of Empires (Princeton University Press)

Poetry

John Burnside, Black Cat Bone (Jonathan Cape)

Angus Peter Campbell, Aibisidh (Birlinn)

Carol Ann Duffy, The Bees (Picador)

Andrew Greig, As Though We Were Flying (Bloodaxe)

J O Morgan, Long Cuts (CB Editions)

First Book

Simon Stephenson, Let Not the Waves of the Sea (John Murray)

Luke Williams, The Echo Chamber (Hamish Hamilton)

Karin Altenberg, Island of Wings (Quercus)

Rachael Boast, Sidereal (Picador)

Allan Wilson, Wasted in Love (Cargo)

In all, over 90 titles were reviewed by a panel of expert judges, chaired by Dr Gavin Wallace, Portfolio Manager for Literature , Publishing and Language, comprising Alistair Moffat, Artistic Director of the Borders Book Festival; Tom Pow, award-winning writer and poet; Sally Magnusson, broadcaster and writer; and David McCormack, Assistant Manager of Waterstones in Dunfermline.

As with the 2011 awards, book-lovers and readers will have a say in which title is selected as the Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust Book of the Year in a month-long public vote that begins in June 2012.

This is the fourth year the Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust has been proud sponsor of the Awards, which have been running since 1970. John Scott, Chairman of Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust, said:

“Scottish Mortgage is pleased to be sponsoring the book awards for another year. The shortlist shows that there is an abundance of diverse talent in print and that Scotland’s rich literary tradition is alive and well.”

Previous winners of the prestigious Award include talented authors such as Jackie Kay for her autobiography *Red Dust Road* in 2011; Donald Worster for his biography *A Passion for Nature: The Life of John Muir* in 2010; James Kelman for his novel *Kieron Smith, boy* in 2009; and Edwin Morgan for his poetry collection *A Book of Lives* in 2008.

For more information about the awards, including previous winners, please visit www.scottishbookawards.com

Speed of Light



Designer James Johnson puts his latest invention to the test at a rehearsal for NVA’s Speed of Light. Surveying the landscape and the light suited runners below, James trials the energy-harvesting light staff that hundreds of walkers will use each night to ascend to the summit of Arthurs Seat this August. Each walker will become part of a mesmerising visual display which will animate Edinburgh’s iconic mountain throughout the Edinburgh International Festival. www.eif.co.uk/speedoflight

Photographer Alan McAteer