

Fundraising Ball for Breast Cancer Care



News of a fundraiser in a couple of weeks time!

A family facing breast cancer is throwing a ball to help raise funds that will provide emotional and practical support for people affected by the disease. Mummy's Ball takes place on 12 May 2012 at Edinburgh Corn Exchange with proceeds donated to Breast Cancer Care.

The ball is the brainchild of Rosie Sutherland, 41 and her two daughters, Emma, 12 and Kate, 9. Rosie, from Fairmilehead, was inspired to fundraise for Breast Cancer Care after being diagnosed in February with stage one breast cancer. Last month Rosie, who manages Big Al Entertainment Group, underwent a mastectomy and reconstructive surgery.

Mummy's Ball will be hosted by Forth One DJ Grant Stott and promises to be a night of entertainment and fun complete with a red carpet and pink fizz reception, dinner and tribute band, Abba Fever. There are also prizes to be won on the night including dinner, bed and breakfast and a deluxe suit at Stobo Castle.

Rosie Sutherland said: "My 12 year old daughter Emma used the Breast Cancer Care website to answer all her questions and give her words of comfort and that is why I chose to fundraise for them. I have had an amazing time doing the calendars and will celebrate my recent all clear from Breast Cancer at Mummy's Ball. Please join us in celebrating life and support Breast Cancer Care in buying one of our fun filled calendars"

Mummy's Ball is just one of the fundraising initiatives which

Rosie and her family have organised recently, in a bid to raise £35,000 for Breast Cancer Care. Eldest daughter Emma raised £1500 after holding a sponsored silence and Rosie, with the help of some of her friends, shot two tasteful nude 'Calendar Girls' style calendars – one male and one female, which will be launched at the ball.

Forth One DJ Grant Stott said:- "I really admire Rosie for throwing herself into her fundraising during this period and I'm happy to play a part in it. I am very excited about hosting Mummy's Ball, it will be a night to remember and I would urge people to buy tickets for the event and support Rosie in her fundraising for Breast Cancer Care."

The money raised will go towards helping fund the many vital services that Breast Cancer Care provide for men and women affected by breast cancer such as a 24 hour helpline, regional workshops and its monthly Moving Forward seminars and diet & wellbeing sessions.

Tickets for Mummy's Ball are £400 for a table of ten or £40 per person and can be order by emailing nakedinspiration@gmail.com For further information about Mummy's Ball or to pre-order a calendar please visit www.nakedinspirations.co.uk

Local MSP encourages use of free financial advice

✖ *Gordon Macdonald, MSP for Edinburgh Pentlands, today called on local residents to have a free financial health check from the Money Advice Service.*


The Money Advice Service is a free, independent service, established by government and funded by a levy on the financial services industry. The financial health check is a free service available to everyone online at: www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk

Gordon said:-“This is a great tool to help people in the Pentlands area plan for the future, which is why I am urging everyone to spare a few minutes to complete the financial health check. It takes less than 10 minutes to complete, involves no paper work and provides an action plan suited to the individual’s circumstances. These action plans include quick ‘must do’s’ as well as clear financial priorities for the longer term – helping people both now and in the future.”

He added:-“Whether constituents need online, face to face or telephone help with their finances my office has all the relevant details for the Money Advice Service so I’d urge them to get in touch ASAP or visit www.moneyadvice.org.uk

Tony Hobman, Chief Executive of the Money Advice Service, thanked Gordon Macdonald MSP for his support and said:-“We are grateful to Gordon Macdonald MSP for raising awareness of the free services that the Money Advice Service offers. We can all enjoy life more if given the right money advice at the right time in the right way. We’re not here to sell people anything and we won’t charge anyone – we are here to help people take decisions about their money and plan for a better future for themselves and their families.”

Edinburgh International Film Festival 2012 – Young Talents programme

The Edinburgh International Film Festival has just opened its programme for young film critics, for schools who want to make their own films and Media Days for schools to meet the filmmakers. 

Building on last year's inaugural initiative, EIFF will offer 25 young people a unique opportunity to participate in the 2012 Festival. The **Young Talents** programme is an opportunity for film fans aged 16 – 18, where selected participants will be given a free EIFF Student Pass, allowing them access to Industry events, Press and Industry screenings and an exclusive *Young Talents* events programme as well as selected parts of the public programme. *Young Talents* is supported by Creative Scotland and through The Scottish Government Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund.

Young Talents was launched at the 2011 Festival and involved 21 young people who participated in over 30 events and screenings, including private Q&A sessions with actor Ewen Bremner (PERFECT SENSE; TRAINSPOTTING) and director Dominic Allan (CALVET). Designed to inspire young people with an interest in film to pursue a career in the industry, *Young Talents* explores film analysis, performance and craft, and reveals the routes young people can take into the UK film industry.

2011 participant Laurence Williams, 18, said:-“There were so many events to take advantage of and I hope that I will make

use of all the information and advice given. It was amazing meeting, talking to, and hearing from people with experience and knowledge in the film industry.”

Laura Glennie, 16, added:- “I got to experience so much more than I could otherwise, I learned so much valuable information that I couldn’t have experienced first hand. I have also been inspired – after meeting filmmakers – to make a short film for my Advanced Higher Art and Design portfolio!”

Douglas Greenwood, 17, added:- “EIFF *Young Talents* is possibly the most rewarding programme directed towards young people interested in the film industry. You’re surrounded by professionals, meet real actors and directors, and are allowed to explore the Festival’s varied and enriching programme. I cannot wait to return in 2012!”

EIFF is now accepting applications for *Young Talents 2012* and welcomes all applicants aged 16 – 18 years old with an interest in film and who are able to be in Edinburgh during the Festival dates 20 June – 1 July 2012. The deadline for applications is 23 May 2012 and can be accessed at www.edfilmfest.org.uk/learning

For those in Further and Higher Education, EIFF is delighted to announce the ***Student Critics Award Jury*** that will offer three places for aspiring film critics to attend EIFF and view a shortlisted programme of films. Working with two established critics as mentors, the Jury will develop their writing and critical skills during their time at EIFF. The Jury will select the winner of the inaugural Student Critics Award at EIFF’s Awards Ceremony on 30 June. Applicants for the Student Critics Award Jury will be asked to submit 400 words on a particular film or an aspect of cinema. Further details are available from education@cmi-scotland.co.uk

EIFF 2012 also sees the return of ***Edinburgh Schools Film Competition*** in partnership with Screen Education Edinburgh and

Arts & Learning and The City of Edinburgh Council.

Open to all pupils in Council run nurseries, primaries, secondary and special education schools, the competition will see selected films share the Festival limelight with leading filmmakers from around the world. Work is viewed and selected by a young people's Jury who also coordinate and present the Schools Film Competition Award Ceremonies during the Festival.

David Barras, filmmaker and Jury Coordinator, said:- "Having worked with groups who have submitted films and now being behind the scenes on the Jury, I can honestly say that the ideas, creativity and imagination of young people in Edinburgh is always startling and the films represent an amazing breadth of inventiveness and originality. It's great that the competition and its eventual winners are all decided by other young people."

The chosen films will screen to the public on Saturday 23 June for Primary, and Sunday 24 June for Secondary Schools.

For school audiences, there will be a range of screenings, including two **Media Days** for High Schools, containing short and feature film screenings, master-classes and the chance to meet filmmakers and industry professionals on Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 June. There will also be opportunities for primary schools and students of Modern Studies to attend film screenings.

Film screenings support teachers and students in their learning and each film is carefully chosen from the main programme to support the Curriculum for Excellence. Full details of the schools programme are available at www.edfilmfest.org.uk/learning or by contacting education@cmi-scotland.co.uk

Martin Cairns, Media Studies and English teacher, Broughton High School, said:- "EIFF Media Days for Schools are one of

the highlights of the year for my students. The opportunity to meet cast and crew from the movie world is inspiring and invaluable, whether it be Lucius Malfoy or DA Pennebaker, this is a fantastic event which is geared towards supporting teachers' work in school. The resources provided are a great way to get stuck into a Media Studies course at the start of the year."

Paul Laird, Media Studies and English teacher, Leith Academy, said:- "The Media Days at EIFF provide pupils with the chance to attend a film festival that has international recognition and that has been the launching pad for some of the biggest names in the business. With a new artistic director and with the chance to meet with industry insiders, directors, writers and academics this is one experience that is not to be missed.

My own pupils found the whole experience educational, entertaining and inspiring...who doesn't want to offer their pupils that?"

Cycling accident in Drumbrae today



City cyclist Jemma Smith was knocked off her bike in Corstorphine at 7 o'clock this morning, only two days after taking part in the cycling safety protest, Pedal on Parliament, at the weekend.

Half a mile into her daily morning commute to the city centre, riding her bike which was only a month old, she was thrown up

into the air by a car. As a result she has been to hospital to be treated for concussion and damage to ligaments in both knees. Twenty-five year old Jemma who works as an analyst at Standard Life and commutes into the city centre, was passing the junction where the Scotmid store sits at the end of Drumbrae Avenue when the accident occurred.



Jemma became aware of a silver car ahead of her waiting to join the flow of traffic on the main road from the street on her left from quite a distance away. "The driver was indicating to go the same way as I was. Nine times out of ten drivers see you in time and stop. But today the weather was pretty horrible, so perhaps she could not see just as well, but she just kept on coming at me and just as I passed the junction she accelerated and hit me with the front driver's side of the car."

"I was in a primary position about a metre away from the pavement and wearing high vis gear and using lights so I thought I could be seen."

"I am not 100% sure what happened then. The next thing I knew the impact of the car had pushed me sideways. I had anticipated the crash by then, and had stamped on my pedals, so I went up in the air with my bike attached. I flew through the air for about fifteen metres and then I landed on my head slid down to my shoulder and skidded along the road for a bit. I realised that I was in a very dangerous place in a very busy road. I saw the sky and my first instinct was to get away out of the traffic."



Jemma's helmet was split in two

"I was pretty shaken up and another motorist put me in their

car to wait for the police. The lady who hit me with her car was pretty upset. I am a driver too and have had road accidents, and know it is very traumatic hitting something never mind a person, and of course it all could have been a lot worse."

This accident will have financial consequences for Jemma who said:- "I commute every day. I just sold my old bike at the weekend too so I have nothing to fall back on until I get my bike fixed! Although I will not be able to use a bike for a little while anyway, and will have to rely on buses until my knees are okay again for cycling. I have damaged my helmet which is actually cleaved in two. There will also be repairs needed to the bike, and my jacket was ruined."

Jemma concluded:-" I was astounded that according to the police officer who attended the accident, there is at least one incident like this in the city every day. To think that only a day or two ago I was at the start of Pedal on Parliament on my bike trying to highlight the need for increased road safety! It was a very well organised day. We were at the very start and it was an amazing sight to turn round and see all the cyclists behind us at The Meadows."

The motorist has not been charged according to Lothian and Borders Police.

[Pedal on Parliament](#) took place on Saturday when almost 3,000 cyclists converged on Holyrood to highlight the need for safer streets for our cyclists. The photo of Jemma was of course taken a short time ago when she got her new bike. The cycle is now back at the shop for repairs.

Five things you need to know today

Pedal on Parliament – Bus lanes – ‘Big Hoodies’ – Business rates – Council Elections

Pedal on Parliament took place on Saturday 28 April on a day that combined sombre moments with an air of celebration. After a minute's silence, observed by the crowd of more than 2,500 strong according to Lothian and Borders Police, a mass ringing of bike bells, horns and cheers marked the start of the ride from the Meadows to Holyrood. The ride passed without incident, with the police closing a number of junctions temporarily to keep the ride together in a safe manner. The ride was notable for the large number of families and children among the throng, including kids on balance bikes, with stabilisers, in child seats, tagalongs and pedalling under their own steam.

Once at Holyrood the petition was presented to MSPs Jim Eadie for the SNP, Sarah Boyack for Labour and Alison Johnstone for the Greens, as well as Councillor Gordon McKenzie for the Lib Dems in front of the assembled mass of cyclists. Also addressing the crowd were Lynne McNicoll, whose stepson was killed on Edinburgh's roads earlier this year, prompting her to set up the Andrew Cyclist Foundation with her husband; and Mark Beaumont, the round the world cyclist and adventurer who rode the route with a handmade banner calling for a Cycle Friendly Scotland.

Participants decorated their bikes, and themselves, for the fun event, which saw children paddling and swimming in the pools

afterwards at Holyrood, as the spring sunshine seemed to make an appearance especially for the ride.

The event proved exceeded the wildest expectations of the organisers, and Dave Brennan, part of the grass roots Pedal on Parliament campaign said:- 'Originally we'd hoped that 300 cyclists might show up – in the end, ten times that number cared enough to come out on the day. We're overwhelmed by the response and it just shows the depth of feeling there is in this country, especially among families. There is clearly still a long way to go but today has shown our politicians that Scots want Scotland to be a cycle-friendly nation. Now it's up to them to act on the proposals we've set out in our manifesto'.

Watch out for the bus lane cameras in Edinburgh, which have so far caught around 5,000 motorists according to [The Scotsman](#).

The last of Joe Caplin's drawings have gone up over the weekend. They can be found at the following locations:

- 20 Cowgate (At the very top of the Cowgate)
- Under George IV Bridge
- Guthrie Street
- Robertson's Close
- Top of Holyrood Road
- Intersection to Viewcraig Gardens & Holyrood Road

We love them! What do you think?

Edinburgh businesses hit by the tram project have claimed back rates of around £5m according to [The Daily Record](#). Businesses in Princes Street and at the West End say their businesses have been affected.

Three more days of campaigning before the city goes to the polls. Have you had a visit from your prospective councillor yet? You can find out all about the candidates [on our Council Elections page](#) with a link to the individual profiles and copies of the manifestos where we have been able to get them.



Film Review – The Avengers

by Ryan McNeely

Marvel's Avengers Assemble

Or, you know, The Avengers.

Loki has come to Earth to subjugate all of humanity. All that stands in his way is an untested experiment: the Avengers Initiative. Captain America, Iron Man, Thor and Hulk, along with Black Widow and Hawkeye, must join forces in order to defeat Loki's extraterrestrial army and save the planet. There's just one problem. None of them seem to play well with others. Ass-kicking, and a surprising amount of comedy, ensues.

So, is it as good as we all hoped it would be? Let me come back to that one.

With Cabin In The Woods and now this, 2012 is looking like the year when the rest of the world catches on to what geeks like me have been saying for fifteen years: everything Joss Whedon touches to gold. There are elements in this film that track back through all his earlier work, as if his entire career has been gearing up to this monster of a movie. Of course the most obvious one is the ensemble cast. Every one of his shows has

featured a team at its heart, be it Buffy and her Scooby Gang or the staff of Angel Investigations, but the best comparison is to the crew of Serenity from the tragically short-lived Firefly in terms of the conflicts and mistrust that occurred between the characters.

That is a key element in Avengers Assemble: remember that, aside from the SHIELD agents, none of these heroes have any experience of working in a group. When they are brought together by Nick Fury and his operatives, there is a real sense of the personality clashes. Of course that is something that Marvel has been building up through the Cinematic Universe since Iron Man. The fact that these characters are all known entities helps that no end. This movie could have been made without the previous flicks, but it wouldn't be nearly as successful. The backstory is a shorthand that allows Joss to bring in the superheroes without wasting a whole first act on telling us who they are and what they can do.

This in turn means that the new or lesser-known characters – particularly Clint 'Hawkeye' Barton and Maria Hill of SHIELD – get a chance for some initial development. And of course it's always great to see Agent 'SuperPhil' Coulson and Black Widow again, which brings me to another key component of Whedon's work: the bad-ass female fighter. To the roster of Buffy, Faith, River and Echo you can now add Natasha Romanoff. She got to kick some ass when she first showed up in Iron Man 2, but this takes her to a whole other level. Black Widow more than holds her own alongside the God of Thunder and a giant green rage monster.

Speaking of giant green rage monsters, Mark Ruffalo is great in his first gig as Bruce Banner and Hulk. Yes, he actually plays Hulk too. For the first time, the big guy was created via motion capture with Ruffalo acting the part on the set alongside his compadres. This means that he is a more realistic (ha!) presence within the scene, particularly when it comes to interaction with his teammates. Hulk is also the

source of a lot of the bigger laughs in the movie, but not in a forced way. I was at the 11am screening which was sold out², and of course Robert Downey Jr. is quipping left and right to great effect but when Jolly Green made his joke the place was in uproar.

No, I'm not going to tell you what it was. No spoilers here today. It was also really fun to see Banner and Stark bonding over science like the two nerds they are, all the baggage of being a billionaire playboy and a monster momentarily forgotten. Because that's what Avengers Assemble is really about; this group of individuals being motivated by an outside threat into becoming a team and working together to save the Earth.

I think what I liked most about the script is that everyone is given their time to shine. Every single character gets that hero moment. If you look past all the sharp dialogue and pop-culture references and the strong female characters that have typified Whedon's work, the one big thing that he excels at is the way he can marshal a big group and make them all unique individuals. This film has got eleven key roles in it and not one of them feels short-changed. They are all fully-defined people, not just ciphers there to say the words and take up space in the shot. Of course the writer and director is only one side of that equation. You need the actors too. There are no bum notes among the cast.

As I've said before, most of the actors have appeared as these characters already which is not only a benefit to us as viewers, but also to them. They've already lived with these characters and got to know them, making the performances all the more believable. As good as everyone is, there are always one or two that deserve to be singled out. For my money those are RDJ, Chris Evans and Tom Hiddleston as Loki from among the Marvel vets. Over the span of now three movies we've seen so much change in Tony Stark, from arrogant playboy to prisoner, to driven man on a mission (and that was just the first

flick!) then in Iron Man 2 he was tortured by his impending death – at least until a little nudge from Fury and his old man – which manifested as something between ennui and nihilism, but he was still the one-man-band, despite his brief tag-team moment with Rhodey. Now here he has to learn to be a part of something larger than himself, to work alongside his intellectual equal and his physical superiors; basically, to take orders.

Evans' Captain America is a man out of time. Everyone he ever knew, loved or fought beside is dead and he now has to try and make a life for himself in this strange new world. He is just as much of an alien as Thor or Loki, but at least they can go back if they want to. His scenes with Clark Gregg as SuperPhil were among my favourites in the whole film. The look of bemusement on Cap's face as Coulson went full fanboy was just priceless. As for Hiddleston, in his hands Loki is a slighted child, pissed at big brother and wanting to make a name for himself. Yes, he wants to rule Earth and make humanity his bitch, but he believes that the world will be better under his yoke. He does evil deeds, but he is not truly evil in and of himself.

Let's talk about the 3D for a second for a bit, shall we? I know some of you are all "3D sucks! It's just a fad!" and I can appreciate your argument, but I respectfully disagree. Modern 3D represents a sea change in the way films will be made and seen in the years to come and it's time we all got used to that. When it's done right it can be remarkable, but to be done right the film has to be shot in the format. I am not a huge fan of post-conversion. Avengers Assemble is a post-conversion movie and while the quality of the work is much improved from even as recently as Clash Of The Titans (for example) it is not yet up to the standard of natively-shot 3D. Instead of a fully immersive image, we get something that resembles those greetings cards you used to make in school where you cut a shape out of wrapping paper with a

repeating pattern and built it up in layers: the total picture has depth to it, but each layer within that picture is still a flat image.

I am not anti-3D, but even though this is the best post-conversion movie I've been to you will not miss out by seeing Avengers Assemble in a standard 2D screening. The IMAX, however, is absolutely glorious. Norn Irn's own Seamus McGarvey has done an excellent job with the cinematography, and the score by Hollywood legend Alan Silvestri is just right. Both accomplish their goals without drawing too much attention to themselves, which is as it should be. Just like with every other aspect of the film, there is no showboating for the sake of it. Avengers Assemble is a true team effort.

So, is it as good as we all hoped it would be? Damn right it is.

P.S.

Don't get me started on Firefly, or this column is in real danger of glossing over Avengers Assemble altogether and turning into a rant. And yes, I've given up trying to fight over the name.

Even though it's Avengers Assemble, I was a little surprised by how full the cinema was that early in the day. I had to reign myself in from screaming "Do none of you people have jobs?" when my toes were stood on for the fourth time by some idjit trying to get past me.

Ryan McNeely's film reviews can be read here on his own site

5wordmoviereviews.wordpress.com

3000 cycle for Pedal on Parliament



According to the many who tweeted about it, the Pedal on Parliament event attracted around 3,000 cyclists from all over. This was three times as many as the organisers expected. At the same time, 10,000 cyclist [rode in London](#) and a similar event took place in Rome in a bid to encourage governments to take steps which ensure safer streets for cyclists.

Pedal on Parliament say they [were overwhelmed with the turnout](#) and they have posted over 400 photos already on [Flickr](#).

Were you there? What did you think about it? Do you have any photos for us?

Our Photo today by Neil Davidson

Here is our Storify resume of the event....

[[View the story "Pedal on Parliament 2012" on Storify](#)]

Cathy Cassidy – A deliciously

sweet series



For most people, chocolate and marshmallows will conjure up the image of a yummy dessert, but to Cathy Cassidy they're ingredients for a fantastic book series. 'The Chocolate Box Girls,' will grow to include five volumes. Two are currently on the shelves and the third is due to be published on 7 June 2012.

With sixteen books to her name, Cathy has created a number of additional characters and storylines outside of the beloved stepsisters featured in the Chocolate Box series. The endless queue that trailed around Waterstones yesterday only highlighted the loyalty of her devoted fan base.

The 50-year-old author has been writing since the age of 8, when she created her first picture book for her younger brother. In later years she was the agony aunt for 'Shout,' magazine and fiction editor for 'Jackie.'

Despite her success and passion for writing, she never specifically decided to write children's books. "After years of writing short stories and working as a journalist in the teen market, when I started writing books they happened to be teen and pre-teen books, it's just the natural voice for me."

In addition to her love of writing, Cathy says she's "addicted to daydreaming and inventing stories," which makes her job the perfect profession. She says, "it doesn't even feel like work in a way."

While Cathy feels no author or book has specifically inspired her, she is grateful to a couple of her colleagues. "Jacqueline Wilson opened the market up and made it possible to write that real-life, coming of age genre, which I'm very grateful for. I'm grateful, as well, for J.K. Rowling for

making it so cool for kids to read.”

Cathy may not write about the wizarding world that made J.K. Rowling a household name, but she does have her own magical world inhabited by her own cast of characters. “I like to write about feelings and emotions, about kids in real life situations, growing up and coming across different problems and trying to solve them.”

She does all of this fabulous writing, at home, in her garden. She, her husband, and her two teenage children live in a cottage in the Galloway Hills. “I’ve got a very pretty writing shed and it’s all full of my favourite things.” With her laptop in tow, Cathy says realistically, she can write anywhere, but in a perfect world, “I like there to be peace and quiet because that lets me make room for the daydreaming, make room for the story really.”



As the daydreaming carries on and Cathy’s books continue to fill shelves, mothers have begun to ask if they can expect their own series from the ‘Chocolate Box Girls,’ creator. “At the moment probably not and that’s because I’m so content really. I love the voice and the market that I write for at the moment, it’s perfect. But you never know what might happen, never say never.”

But there are things Cathy hopes will happen. “TV producers please contact me now!” she replied when asked if she would consider a film or TV series. In addition to her own desire to make movie (or television) magic, she says her readers have been asking for a film or television version of the books as well. “I got one classic e-mail from two girls who have already chosen their dresses for the premiere, for the red carpet.”



While the 'Chocolate Box Girls,' are not yet gracing big or small screens, they are gracing new pages. The third instalment in the series will be released at the beginning of June and "Summer's Dream," will be Cathy's favourite book yet. "My particular favourite is always the newest book. Whenever a book turns up on a books shelf, as a real life proper book, and other people can read it as well, to me that's the point when it suddenly becomes real. I always, even after 8 years, get a big kick out of that."

Cathy's friendly demeanour and enthusiasm for her characters and fans suggest that really, she gets a kick out the whole process. From start to finish she loves what she does, and that adoration has brought readers back, time and again.

Find out more about Cathy Cassidy's past, present and future in this exclusive Edinburgh Reporter interview:

Edinburgh International Magic Festival back for another year



It's Magic: Edinburgh International Magic Festival director and acclaimed magic circle magician Kevin McMahon launched the Magic Festival 2012 with a butterfly theme.

The festival runs from 29th June to 6th July 2012 and was launched at Lothian Buses central depot in Edinburgh's Annandale Street garage. www.magicfest.co.uk



Listings Info:

Magic and Variety Gala Show

Fri 29 June 2.30pm & 7.00pm

The Royal Lyceum Theatre

2.30pm (Preview) • All tickets £10

7pm • £20/£16 adults, £16/£12 conc, £10 child

Duration: 2hr 30mins with interval

Ages 5+

Voyageurs Egarés– an unavoidable trip into an imaginary world

Jérôme Helfenstein, Claude Brun

Sat 30 June 2.30pm

The Royal Lyceum Theatre • £15 adults/ £12 conc/ £10 child

Duration: 60mins

Ages 5+

Magic Dinner

Sat 30 June 7.00pm

The Royal Scots Club • £50 per person • Discounts available for groups 10+

Duration: approx 3hr 30mins

Over 18's only

Magic School

One-off Magic School Workshop • £15

Sat 30 June – Sun 1 July

10.00am OR 1.30pm

5-Day Magic School • £75

Mon 2 July – Fri 6 July

10.00am OR 1.30pm

Duration: approx 2hr 30min

Sandeman House Ages 7-10

Street Magic Master Class

Sun 1 July – Mon 2 July 11.30am

The Scottish Storytelling Centre (the Bothy) • £35

Duration: approx 5hr 30min

Ages 11-14

Javier Jarquin "CARD NINJA: ReDeal"

Sun 1 July 7.00pm

The Scottish Storytelling Centre • £12/£10 conc/£5 child
£30 family ticket available (2 adults and 2 children)

Duration: 50mins

Ages 5+

Colin McLeod "Sheer Luck?"

Sat 30 June 12.00pm

The Scottish Storytelling Centre • £12/£10 conc/£5 child

Duration: 55mins

Ages 12+

War of the Wizards Under 18's

Sun 1 July 11.00am (Duration: 60mins)

Open War of the Wizards

Sun 1 July 2.00pm (Duration: 90mins)

The Scottish Storytelling Centre • £5/£3 conc

Ages 10+

Matthew J Dowden "Magic of the Movies"

Sat 30 June – Sun 1 July 5.00pm

Tue 3 July – Fri 6 July 7.00pm

The Scottish Storytelling Centre • £10/£8 conc/£5 child
£25 family ticket available (2 adults and 2 children)

Duration: 60mins

Ages 5+

Bruce Glen "The Gentleman Magician"

Sat 30 June – Fri 6 July (except Mon 2 July) 8.30pm

The Scottish Storytelling Centre • £10/£8 conc/£5 child
£25 family ticket available (2 adults and 2 children)

Duration: 50mins

Ages 10+

John Archer "Forget about the Tricks"

Wed 4 July – Thu 5 July 7.30pm

Traverse Bar Café • £12/ £10 conc

Duration: 60mins

Ages 12+

Colour Ham

Colin McLeod, Kevin McMahon, Gavin Oattes

Thu 5 July 8.30pm

Voodoo Rooms • £12/ £10 conc

Duration: 55mins

Over 18's only

Lewis Barlow "As Close As You Can"

Sat 30 June – Fri 6 July 7.00pm

The Vault • £10/£8 conc/£5 child

Duration: 50mins

Ages 7+

Michael Neto "UPCLOSE"

Sat 30 June – Fri 6 July 8.30pm

The Vault • £10/£8 conc/£5 child

Duration: 50mins

Ages 10+

Four Nations Magic-Off

Fri 6 July 10.00pm

Traverse Bar Café • £15/ £12 conc

Duration: till late!

Over 18's only

Pictures from: Colin Hattersley Photography

www.colinhattersley.com

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Five things you need to know today



POP Scotland – Green message – Bob Dylan – Cocktails – Learning how to make a film

Today at 2pm cyclists will set off from The Meadows to cycle to Holyrood and highlight the need for Parliament to make Scotland a cycle friendly nation. [Pedal on Parliament](#) has gained traction over the last few weeks and about 1,000 or more cyclists are expected to take part.

An election candidate in west Edinburgh has set a unique polling day puzzle for people in his area.

Green candidate, Gavin Corbett, who is widely-tipped to take one of the three council seats in Fountainbridge / Craiglockhart, has planted 9 stones the length and breadth of his area. Each of the stones has a letter on it which go together to make an important message. Once people have found all nine letters, using clues, and worked out the message they can contact the Green campaign team no later than noon on Wednesday 2 May. The clues are available as pdf on www.edinburghgreens.org.uk/site/local-teams/fc/ or phone 07847 504011 for a copy.

Gavin said:-

“One of the big worries about these local elections is voter turnout. This is especially so with the Tories, SNP and Lib Dems colluding to ban posters on lamposts in Edinburgh, one of the main visible ways in which people know an election is on. Low turnout is bad for candidates of all parties.

“So I wanted to think of ways of adding a bit of spark alongside the bread and butter work of canvassing and leafleting. The area in which I am standing and have lived for 20 years has so many fantastic assets: the canal, Harrison Park, Craiglockhart woods, the Water of Leith and some real landmark buildings as well. So, as well as being a bit of fun it is a way of showcasing the area at its best. And if it ends up with a few more people taking an interest in the election then even better!”

We have [a comprehensive list of all candidates for the council elections next week here](#) with individual profiles for each one.

Hard Rain: Whole Earth? is taking place at the Royal Botanics from WED 14 MAR – SUN 1 JULY 2012 in the Fossil Courtyard

Hard Rain: Whole Earth? is a new, expanded version of the original challenging photographic essay about the state of our planet, inspired by Bob Dylan’s evocative lyric. It includes a section on the amazing solutions being pursued across the globe and here in Scotland. Visit the Tibetan tent and leave your thoughts on what needs to be done by Governments worldwide. The exhibition is premiering at the Botanics in the lead up to the Rio Convention. Free. Generously supported by the People’s Postcode Lottery and the Scottish Government

Espionage, one of the top nightclub, bar and event venues in the heart of Edinburgh’s city centre, is shaking things up this spring with the launch of its new cocktail menu! Also, in what’s believed to be a Scottish first – one of Espionage’s talented mixologists has created a very special ‘Scottish Mojito’, containing the nation’s much loved Irn Bru, which is perfectly shaken (and not stirred – just as 007 likes it!) –

with Brugal rum, lime juice, sugar and fresh mint!

It's the perfect fusion of this highly popular Latino drink with a twist and taste of Scotland added in for good measure. And all for only £5.50 (or £3.95 for those with a Keykard*, the venue's discount card).

Nick Callaghan, Espionage's manager said: "We've just launched our new cocktail list and our local clientele as well as the tourists absolutely love our Scottish Mojito and the other new cocktails we've added. These include our Passionberry Fizz, Bramble, a Very Long Island Ice Tea and the Spicy Italian Cooler. Do come in and try them! And if you have our KeyKard, our cocktails are only £3.95, seven days a week from 7pm until 3am, which is when we're open.

"And if you're looking to learn more about making your own cocktails, get yourself onto our Cocktail Masterclass course which we run regularly for £19.95 per person. You'll get an interactive demonstration from one of our talented mixologists, make (and drink) two cocktails plus a shooter and receive a keepsake to take home. And we're sure you'll have an absolute ball whilst you learn something new!"

To book Espionage's Cocktail Masterclass call 0131 477 7007 or email edinburgh@espionage007.co.uk. For more information on Espionage, go to www.espionage007.co.uk.

Today between 11- 12.30pm

'Making a Low Budget Feature Film – the Payoffs and Pitfalls'

Would you like to make the leap into feature film production? Get along to a panel discussion that will offer practical tips and insider knowledge to help you make it happen.

Chaired by Ros Davis – Film Commissioner, Marketing Edinburgh Film Focus

Panelists include:

Al Clarke – Producer, Wellington Films (Crying with Laughter, London to Brighton)

Mia Bays – Production Executive and Marketing Consultant for Microwave (Film London and the BBC's innovative micro-budget feature fund)

John Maclean – Bafta winner of Best Short Film 2012

Allan Niblo – Vertigo/ NFTS (Producer and Co-Founder of Vertigo)

Event will include a screening of John Maclean's Bafta award winning short 'Pitch Black Heist', starring Michael Fassbender and Liam Cunningham

For FREE tickets please contact Filmhouse Box Office on 0131 228 2688 or email louise.donoghue@cmi-scotland.co.uk

**Theatre review: Could You
Please Look Into the
Camera/Traverse Theatre**

(****)

✖ Mohammed Al Attar's short lunchtime play is a strong and sometimes shocking start to the Traverse Theatre's new A Play, A Pie and a Pint season. Given the overall title *One Day in Spring*, and curated by leading Scottish playwright David Greig, the season explores new work from the Arab world reflecting the tumultuous recent events that continue to shape the region.

Could You Please Look Into the Camera takes us straight into the heart of Syrian detention centres, as film-maker Noura asks three former detainees to describe their experiences there. The harrowing stories of beatings, electric shocks and humiliation are difficult to listen to, yet as the tales are told, troubling ethical and moral questions emerge, ones that are sometimes at odds with the film-maker's own strongly held views.

Al Attar's pithy play blazes with anger, yet also manages to raise itself above the specifics of Syrian oppression to deal with more general questions of resistance, acceptance and the need for human contact.

Director Catrin Evans delivers a taught production that takes over one side of the Traverse bar. Alia Alzougbi convincingly charts Noura's increasing questioning of her own beliefs, and her three interviewees – played by Umar Ahmed, Lucy Hollis and Gerry McLaughlin – give strong, sharply differentiated performances.

Could You Please Look Into the Camera continues until Saturday 28 April, and the *One Day in Spring* season, which includes six plays from throughout the Arab world, continues at the Traverse Theatre until 2 June.

For more details, visit www.traverse.co.uk.

Who is cycling in Edinburgh?



More talk about cycling....

[Pedal on Parliament](#) will take place this weekend when a flash cycle will highlight the need for measures to allow safer cycling on our streets. Cycling is now being talked about by most politicians. Council hopeful [John Knox is trying to cycle](#) all the streets in Liberton/Gilmerton Ward today on a bike bedecked by election posters. If you see him send us a photo! Our photo today shows the January [protest outside St Andrew's House](#) when the message was delivered to Transport Minister, Keith Brown, that he needed to do more for cyclists and others wanting to travel 'actively'.

The Edinburgh Reporter is a cyclist, both weekday and weekends, both in an effort to get around more easily, more cheaply and of course with a view to keeping fit, and so this is a topic close to our hearts.

There are certainly still some black spots on our city's streets where potholes can prove to be dangerous obstacles, and other road users, cyclists and those driving four wheeled vehicles, are not always polite, or forgiving of the slower road user on two wheels. But the benefits of getting around while enjoying some fresh air and exercise largely outweigh these factors, and we love using the cycle paths to get around town.

We talked to some weel-kent Edinburgh residents about their own cycling experiences in the city:-

✖ [Andrew Burns](#), the Labour Group leader on the City of Edinburgh Council, explained how he uses his bike:-

"I've been a keen cycle-tourer for all of my adult life, and have undertaken numerous routes over the last 30 years. I've completed three John O'Groats to Lands End tours; one Los Angeles to New York tour and even an extensive tour inside China, from Chengdu to Hong Kong! More locally, this September will be my 10th consecutive year of completing (hopefully!) the annual Glasgow-Edinburgh 'Pedal for Scotland' event.

I do enjoy cycling! And, here in Edinburgh, I use my bike to cycle to work every morning, Monday through to Friday, a round trip of about 4 miles. I do also, occasionally, use the bike at weekends to get from my flat to our allotment, a round trip of about 3 miles.

My favourite place to cycle in the Capital has to be the section of the canal I use every morning, from Harrison Park along to the Leamington Lift Bridge. It has the most marvellous mix of ancient and modern, near-rural and urban, busy and tranquil all within a mere mile-long stretch. I never tire of that section of my daily journey, and on my return-leg there are even now 'canal tow-path, solar-lights' to help guide me when it's dark!

As for cycling in Edinburgh generally, I'm very proud of the progress that's been made, specifically across the last two periods of different Council Administrations, and really do think the city is now close to a 'tipping-point'. If Edinburgh Labour are in administration after the election on 3rd May, we'll be certain to build on the good work of the last 9 years to make sure that more and more people make a positive choice to cycle on a daily basis. The all-round benefits are huge, in so many ways."

✖ Mark Lazarowicz, MP for Edinburgh North and Leith, said:-"I use my bike quite a lot in Edinburgh, although not so much

in the winter or if the weather's bad, I have to admit! I'm fortunate that North Edinburgh and Leith has a good network of cycle routes, and often cycling is the quickest way between meetings.

I have my own bike in London which I use occasionally.

I know there are a lot of cyclists in my constituency – indeed, I had an email on a cycling issue from a constituent a few minutes before speaking to you! She was asking about cycling generally but did specifically mention the need for better North-South routes across the city. She has a good point there – places like Picardy Place are particularly dangerous for cyclists, and indeed all traffic.”

Journalist [Rob Edwards](#) is the Environment Editor for The Herald. He is also someone who is regularly seen using his bike around the city, when he is not pinned to his seat writing.

Rob said:-“Primarily, I use my bike as a means of transport, though it also helps keep me fit, and can be fun if the weather's nice. Often, it's simply the quickest, cheapest and most efficient way to get from A to B in Edinburgh. My favourite place to cycle in Edinburgh is through the Meadows when the cherry blossom is out and the sun is shining, or round Holyrood Park when there's no wind.

I think that the way that things can be improved for cyclists is to offer more devoted cycleways, which could be better thought out and more clearly marked. There could be more opportunities to share paths with pedestrians, rather than risking life and limb with cars, buses and taxis. And I would like to see some measures to make drivers and fellow cyclists take more care. Oh, and fewer potholes!”

David Miller, [Environment Correspondent for the BBC](#), is an avid cyclist mainly for commuting purposes, having invested in a new folding bike only last year to make his journey to the BBC offices in either Edinburgh or Glasgow both easier and quicker.

David said:-“My bike has advantages and disadvantages, but mainly I use it to get to Haymarket, then I fold it up and get onto the train, if I am going to Glasgow. My regular route goes through Inverleith Park which is lovely. That is the best bit of my day! There I am cycling with the allotments on one side and the Castle on the other, and people out exercising their dogs in the park.

“If I am staying in Edinburgh then part of my route includes the city centre, and the cycle lane at the Rodney Street junction is a very difficult one to negotiate. The bike lane often has parked cars in it, and you have to judge it so that you get into the bike box before the traffic moves off, but it is not easy as it’s uphill there! So my route through the city centre in Edinburgh is not the easiest one.

“In the recent cycling debate in Parliament someone commented that cyclists need to know that they are protected by more than just a line of paint, and I think that is a useful phrase. Sometimes the bike lane is not the best or safest place to be, especially if there are cars parked there, and it would be good to be a bit better separated as road users. It is sometimes easier at busy places like the Picardy Place roundabout to wimp out and cross as a pedestrian. You have to be really confident if you are cycling on the road there.

“I also have a brilliant bike ride from Queen Street Station to Pacific Quay in Glasgow along the Broomielaw. At peak times I can cycle up the bike path to Haymarket and then take the train to Glasgow and have a lovely cycle along the river, which is better and quicker than taking a car.”

✘ Lothians MSP, Alison Johnstone, is an avid cyclist too. She said:-“I use my bike for both commuting (not daily, I’m a bus and walking fan too!) and for fun. My favourite cycle way is alongside the Water of Leith.

“My regular route into town is along the Canal, then on to the

Meadows, a popular route for many cyclists. Links between the canal and Gilmore Place could be improved. The cycle lane in Gilmore Place is meaningless as it's largely covered by parked cars, particularly as it nears the busy King's Theatre junction. This is a problem for most cycle lanes in the city."

What do you think? Are you a cyclist? Give us your views!

Photo by Colin Hattersley

www.colinhattersley.com

colinhattersley@btinternet.com

The Edinburgh Reporter chats – Bonnie Lawson-Brown



We told you [earlier this week](#) about Edinburgh businesswoman, Bonnie Lawson-Brown, and the new shopping app she has just devised. We just had to find out more about her, after hearing her exciting news.

Who are you, and where did you come from?

I am Bonnie Lawson-Brown. I moved to Edinburgh from Germany and I have been a forces wife for 16 yrs.

What is the business book you recommend that everyone should read?

Richard Branson: Losing my Virginity. It offers a wealth of knowledge and advice as well as a 'laugh out loud\ read.

What do you think your business strengths and weaknesses are?

I enjoy interacting with people very much. I can mix on all levels and I don't get intimidated easily! <y weakness could be my love of talking (a little too much at times....).

What was the defining moment on your career path that has got you where you are now?

It was realising that I could build my own business by offering a brand new service not already offered or used whilst walking along Princes Street. On a busy weekday I recognised the potential for Silver IMP in my very own eureka moment! After moving to Edinburgh I decided that I am not ever leaving. I then wondered how would I be able to achieve this, and decided it would be by setting up and starting my own business.

How do you spend your spare time?

I love to explore the beautiful city of Edinburgh, taking in all the architecture and the coffee shops. I also find that costume books and dramas are my favourite ways to relax.

Do you think you achieve a good work/life balance?

Yes, I leave the weekends, especially Sundays, free to take a walk along Edinburgh's beautiful beaches with my boys and my pooch.

What makes Edinburgh the best location for you to live and/or work?

I find Edinburgh to be a beautiful inspiration, and also it is an empowering feeling to be in the 'hub' of things here.

What is your special area of Edinburgh, or special place in Edinburgh and why?

Princes Street gardens to take time out for coffee and lunch

before and after meetings, and Portbello beach for the people, pooches and the chippy!

Do you have a business mentor?

I have some very good people supporting me just now. My family and friends of course but also my husband, my rock. My support from the Business Gateway and Edinburgh Chamber's high growth business advisor, David Chisholm, has been exemplary.

My PR lady Clare Graham at Advantage PR was heaven sent! She is a miracle, and a hard worker who achieves what she sets out to do!

I now find that I have a wealth of business advice, support and a wonderful never-ending list of contacts.

Who are your business heroes?

The people who founded the high street cosmetics store, Lush, and many other self-made business-minded successful entrepreneurs

What are your business goals for the next year?

I want to grow awareness and gain exposure for Silver IMP, to learn as I go and meet other like-minded people. I hope to encourage people to shop and explore in the city, and make it easier and more fun to do so by the use of the Silver IMP app, but I also want to give retailers the chance to make contact with customers 'out of store'.

Describe your typical day for us.

I wake up drink my coffee, check my emails and catch up the social media sites I use. My son begins School at 9.am .Then it's onto the bus and into the city to have meetings about Silver Imp, or attend my part time job at Marks and Spencer.

Best job advice you ever received?

Treat others as you would wish to be treated.

Your plan of attack for the next 12 months?

To establish Silver IMP as a reputable and respectful, fun and innovative company to do business with.

Auld Reekie Roller Girls at home for the final this weekend

✘ After three months of action-packed, adrenalin-filled roller derby, this weekend sees the Auld Reekie Roller Girls, Edinburgh's roller derby league, make history with their very first Home Season Championship Final.

The event – starting at 5pm on Saturday 28 April 2012 at Edinburgh's Meadowbank Sports Centre – will be a double header featuring all of ARRG's home teams and special guests from Glasgow Roller Derby, the Hell's Belles. The action will begin with a runners-up game between the Cherry Bombers and GRD's Hells Belles, prefacing the main event at 7:30pm when the undefeated Leithal Weapons tee off against the plucky underdogs, The Skatefast Club.

An ARRG spokeswoman said:-“The run up to the final has been electric, with great atmosphere from the crowd and serious determination from the girls on track. Every team has been

skating fast, hitting hard and battling till the final whistle to ensure that they had a shot at the title. Now the final is upon us, and we will see The Skatefast Club pitted against the Leithal Weapons for the ever-desired championship title. Everyone is playing to win and both teams are sure to be pulling out their best moves and tactics – it's definitely not to be missed! Whether you have seen roller derby before or if it's your first ever game, this is the perfect time to come along and support ARRG for an evening of guaranteed fun and an excellent Saturday evening of entertainment! You won't be disappointed! “



Skatefast captain Mallory Powers seemed mighty focused when she told us:-“I couldn't be prouder of my team for making it to the home season final! All of our hard training and focus has really been paying off and we are more than ready for Saturday's bout. Needless to say, we'll be the most stylish bunch of misfits on track, and we have the skills to match. Those Seagulls better look out, as we plan to exercise a little bit of pest control. “

The Leithal Weapons are similarly prepared, with Leithal's captain, Alma Geddon, weighing in on the final as follows:-“Though we have played a consistent season, this doesn't mean we are heading in to the final relaxed. We are prepared to fight hard for a title that we plan to earn!”

Don't miss the finale of ARRG's biggest and best (and first) home season!

What is modern roller derby? □□Roller derby is an all-female sport that involves teams competing on an oval track in a series of 'jams' – two minute periods that see teams of five players each battling to score points. During each jam, one player on each team is designated as the 'jammer' who scores a

point for every member of the opposing team she passes.

The sport requires a punishing array of agile and athletic skills, from zig-zag blocking moves to body slams to all-out speed-skating. To perfect these manoeuvres, skaters commit to several hours of practice every week, paying for gear and practice space out of their own pockets.

While it has its roots in sports-entertainment-style exhibition bouts going back as far as the 1930s, modern roller derby has reinvigorated the game with a grass-roots DIY ethos that puts the passion for athleticism front-and-centre.□□The trend finally reached Edinburgh in 2008, when a small group of women founded ARRГ.

The Edinburgh league now averages at over 80 skaters, and is run purely on the volunteer efforts of its members. Auld Reekie Roller Girls recently became full member of the Womens Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA).

Photo Brian Anderson

Pride Scotia will take to the streets in June

PRIDE SCOTIA ANNOUNCES ITS PLANS FOR A MARCH IN EDINBURGH

Pride Scotia has announced plans for Scotland's National LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered) Pride which will take place in Edinburgh on Saturday 30 June 2012.

The Pride March will assemble from Noon outside the City Chambers in the High Street where the Council will be flying the Rainbow Flag. After speeches, the march will move off down

the Royal Mile where it will be joined by floats on the high profile route past the Scottish Parliament and Holyrood Palace before passing a number of popular LGBT venues and finishing up at the Omni Centre.

On arrival, there will be further speeches and a full programme of entertainment from 2pm as well as the usual Health and Community Fair which will be held in the Omni Centre itself.

The Order of Perpetual Indulgence will be hosting an unlicensed Tea Dance in Mood from 2-5pm with free tea, cake and sandwiches – this event is suitable for folk of all ages – especially those who enjoy music of the 20's and 30's!

Pride Scotia hopes soon to be announcing further additions to the programme on their website: www.pride-scotia.org and on Facebook: Pride Scotia

[Pride2012A4v1](#)

Talking about cycling with the Transport Convenor



Councillor Mackenzie speaking to cyclists at the Edinburgh Bike Breakfast June 2011

Cycling is becoming more popular as a means of transport, and as a way of keeping fit. Cycling on our city streets has been discussed at both council and government level over the last few months.

Gordon Mackenzie is currently Transport Convenor for The City of Edinburgh Council, who recently agreed to spend a minimum of 5% of the [Transport budget](#) on cycling, and separately agreed that £9m would be invested in cycling, walking and safer streets.

The Edinburgh Reporter talked to him about the ways that the council might improve the city cycling experience. Mackenzie is himself a cyclist. He said:- "I use my bike mainly as a means of transport. I don't use it as a means of exercise alone. My children keep me fit, and they're pretty good fun (when they're behaving!) I particularly like to use the off-road network in North Edinburgh, either the old railway lines or the path along the Water of Leith."

And how will cycling be improved in the city if he is in charge of the Transport portfolio in the next council administration? He offered up the relevant parts of the LibDem Manifesto with his own comments on each point by way of explanation.

Manifesto:- "Building on our investment in cycling, the highest in Scotland, and our road safety measures such as mobile speed signs and 20mph zones, increase the percentage of transport spend allocated to cycling to a minimum of 5% in 2012/13 and increase by 1% annually."

Mackenzie:- "This commitment backs up the funding we provided in this year's Council budget. In summary a significant proportion of the funding will be used to accelerate the completion of the [Active Travel Action Plan](#) cycling components, increase the funding for promoting cycling, properly maintaining the cycle network, bringing in a cycle

leasing scheme and providing cycle training for P6 children.”

Manifesto:- Use Edinburgh’s Streets Ahead Partnership as a starting point for a ‘Streets Ahead Plus’ scheme that will use trained local volunteers to identify potential road safety problems (speeding, hazardous parking at schools, misuse of cycling and pedestrian areas) to be addressed by targeting those responsible and raising awareness.

✘ Mackenzie: – “‘Streets Ahead Plus’ is based on the award winning Community Speedwatch schemes already operating across many parts of the UK. Feedback on the introduction of the 20mph pilot in south Edinburgh and the awareness campaign on Advanced Stop Boxes has been generally positive. However many people have commented that they would like to see more action to reinforce these measures including enforcement. Streets Ahead Plus will support the implementation of these and other road safety measures. Local volunteers would be trained and equipped to identify and record specific road safety problems; speeding, stopping in Advanced Stop Boxes, jumping red lights etc.

Details of the offence; registration number, location, time, etc, would be passed on to the [Streets Ahead Partnership](#) to follow up as appropriate e.g. via a warning letter or home visit. The purpose and benefit of the scheme would include, mobilising community support for road safety and providing a more visible presence on the street, thereby deterring the offending behaviour. Additionally, identifying the offenders will assist the [Streets Ahead Partnership](#) to target those individuals for awareness raising and /or enforcement action. The Fife pilot has shown that speeds dropped as a result of this approach, it has been hailed as a success by the Police and is now being extended to other areas of Fife.”

Manifesto :- Accelerate the Active Travel Action Plan, improve the maintenance of the existing cycle network, target safety issues and reaffirm our commitment to the goals set out in

the Charter of Brussels.

Mackenzie:- “Details of the sort of projects which are being planned are provided in the appendix to the manifesto. It’s not the complete list but will hopefully give your readers some indication of projects which are proposed for their area or routes they use.”

Manifesto:- ‘Roll out cycle training to all P6 children in Edinburgh’s schools’

Mackenzie:-“The additional funding being provided as part of the Cycling budget will enable us to fund paid trainers where necessary. If The Scottish Government contributes to the initiative Council funds will be freed up for use in other cycling projects.”

Manifesto:- ‘Work with NHS, education, voluntary and private sectors to promote cycling to work or study’

Mackenzie:- “Funding of c£100,000 a year, from the Council budget, has been earmarked for this initiative along with whatever contributions are available from external funders and sponsors. A proposal has already been agreed by Council, and we expect the project to go out to tender towards the end of the summer.”

Manifesto:-‘Introduce more 20mph limits where there is support from local residents’

Mackenzie:-“We believe that there is considerable potential to replicate the current pilot in other parts of the city and will also explore the inclusion of busier roads and local shopping areas as has already happened on part of Causewayside.”

Manifesto:- ‘To trial bikes on Trams within 6 months of operational service’

Mackenzie:- “We believe there is little risk in bring the

trial period forward by 6 months.”

Manifesto:- ‘To strengthen the “Edinburgh Road Works Ahead” agreement to reduce the disruption caused by roadworks. We will invest in better traffic modelling, better signage and better warning to road and footway users; press the Roads Commissioner to improve the way utilities works are managed and inspected; and lobby the Scottish Government to introduce “lane charges” to compensate for disruption and to encourage speedier completions.

Mackenzie:- “As well as causing disruption to journeys, roadworks can often present a particular hazard for cyclists with narrow lanes and drivers confused by unfamiliar diversions. Getting roadworks completed more quickly, with better planning and signage will reduce the disruption and the likelihood of accidents.”

Manifesto:- Deliver on the Jan Gehl recommendations for the city centre, creating new welcoming spaces for residents and visitors; and report on potential temporary traffic schemes by the end of 2012 with a report on permanent schemes by the middle of 2015.

Mackenzie :- “This will provide the opportunity to investigate the feasibility and desirability of an east -west cycle route through the city centre on a trial basis before implementing the preferred schemes in the second half of the Council.”

Manifesto:- Recognising the importance of building on our progress in maintaining good condition roads and pavements for all users, commit to reducing the percentage of roads and pavements in need of repair over the next five years.

Manifesto – Aware of the inherited backlog of repairs from the previous administration and of the damage wrought by two extreme winters, use the extra £3m in the 2012-13 budget to fix over a third of the city’s potholes with our award-winning “Right First Time” scheme, using materials and processes to

make more permanent repairs. Over the next four years, we will invest additional funds to ensure that all potholes are fixed permanently wherever possible.

Mackenzie:- “Better road surfaces are a benefit to all road users but perhaps more to cyclists who are at greater risk if a pothole causes a fall or or sudden change of direction.”

Manifesto – Unless there is compelling evidence that voluntary actions will deliver the traffic air pollution reductions required to improve air quality in the next three years, to promote Low Emission Zone(s) and target the highest polluting older buses and lorries.

Mackenzie :- “Pollution affects everyone living in or using the busier streets in Edinburgh and cyclists are no exception. Improving air quality will make cycling an even healthier way to travel around Edinburgh.

[Our previous article about the launch of the LibDem manifesto](#) has a copy of the manifesto in full.

Five things you need to know today



Council meeting – Portobello CC – Bras – Hendersons – QR

The last meeting of the full council in its current form will be held today, and one of the final decisions the councillors

will make is about football. In exactly one week's time the election will take place when it is widely expected that at least one third of the councillors will change. The election count is taking place at Meadowbank on Friday 4 May and we will be bringing you minute by minute coverage by way of liveblog on the day.

Councillor Donald Wilson has lodged a motion for consideration at the meeting about the Hearts v Hibs final of the Scottish Cup. The wording is as follows:-

Council notes

- *the success of both Hibernian and Hearts Football clubs in reaching the Scottish cup final to face each other for the first time since 1896*
- *that the only time the final has been held outside Glasgow was in 1896 when both clubs last met in the final of the Scottish Cup*

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to work with officers and representatives of both clubs to seek a meeting with the SFA with a view to holding the Scottish cup final at Murrayfield.

Moved Councillor Donald Wilson

Seconded Councillor Gordon Munro

We have a comprehensive guide to all council candidates with a click through to an individual profile on each one [which you can access here.](#)

Portobello Community Council is holding [an emergency meeting tonight](#) at Portobello Community Centre, Adelphi Grove. Of course this is related to the matter of the new Portobello High School, PPAG's appeal which is to be heard next month and

the role of the community council in all of this. The council has taken advice from the Council's legal department about the need for its impartiality in the matter.

The chair, John Stewart, has written:-“This meeting will allow PCC to listen to the views of the public and those who signed the petition. Points 2 and 3 of the petition can be discussed but PCC will not vote on these points for the reasons of neutrality ... PCC will however note the views expressed by the public on all three points and pass these views on to the Council.

PCC has also been advised that matters pertaining to the Court of Session appeal, such as the issue of common good land, cannot be discussed, as anyone making such comments might be deemed to be in contempt of court.

Points 2 and 3 of this petition for a Special Meeting request PCC to take sides. A community council should not support the views of one section of the community over the views of another.”

A charity event with a difference is taking place tonight at The Haven 9 Anchorfield. Might only be for girls however...There will be a bra collection tonight from 7-9pm at the cafe.

Free cupcake in exchange for any unwanted bras which Natalie, the owner, will donate to Oxfam as part of their Big Bra Hunt campaign!

Henderson's of Edinburgh have been awarded The List magazine's prestigious Judges' Special Award in recognition of the restaurant's contribution to the Scottish vegetarian dining scene over the last 50 years. The presentation took place at The List Eating & Drinking Guide Hitlist Party at The Scottish National Gallery on Tuesday night.

Henderson's Shop first opened on Hanover Street in the Spring of 1962, providing an outlet for the produce of Janet and Mac Henderson's East Lothian farm. The legendary vegetarian Restaurant followed early in 1963 and quickly became an Edinburgh institution. Since then Henderson's has expanded to include the Bistro on Thistle Street, an organic bakery, a gallery and Henderson's Cafe at St. John's Church on Princes St.

Janet and Mac were inspirational restaurateurs and among the first to champion the benefits of cooking and eating healthy, local, seasonal food. They soon gained an international reputation for cutting edge vegetarian cuisine and the business remains true to their founding philosophy. Henderson's serves delicious, wholesome food, using the best and freshest ingredients, all at affordable prices.

Donald Reid, Food & Drink editor of The List said: "This is an award not just for the business as it is today, but for what has existed for half a century and its many contributors over the years".

Barrie Henderson, Operations Manager of Henderson's and grandson of Janet and Mac said: "We are delighted to accept this award that recognises the hard work and creativity of all Henderson's employees over the last 50 years. We look forward to celebrating this landmark anniversary next year and will be hosting many exciting events to welcome new Henderson's customers and to thank all of our wonderful regulars who have made it the success that it is."

Catherine Henderson, Henderson's Partner and daughter of the founders said: "Janet and Mac would have been so pleased to see how the business has thrived and continues to promote the benefits of healthy eating, seasonality and organics – the principles at the root of their passion that began to flourish when Henderson's arrived onto Scotland's foodie scene 50 years ago."

Later this year Henderson's will reveal plans for celebrations running throughout 2013 that will mark the 50th anniversary of the restaurant opening. Next year will also see the 100th anniversary of Janet Henderson's birth and the business she founded will celebrate her remarkable contribution to vegetarian cooking.

Henderson's of Edinburgh

94 Hanover Street EH2 1DR

0131 225 2131

Do you have a smartphone that knows how to read QR codes? Then have a wee look at this! You might want to save it or share it with your friends...



Queensferry BID launch on Thursday



Businesses in Queensferry will decide on June 22 whether they want to sign up for an initiative which will help boost local businesses and may lead to a further half a million pounds of investment in the town.

A large number of businesses in the town have registered their interest in becoming the Queensferry Business Improvement District (BID):

Malcolm Brown, Scotmid Cooperative, said: -"Scotmid fully

supports the BID. Our store in Alloa is already reaping the benefits of the BID there. It would be great to see Queensferry take advantage of this scheme too. We want to give back to our community and improve local businesses, and we know the BID is the best way to do that."

Ballot papers will be distributed from May 10 for members to register their vote on whether they want to move ahead with the initiative which will enable businesses to take vital steps to improve the prosperity of the town.

The results of the ballot will be announced on the 22nd June so the businesses have a 6 week voting period from 10th May – 21st June to decide.

The business case to vote for the BID is being launched tomorrow 26 April 2012 at the Boat House restaurant, to which all businesses in the proposed BID area have been invited.

The Queensferry BID project is being led by Project Manager Diane Brown of Queensferry Ambition. She said:- "The BID isn't about replacing local authority funded services, it's about delivering new projects. That's projects and services specifically chosen by businesses in the area to tackle the issues affecting the town but businesses only have one chance to say yes to this unique opportunity"

Over 100 one-to-one consultations with businesses have been carried out with 250 questionnaires issued to businesses for their views of the town, and to ask if in principal they would support a BID.

The City of Edinburgh Council have shown their support for the BID. Councillor Tom Buchanan, Convener of the Economic Development Committee, said: "The Queensferry BID is a great opportunity for businesses to collaborate and influence the future of the town. With the Council and the business community working together we can achieve what would be impossible to do alone."

Feedback was requested about the type of projects they would like the Queensferry BID to deliver and of the responses collected, the majority felt a BID was a positive way forward for Queensferry.

If local businesses vote yes to becoming a BID, Queensferry will be able to increase the profile of the town with a targeted marketing campaign, help businesses with staff recruitment and retention, increase footfall, consumer spend and create a more attractive and vibrant environment for businesses and employees.

Edinburgh International Magic Festival 2012 launched



Okay, today's launch of the Edinburgh International Magic Festival (as reported [elsewhere](#)) might not exactly have lived up to its hype, and it might have left many a bit bewildered. How to convince your audience that you've made a bus disappear when you don't really show that the bus is there in the first place?

But more importantly, this year's festival is now fully revealed, and builds on last year's success with an expanded programme – more events, more performers (30 of them, from eight countries), and more for kids to get involved in, at venues all over the city.

The [Magic School](#) for 7 to 10-year-olds is now a five-day event, allowing kids the chance to get in-depth knowledge on levitating their friends and making objects disappear. And for

anyone who just wants a taster, there are one-off Magic School sessions too.

Older budding magicians (aged 11 to 14) have their own event in Javier Jarquin's [Street Magic Masterclass](#) which promises to reveal the secrets of card tricks and close-up sleight of hand.



Children are also welcome at the opening-night [Magic and Variety Gala Show](#) at the Lyceum Theatre, which showcases illusion, clowning, Chinese tricks and black art magic with performers from Ukraine, France, Germany, Italy alongside Scotland's Drew McAdam and Vox Motus theatre company.

Elsewhere, individual magicians demonstrate their talents, including return visits from close-up experts [Lewis Barlow](#) and [Michael Neto](#), and comedy magic from Colin McLeod, Gavin Oattes and festival artistic director Kevin McMahon, among many others.

McMahon said: 'I'm often asked how the Magic Festival fits in with Edinburgh's other arts festivals. Magic is the art of the impossible, and it demonstrates the the human soul has the capability to rise above the forces of nature and flourish. It is the artistic example that any impossible challenge can be overcome.'

See this year's Edinburgh International Magic Festival events for yourself at www.magicfest.co.uk.

Photos by Thomas Haywood

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Princes Mall may be exempt from Long Leases Bill

MSP welcomes progress on Princes Mall

✖ Edinburgh Central MSP Marco Biagi has today welcomed the news that the Scottish Government is considering changes to the Waverley Market site in the Long Leases Bill, which would currently resolved in its transfer from public ownership to private hands for a trivial sum estimated at 40p. The site is owned by The City of Edinburgh Council and leased to Sir David Murray's property company for a peppercorn rent. We [wrote about the council's own involvement in this in January](#).

Commenting on the Scottish Government announcement, Mr Biagi said,

"I am glad that after speaking to the government in person on two occasions, and raising concerns formally in writing with the Minister, the Government now intends to re-examine the question of the Princes Mall. Improvements to bills like this as anomalies emerge, are a natural part of the parliamentary process.

"The Long Leases Bill is intended to abolish the last remnants of feudalism on large estates, not give away public assets because of deals signed in the 1980s.

"The bill has also thrown up the issue of how accurate each local authority's register of common good land is. I hope this is an issue we can return to in Holyrood."

It will be an Edinburgh FEAST this weekend

✖ FEAST 2012 unveils the line-up of Scottish drinks and producers at this weekend's event.

Alongside the impressive line-up of talented chefs who will grace the stage at this Saturday's FEAST 2012, the student-led food festival will see the inclusion of a Booze Boutique as well as a select range of local food producers.

FEAST 2012, the student-led food festival run by Jewel & Esk College (JEC) and Queen Margaret University (QMU), will provide food festival goers with the chance to taste-test a delightful range of quality wines, whiskies, gins, ciders and beers at its Booze Boutique.

Experts from Inverarity Vaults will provide tutor-led tastings of its specialist wines and whiskies while Spencerfield, the producers of Edinburgh Gin, will have tastings of its speciality drink, Raspberry Gin. The award winning Cairngorm Brewery will bring samples of its bottled and cask beers, while East Lothian producer Belhaven will offer a thirst quenching selection of Thistly Cross ciders, as well as its recently developed fruit ice, which due to its surprising nutritional properties, can be counted as one of your 'five a day'!

The event, which will take place on Saturday 28 April 2012, is supported by some of Scotland's finest chefs including Tony Borthwick from the Plumed Horse and Neil Forbes from Café St Honoré, who will conduct live cooking demonstrations throughout the day. In addition, the presence of this year's Booze Boutique is sure to be a winner, with visitors having

the opportunity to sample a selection of some of Scotland's finest drinks.

Ron McGilp, Curriculum Development Manager at Jewel & Esk College, said: "FEAST 2012 is a celebration of Scottish regional food. It offers an exciting mix of chef demonstrations, regional tasting menus, tutor-led drinks tasting sessions and the opportunity to meet local food producers and sample their products. We have everything from Peelham Farm's rare breed pork and lamb to Findlay's haggis, and from Supernature rape seed oil to cupcakes and sushi. It's a great opportunity to celebrate the diversity and quality of producers in Scotland and to experience their produce first hand."

Ron concluded: "At just £12 per adult ticket (£5 for students) FEAST 2012 provides excellent value for money. The price of the ticket provides access to chef demonstrations and the producer tasting sessions, as well as the chance to sample more than 20 regional dishes which will be prepared and presented by our chef and student teams throughout the day."

The event will take place from 10am – 4pm on Saturday 28th April 2012 at Jewel & Esk College, 24 Milton Road East, Edinburgh, EH15 2PP. Tickets are priced at £12 (all adults) / £5 (concession available for students and children under 16 years of age only) / children under 5 years go free.

Tickets are available to purchase from the Club and eh15 restaurant at Jewel & Esk College, 24 Milton Road East, Edinburgh, EH12 8RG E: theclub@jec.ac.uk or 0131 344 7373 or 344 7344, or from The Finance Department, Queen Margaret University, Queen Margaret University Drive, Musselburgh, EH21 6UU [or on-line](#). Tickets can also be bought on the day at the event.

KFC open flagship on South St Andrew Street

✖ A major refurbishment of a disused pub has completely transformed it from an eyesore blighting part of Scotland's premier shopping thoroughfare into a fast-food restaurant boasting designer flair.

The overhaul of the former Burns Bothy on South St Andrew Street, Edinburgh, just off world-famous Princes Street, involved a near-total strip-out and reinvention of the premises as KFC's flagship outlet in the city at a cost of £250,000.

The project was carried out by Pacific Building, who managed to deliver the completed works in just seven weeks and on budget, despite having to cope with numerous logistical obstacles.

Aside from Edinburgh's ongoing tram works, the site of the city's fifth KFC was extremely tight and in a busy location, all of which posed problems to Pacific, who have an enviable reputation as a company who can deliver complex projects in "live" public areas to tight deadlines and with minimal disruption to neighbouring trade. ✖

Pacific, who employ 32 people at their head office in Hillington, on the outskirts of Glasgow, also had to roll out KFC's UK Framework design concept, under which high-end fixtures, fittings and mood lighting are utilised in a way that may not normally be associated with fast-food outlets.

This presents a more upmarket image for customers and, KFC believe, allows them to compete better with the plethora of

other food and drink retailers on the high street.

The contract was the last and most important one of four – with a total value of £430,000 – that KFC entrusted to Pacific, who recently announced a 30 per cent increase in annual turnover to £9.7million, and who are well on their way to a fifth successive year of growth.

The other three restaurants upgraded, at a cost of £60,000 each, are in the Irish Republic – in Athlone, Kilkenny and Cork.

✘ Pacific managing director Brian Gallacher said: “South St Andrew Street was a tough challenge but, as with our other contracts, we came through with flying colours – on time, on budget and with minimal disruption to nearby trade.

“Originally, the building was in a dreadful state – it was a bomb site. The fit-out we carried out was as close as you can get to a rebuild without it actually being one.

“Now, it looks absolutely superb. The result is striking because of the ‘designer’ feel to the restaurant and because of the extremely high quality of the fittings. I am proud of our achievement, not least because the general location, close as it is to the iconic Princes Street, has been improved as a result of our endeavours.”

Pacific are continuing to work their way through a bulging order book of contracts with big-name clients for 2012 that will add to the successes they enjoyed in 2011 through a raft of major projects for McDonald’s, Greggs, Gleneagles Hotel, BAA and Bupa.

Review – Nina Nesbitt – The Apple Tree EP



Hype is a beautiful thing. It's that magical quality that can transform you from pulling pints to downing champagne in a matter of mere months. With the stroke of a few pens bands are made or broken.

And Edinburgh's very own Nina Nesbitt has spades of it. Catapulted from a Youtube treasure to supporting Ed Sheeran and Example at massive UK shows at the end of last year, she has definitely caught the attention of many a commentator. The part-time model has received widespread press coverage with rumours that she and a certain Mr Sheeran are now dating.

This perfect storm of publicity culminated in *The Apple Tree EP* charting in iTunes Top 20 on pre-orders alone (at time of writing she was up to 7th, Adele – yes, Adele – was 14th). So, is this all smoke and mirrors, or is there really substance behind the 17 year-old's undoubted style ?

I'd like to think there is. The EP's eponymous opener sounds like the best of KT Tunstall with added edge. Its simple acoustics and backing make way for an ethereal and catchy chorus that proves almost impossible to not tap along with. 'Seesaw' follows a similar path of light and shade, with Nina's voice sounding as at home in these recordings as it did on her early Youtube videos.

'Hold On' changes the pace, with the piano-driven number coming to life in perfect time with a forlorn and heartfelt chorus. The song contains a sincerity that is all too lacking in 'pop' music today (apologies for sounding like I want National Service reinstated), singing of a love from a

distance that really strikes a chord.

Penultimate track 'Only Love' fares less well, though once it hits it stride it still has its redeeming features. Wouldn't be out of place on a Saturday afternoon at T In The Park.

And 14 short minutes after the first janglings, you find yourself at closer 'Make Me Fall'. Again led by diminutive piano, Nina's glorious voice is given the perfect showcase as she pleads for someone to ignite her love. Ultimately the song departs on a note of hope as she declares "*So I'll keep running into the rain/Heart first, head second/I'm away*".

The Apple Tree leaves an endearing feeling even for a natural cynic like myself. Bright and breezy, it's what popular music should sound like. It seems preposterous to think that a 17 year-old could conjure up these heartfelt songs whilst also possessing a voice with the splendour to do them justice. It is a shame that some may deride her efforts as that of 'Miss Sheeran' without giving it worthy consideration. But they do so at their own peril. Her genuine excitement on Twitter to the EP's success helps prove she is not playing at popstar, with an army of 'Nesbians' already flocking to her cause. This strong EP is great – following it up with an accomplished debut album will launch her into Marling and Goulding territory.

Nina Nesbitt plays Electric Circus on Saturday 28 April 2012. Limited tickets still available.

[Follow her on Facebook](#)

[@ninanenesbitt](#)

Cycling is on the political agenda in Edinburgh

More news about the ways that cycling is being highlighted and discussed in Edinburgh.

✖ Lib Dem candidate, [John Knox](#), standing for election in the Liberton/Gilmerton Ward, is highlighting the fact that the Liberal Democrats want to make Edinburgh the green transport capital of the UK, and that they plan to improve on the 25% increase in cycling which he claims there has been in the city over the last two years.

John will attempt to cycle along every street in what he hopes will become his ward between sunrise and sunset on Friday 27 April 2012. There are 367 streets in the Liberton/Gilmerton ward in south Edinburgh, making his Common Riding between 50 and 60 miles long. He will measure the exact distance on a cycle computer as he goes along, and hopefully his election poster-ed bicycle will be seen by as many voters as possible.

The increase in spending will help to develop a 'Family Network' of safe, signed, cycle routes across the city along with other improvements for cyclists.

The Lib Dem led council has also passed a leasing scheme, endorsed by cycling campaigners SPOKES, that offers the public the chance to use cycling as a mode of transport, without having to buy a bike. Up to 200 new and refurbished cycles are now available for hire.

John said:-"Hopefully, my journey round the ward will also highlight the usefulness of cycling in the city. It comes a day before the big cycling rally at the Scottish Parliament, Pedal on Parliament, which will call for cycling to be made as much a normal part of life, as it is in countries like Denmark

and the Netherlands. The Liberal Democrats in Edinburgh have pledged to earmark 5 per cent of the Council's transport budget for cycling, cycle lanes, routes and such like.

"I've lived in this ward for the last nine years and have canvassed in over 90 streets," says John. " But I want to visit every street and with just a few days to go till the election, I thought the best way of making sure I know every nook and cranny of this ward, was to cycle it mile for mile.

"Edinburgh has become a more cycle-friendly city since 2007 and we must ensure that we do not relent on our ambition to make this city greener and safer".

"Finally, the Common Riding is designed to engage people in this local election campaign. Councils, after all, actually deliver most public services, schools, care for the elderly, fire, police, dustbin collection, roads, parks, libraries and sports facilities. In my view local Councils should have more powers and responsibilities. Too much is being centralised, which is perhaps why people have become disengaged from local politics."

Cycling has featured high on the council agenda this year. In the recently issued Leader's Report, Councillor Jenny Dawe said:-

"Research shows that 7.3 per cent of adults in Edinburgh cycle to work – by far the highest in Scotland, and the Council is working to further increase this. Edinburgh is one of six European "Cycling Hero" cities in the Cycling Heroes Advancing sustainable Mobility Practice (CHAMP) project. The project has brought £70,000 to help Edinburgh promote cycling further.

Recently work has begun on two major cycling projects. The Quality Bike Corridor will provide enhanced cycling infrastructure between the University of Edinburgh's King's Buildings and George IV Bridge and the Leith to Portobello

project will transform travel by bike between the two places.

Cycling in Edinburgh has become safer, with the risk of an accident per journey reduced by around 75 per cent since 1991. However, sadly, there have been two fatalities this year; and the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure convened a meeting recently to discuss how to improve safety for cyclists in Scotland. This was attended by the Head of Transport, Marshall Poulton, and policy makers and campaign groups discussed measures such as 20mph areas and on and off road provision for cyclists."

The council decided to fund a cycle leasing scheme to help promote cycling in the capital at their recent meeting on 15 March 2012. The motion proposed by Transport Convenor, Gordon Mackenzie, was passed by majority of 52 votes to 3, proving perhaps that the matter is universally promoted by all councillors no matter what their political persuasion.

The wording of the motion was as follows:-

10. Bike Lease Scheme and Promotion of Cycling – Motion by Councillor Gordon Mackenzie
The following motion by Councillor Gordon Mackenzie was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28: "Council notes the success of other cities in increasing cycle use through targeted cycling promotion activities. Council therefore instructs the Head of Transport to:

- 1. (a) pilot a bike lease scheme similar to the model proposed by the Bike Station as part of their recent People's Lottery bid, initially with 200 bikes, and with the flexibility to increase the size in future; and*
- 2. (b) prepare proposals which will deliver targeted cycling promotion activities and promote better*

cycling.

Council further agrees that the Head of Transport seeks third party support, including the potential for commercial sponsorship, for the cycle leasing scheme and targeted promotion activities and reports to the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee later this year.”

This means that we will have a cycle leasing scheme in Edinburgh, which is not quite the same as the Cycle hire scheme in London or Paris, but is intended for people who otherwise cannot afford to buy a bike of their own, and who might want to use one for a period of time. The Edinburgh Reporter has used bike hire schemes in London, Paris, Dublin and Washington, and these are all very user-friendly ways of getting about the city as a tourist or resident.

The streets in these cities are then populated by more cyclists immediately owing to the constant availability of bikes on many street corners. A larger ‘core’ of city cyclists is one of the ways that some campaigners think that cycling safety would be improved more quickly, as highlighted [at the recent debate on cycling in Holyrood](#).

Five things you need to know today



Holyrood appearance for Trump – Award for the council – Personal Training – Webinar – The Scotsman

Trump has appeared at Holyrood this morning to tell The Scottish Government that wind farms will badly affect Scottish tourism. (Update – You can now follow the minute by minute account of what he said [on the BBC.](#))

An alliance of pro-wind and anti-Trump activists called 'Wind Is Good Scotland' (or WIGS for short) are planning to take action around his visit to the Scottish Parliament this morning. The theme of their action will be 'wind power not windbags'.

The non-violent activists will aim to get their message across to Donald Trump in an amusing, noisy and media-friendly fashion when he emerges from his evidence session to address the Trump-funded demonstrators from Communities Against Turbines Scotland (CATS) outside the Scottish Parliament.

Link Group Ltd and The City of Edinburgh Council have been shortlisted for the 'Partnership of the Year Award' at the UK Housing Awards 2012 for their work on the Edinburgh Private Sector Leasing (PSL) scheme.

The Edinburgh PSL scheme offers long term contracts to private landlords whose properties are then let by the Council to people who are homeless and in housing need. In the 17 months Link and the Council have been working together, the partnership has provided access to private rented accommodation for 800 homeless people.

June Brown, Link Private Sector Leasing Manager, said: "I am delighted with the successful partnership working between Link and City of Edinburgh Council – together we have made a difference to people's lives by providing safe, warm and secure homes."

Graham Kitching, Assessment, Homelessness and Support Manager for the council confirmed "this working partnership has

prioritised access to housing and delivers a high standard of service designed to meet the specific needs of our customers”.

Launched in 1997, the UK Housing Awards reward excellence and innovation in the delivery of housing services to organisation across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The awards ceremony takes place on Wednesday 27 June 2012 at the Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, London.

Also at Holyrood there will be personal training starting next week...yes you know you should!

Andrew McIntyre told us what he is planning for you:-“We are slightly different from the usual ‘Bootcamp’, we are probably better described as small group personal training. We keep the ratio of clients to coaches fairly low so everyone gets the personal attention they deserve and need.

[We are a local company](#) with local coaches who studied in Edinburgh.” Contact Andrew here to book your place...

AMfitness andrew@amfitness.co.uk 07734 284 004

As thousands of high school, college and university students gear up for their exams, traditionally their stress levels are bound to go through the roof. This year, leading Edinburgh psychologist Professor Ewan Gillon is offering help with a unique free webinar broadcast on 25 April between 19.30 and 20.15.

“It’s at this time of the year, when everyone is revising and trying to prepare as well as they can that most students really feel the pressure,” explains Professor Gillon who is the Clinical Director of First Psychology Scotland.

“While exam results are important, it’s just as crucial for parents and students to find ways to prepare without getting overly stressed as this will only make it harder to concentrate and achieve the best they can. “

Ewan Gillon and his colleagues developed the webinar following an invitation by Berwickshire High School to talk to parents, final year students and teaching staff about how to approach revision and exams sensibly.

“Talking face to face is ideal, but realistically, more people will have time to watch a webinar – especially when they are trying to juggle revision sessions for several subjects with family life and other commitments,” continues Ewan Gillon.

The webinar will be broadcast on Wednesday, 25 April from 19.30 and 20.15.


It will cover subjects including:

- How to recognise symptoms of exam stress
- Typical behaviours of stressed students and good vs. bad responses to them
- How to manage stress, especially during an exam period
- Time management to allow for effective preparation and relaxation

To register, visit http://www.edinburghtherapy.co.uk/exam_stress_event.htm and click ‘register now’.

Johnston Press the publishers of The Scotsman has reported a 6.9% decline in profit, but new CEO Ashley Highfield has plans for growth according to [The Scotsman](#) which will focus on their digital offering. The Editor-in-Chief, John McLellan has been placed on leave as part of these plans.

Pedal on Parliament cycle ride

There has been a great deal of discussion about cycling in  the capital over recent months, particularly since the current council administration allocated 5% of their transport budget to improving the lot of the two-wheeled brigade.

Cycling is now on the political agenda at local and national level, and [a January protest at St Andrew's House](#) brought the matter of a need for investment in cycling and active travel to the attention of Keith Brown, the Transport Minister.

A group of committed cyclists have now organised a ride to Holyrood which is taking place this Saturday. Called [Pedal on Parliament](#) it promises to be a big event to highlight the lot of the humble cyclist on the streets around Scotland and particularly in Edinburgh.

POP say:-“Pedal on Parliament will be gathering cyclists from across the nation to cycle on Holyrood to tell our politicians that cycling matters, to show our need for safer cycling and cities fit for people. Please join us and help make a Scotland fit for cycling!”

POP will gather cyclists from all over Scotland to highlight to all politicians that there is a need for safer cycling across the country. In anticipation of the ride (and the picnic!) they have produced an eight-point manifesto which sets out their demands:-

- 1. Proper funding for cycling.*
- 2. Design cycling into Scotland's roads.*
- 3. Slower speeds where people live, work and play*
- 4. Integrate cycling into local transport strategies*
- 5. Improved road traffic law and enforcement*

6. *Reduce the risk of HGVs to cyclists and pedestrians*
7. *A strategic and joined-up programme of road user training*
8. *Improved statistics supporting decision-making and policy*

There is a [petition which you can sign](#) to support the call for Scotland to become a cycle-friendly nation. If you live outside the city there are some feeder rides from Glasgow, Kirkcaldy, Harrison Park and Gilmerton at the last count, with more being planned all the time.

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Provost invites Aung San Suu Kyi to Edinburgh



Edinburgh's Lord Provost has written to the Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi to invite her to visit Scotland's Capital city as part of her stay in Britain this June.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was awarded the Freedom of the City of Edinburgh (in absentia) in June 2005. In his letter, Lord Provost George Grubb, expresses the hope that this hugely important accolade could soon be presented to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in person.

The text of the Lord Provost's letter follows:

Dear Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

The City of Edinburgh Council congratulates you on your election to the Burmese Parliament and is delighted to hear that you are considering a visit Norway and Britain in June this year.

On behalf of the Council, I wish to extend a very warm invitation to you to visit Edinburgh as part of your visit.

On 18 June 2005, The City of Edinburgh Council conferred on you, in absentia, the Freedom of the City of Edinburgh, in recognition of your personal courage and relentless pursuit of democratic justice through non-violent means. The Council has supported the struggle for liberty in Burma and the campaign for your release and the many political prisoners who remain in detention.

To honour your 60th birthday the Council planted a magnolia tree in Princes Street Gardens as a symbol of hope for peace and growth, and a new beginning. The following year, the Council commissioned a portrait of your image for Edinburgh's permanent art collection. Created by artist David Mach, the picture is a collage made from thousands of picture post cards of Burmese political prisoners. It is currently displayed in the Council Headquarters as a reminder of the courage and great personal sacrifice of so many in the pursuit of human rights, and the ongoing struggle for democracy.

We have hoped for a very long time that one day Edinburgh will have the pleasure of welcoming you to Scotland's capital city, and that you will share with us your continuing aspirations for the future of Burma and its people. Despite relentless house arrest, deprived of freedom of speech and democratic representation, your voice has continued to strike a chord with people and countries all over the world and we hope now to confer on you, in person, our gift of the Freedom of the City of Edinburgh.

Yours sincerely,

*The Rt. Hon. George Grubb, Lord Lieutenant and Lord Provost
of the City of Edinburgh.*

Five things you need to know today



Provost Fundraising for Charity – Bus Lanes – Culture & Leisure Committee – Community council meeting – Council candidates and child poverty

The Lord Provost, George Grubb, will be handing over cheques amounting to £13,392 this afternoon at The City Chambers to Mr David Tolley, President of The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and to Mr Geoff Leask, Director of The Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust. The money was raised at the Lord Provost's Charity Banquet held at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre last month which was attended by 340 guests, including HRH The Princess Royal who was the guest of honour.

The Banquet managed to raise a total of £28,514 for two nominated charities, The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh's Hamlin Fistula Appeal and The Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust. A £1,730 share of this sum has already been sent directly to the charities by donors.

We all know it is wrong to drive in the bus lanes at certain times of the day, unless of course you are driving a bus, but now it will be even more important to comply with the rules of the road as fines of £60 will be imposed by the council. There are now cameras installed on 10 bus routes in the city and anyone who infringes the bus lane restrictions will be notified by post. You have been warned.

Councillor Gordon Mackenzie, Transport Convener, said:- “Bus lanes allow public transport to flow more easily around the city and get to their destination as quickly as possible, but this only happens if they are kept clear of other vehicles.

“Fining drivers who use these lanes in order to beat traffic queues, unless there is an ongoing emergency, will send out a clear message that these rules are there for good reasons, to cut congestion and pollution.”

A report will be laid before the council’s Culture and Leisure Committee when they meet this morning, which will tell the council that the renovation works at the Assembly Rooms are on budget and will be delivered on time this summer. The council-owned facility will feature a Jamie’s Italian restaurant among its new eateries.

But the other part of the business before the committee this morning is to discuss arrangements for the Olympic & Paralympic Torch relay when it passes through the capital in June. We already knew that the stands are being put up at the Castle earlier than usual this summer to allow for an evening event to mark the occasion, but here are the full details to be approved by the committee:-

[Item No 11 – Olympic and Paralympic Torch Relays](#)

Sighthill, Broomhouse & Parkhead CC meet tonight at 6.45pm at Murrayburn Primary School.

Ahead of next week's local elections in Edinburgh, [Save the Children](#) is urging all candidates to make the issue a priority, revealing that 19% of the city's children live in poverty.

The charity has launched its own manifesto, 'No Child Born without a Chance' calling for local government to give every child in poverty in Edinburgh a chance to fulfil their potential, whatever their circumstances.

There are three council wards in Edinburgh where more than 30% of children are growing up in poverty.

Save the Children is calling for all candidates to put tackling child poverty at the heart of their campaigns by doing whatever they can to maximise incomes for the poorest families and improve children's life chances. The charity has outlined four key calls and is encouraging all local governments to:

- Pay the Scottish living wage of £7.20 per hour, a rate which allows working families to live above the breadline. Currently, 14.7% of workers in Edinburgh earn less than £7 per hour.
- Make life easier for parents who work by providing out-of-school care for five to fourteen year olds for children in low income households.
- Provide parents in deprived areas with programmes to involve them in their children's education – a key factor to a child's success at school.
- Deliver 15 hours per week of free pre-school education for three and four year olds and 15 hours of free early learning for the poorest two year olds.

We have a comprehensive list of all of the council candidates arranged by Ward, [on our Council Elections 2012 page](#) with a link to individual profiles for all of them.

The Gardener's Cottage doing pop-up brunch



Ahead of opening Edinburgh's first social-dining restaurant this summer, chefs Dale Mailley and Edward Murray (Ed is on the left in the photo!) are bringing their innovative concept to the Edinburgh Farmers' Market. The pair plan to shake up the Edinburgh food scene by introducing a new way of dining – the chefs decide on a set menu, the diners enjoy a fluent combination of the very best seasonal ingredients in an inclusive, open setting.

In the run up to the launch of The Gardener's Cottage, Dale and Edward are hosting a series of pop-ups at the Edinburgh Farmer's Market on Castle Terrace – the first of its kind at the market. Serving brunch and lunch at an open-air communal table, all food served on the day comes from the markets' stallholders. On Fridays, Dale and Edward are visiting producers to source ingredients for the next day's menu and writing about the experience on their [website](#).

Edward commented: "The stallholders at the farmers' market are growing, farming and making world-class produce right on our doorstep. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to get to know the suppliers and to understand and explore the huge variety of local, seasonal produce available."

A RESTAURANT WITHOUT A HOME

Until the doors to The Gardener's Cottage open, Dale and Edward are taking full advantage of their homeless status by

making their concept mobile. On Saturday 19 May 2012, the chefs will be cooking at the fourth sell-out [Burgher Burger](#) event in the capital.

THE FOOD



The Gardener's Cottage will be committed to creating and serving the best seasonal, local produce while nurturing sustainable and mutually beneficial relationships with the local community and local producers. Each sitting will consist of a set menu devised to showcase the best produce available on the day with diners being seated at one of three communal dining tables seating ten.

Dale commented:- "We hope The Gardener's Cottage will have a strong sense of place, with unfussy seasonal food connecting chef, diner, producer and landscape"

The chefs also plan to make the most of the restaurant's surrounding garden by growing as much fruit, vegetables and herbs there as possible. In better weather, outside dining and picnic baskets will be available.

THE RESTAURANT

The site is an unusual one [which we wrote about last year](#) when it was up for rent and is best shown on these photos from the council's Flickr page.

The restaurant will be housed in an historic building located in Royal Terrace Gardens at the foot of Calton Hill in the heart of Edinburgh World Heritage Site. Originally the cottage for the gardener, the B-listed building was designed by William Playfair and constructed in 1836. The gardens, planned by Playfair, were originally laid out to include a path for the exiled King of France Charles X to walk along on his way from the Palace of Holyroodhouse to church.

The building, which has been empty for several years, is

currently undergoing major refurbishment. Combining his experience as an architect with his love of eating with friends Edward has developed a design which brings together diners and chefs, making the most of the limited space while remaining sensitive to the buildings historical and cultural importance. Three communal dining tables are being hand-crafted from reclaimed teak decking from Glasgow-built SS Olympia, and will be dressed with antique silverware and vintage crockery.

Edinburgh businesswoman launches new Shopping App

✖ *Silver IMP launches to the market changing the way instant mobile promotions will be received.*

An Edinburgh businesswoman has chosen her home city as the ideal location in which to launch a completely new concept in immediate mobile phone messaging.

Her firm Silver IMP (short for Innovative Marketing Products) has developed exclusive software to bring a new app, aptly called called an IMP – an Instant Media Promotion – to the marketplace.

Silver IMP will partner shops, boutiques, cafes, restaurants and other businesses keen to attract passing trade who will be able to pass on their own personalised audio and visual messages regarding promotional items and information.

Unlike email or text messages, which can be perceived as nuisance and have to be deleted off the recipients phone, the IMP, which will be free to download from the website with a

special QR code, leaves no trace or residue on the phone once it has passed on its message. Working through signal detection, the passive app is awakened when it comes into range of a WIFI unit positioned within the partner business. Silver IMP will programme the unit to pass on the special offers to potential customers passing by – and will then disappear from their phone when they pass out of range. It is completely confidential and will not pass on any phone numbers, either back to the partner business or to a third party.

With several businesses already signed up to trial out the new IMP software over the summer, the developer, Bonnie Lawson Brown, is confident that both retailers and consumers will quickly want to get a piece of the action.

✖ “Today’s consumers are very money conscious,” said Bonnie, who has studied Retail Communications through the Open University, leading her to fully research the technology needed to bring this product to market. “Likewise shops, cafes, restaurants and so on are keen to reach potential new customers in a very direct way – or reward loyal customers with new deals. As mobile phones have become the way to keep in touch; to shop; to browse; to gather all sorts of information what better way than targeting them directly through their phones when they are close by the premises of our partner businesses – it’s a real call to action to actually go in, so much more direct and effective than emailing or texting customers who may not even read the messages?”

Bonnie, who is also a military wife with a strong track record in retailing, has always been fascinated with the potential for passing on consumer led information to the general public. Her recent studies, supplemented with a “eureka” moment in Edinburgh’s George Street, when her attention was caught by a bus stop billboard, gave her the idea for the “imp”.

“I suddenly thought how many more messages consumers could be

receiving when they walk down a busy shopping street," she said. "But unlike ads and billboards which are static and may have been there for a few weeks, my IMP messages are fresh, instant and up to date."

"There is so much potential with this product," added Bonnie. "At the moment it's a purely visual IMP but I have plans for an audio version; versions could be specifically developed for the Edinburgh Tourist market for example; for students, even a Treasure Hunt type approach for parents with children."

Bonnie has used another Edinburgh based firm – xdesign365 – to develop the software, which has now been patented.

"The guys there – Euan Andrews and Martin Alderson – have been great, making my idea and research into a reality. We will continue to work together to develop new versions."

Bonnie has also networked through the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce, raising awareness of the product and carrying out further research as to firms in the Capital who might want to be involved.

David Chisholm, a High Growth Business Advisor with the Chamber said:-

"I have worked with Bonnie on this exciting application for the last few months and it is a prime example of the buoyant Scottish innovation sector. I believe that entrepreneurship, and specifically high-tech entrepreneurship and innovation, will drive the next stage of economic growth across Europe and this type of development is not only innovative but can encourage growth in our sluggish retail market."

"Furthermore, I believe that Silver Imp has the potential to bring in a new age of retail promotion and gives the customer what they want from who they want, which is much more attractive to both the retailer and the consumer."

The screen shot below which shows a map of Glasgow is only a mock-up, and the app will be live in Edinburgh first in a few weeks' time. If you are interested in finding out more please call Bonnie on 07788253158

