

Employment Tribunal on Equal Pay

Thousands of low paid council workers took a step closer to equal pay yesterday thanks to a landmark decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

While many manual workers, such as cleaners, cooks and carers, have already received compensation, previous decisions of the EAT removed the right to compensation from thousands of administrators, clerical workers, learning assistants and library staff. In the absence of a proper explanation for the pay differences between women and men, local authorities developed a technical argument that women and men only deserved equal pay if they were based at the same premises, or had the same pay and conditions – this argument has now failed. UNISON General Secretary, Dave Prentis, said:–“I am delighted that UNISON has opened up this route to justice for so many of our members. There is now no place for employers to run or hide. UNISON’s equal pay campaign has defeated every contrived defence their lawyers have hidden behind.

This charade has gone on too long. We want full compensation for all our members and that money must be paid now.” One of UNISON’s largest group of winners from the decision are classroom assistants, many of whom earn as little as £10,000 a year. Elaine North, a UNISON claimant from Dumfries, said: “I was devastated when the court said I wasn’t entitled to equal pay. My colleagues do one-to-one education work with learning-disabled kids and while we love them it is such hard work. “No harm to refuse collectors and gardeners, but fair pay is long overdue for us. We’ve worked hard for this.” Jackie Gilchrist, who chairs the UNISON campaign for Fair Pay, said: “This is a magnificent decision for us. Our pay has been formally investigated by the EOC and still the employers refuse to recognise the value of our jobs. “We have gathered so much

evidence about the demands of learning support work, but the courts have refused to look at it until now. They've got some reading to catch up on, I can tell you. "There's only one conclusion to reach at the end – our wages are going up." UNISON estimates that this Edinburgh decision will affect up to 70,000 workers across the UK and, while claim values will vary from person to person, some will exceed £30,000

City council announces new council house building programme

The building of the first new council homes in Edinburgh for more than a generation has taken a major step forward.

The final planning application for the first construction phase of the 21st Century Homes project has been approved by the City of Edinburgh Council's Development Management Sub-Committee.

The green light was given for the first 99 homes to be built all of which will be affordable with 67 council homes for rent, 20 for mid rent and 12 for low cost home ownership.

The mix is made up of 26 one bedroom, 40 two bedroom and 27 three bedroom flats and colony style apartments. There will also be 6 four bedroom houses.

Phase two, comprising housing for market sale will consist of up to 121 homes including a number of shared equity properties to ensure that the development consists of at least 50% affordable housing.

The project is the Council's exciting new programme to build 1,300 mixed tenure homes for sale and for rent across the Capital. This will see up to £150 million of Council-led investment in the regeneration of the Gracemount, North Sighthill and Pennywell & Muirhouse areas of the city.

The new homes will contribute towards Edinburgh meeting the need for 15,800 new affordable homes over the next ten years.

Councillor Paul Edie, Housing Leader for the City of Edinburgh Council, was delighted at the planning approval.

He said: "This is an exciting time for residents of this city as we will now start to see the first new council homes for more than a generation taking shape in Edinburgh.

"The 21st Century Homes project is a vital element of our ongoing long term regeneration plans for the Capital which will support the economy by providing new jobs in both the construction industry and other sectors.

"These new homes demonstrate our commitment to tackling the affordable housing shortage in Edinburgh. Last year 676 new housing association homes were approved for building – the highest since 2005/06 – with 788 homes actually completed.

"However we are aware we are still a long way from plugging the huge gap out there which is why we are working closely with the Scottish Government to explore new and innovative ways of building more."

Betty Stevenson, Convenor of Edinburgh Tenants Federation, said: "I think this a wonderful time for the city of Edinburgh to start to build houses again after a space of 30 years.

"I hope this is just the start of things to come because they are much needed for our growing communities and I am looking forward to being around to see it happen."

TRAMS 1

You can read that in full [here](#). We have read this report carefully, and a wealth of other information from the council, and other sources, in an effort to establish who all the players are and what they do.

We try here to establish the current position, one month on from the Council Leader's report, and we will then ask what is to happen next. One urban myth which needs to be exposed is how much the tram project will actually cost. It has been rumoured that the budget is to be exceeded.

So questions continue to be asked and answers demanded. This is intended to be the first of a relentless series of articles to establish the true position about the trams. We may not reach the ultimate conclusion here in this first piece, but we intend to keep asking the questions.

So where to start? Well at the beginning of course.... Here are the bare facts and some of the personalities and companies involved.

Trams are being introduced to Edinburgh as an alternative means of transport. They are billed as environmentally-friendly, and this fits squarely with the Scottish Government and the Council's aims to reduce carbon emissions.

The tram route has been agreed. When complete the tram will run from Newhaven to the Airport via Princes Street.

As a result of a dispute over some aspects of the contract, work has been stopped at some of the locations around the city where barriers have recently been dismantled. The work in these locations has not yet been completed. The intention is

to allow the city to return to some kind of normality while the disputes are resolved.

Edinburgh Trams Ltd is known as tie. (Transport Initiative Edinburgh) RIchard Jeffrey is Chief Executive of tie. They have entered into a contract with the BSC consortium to deliver trams to Edinburgh. There is now a dispute about this contract which began in January 2009.

There is a separate contract for the diversion of all utility pipes and cables called MUDFA. This programme is almost 100% completed, albeit behind schedule.

There is a separate contract for the provision of the infrastructure called INFRACO.

No financial details can be revealed about these contracts as the Council say it would be a breach of contract and they allege it would undermine the council's position in bargaining their way out of the mess that the contracts are currently in.

There is a Tram Project Board which meets monthly and comprises councillors and independent transport experts. Board members are under a gagging order for reasons of 'commercial confidentiality.'

Marshall Poulton is the Head of Transport for the City of Edinburgh Council and is also Tram Monitoring Officer. He is responsible for protecting the Council's interests, and works so closely with tie that he works from their offices for some of the time.

tie issue a monthly report to Transport Scotland.

There is a quarterly meeting of a review panel when officials from tie, the Council and Transport Scotland attend.

DTZ, Audit Scotland and the Office of Government and Commerce oversee the finances of the tram project.

The purse for the provision of the trams is £545m. tie needs Council approval for any expenditure which would mean an overspend on the budget by £1m, or where there is any substantial change to design or service pattern or any need to stretch the timetable beyond October 2012.

By the end of financial year 2009-10 the spending was estimated by the Council to be £387.3m The infrastructure costs are to make up under half of the overall budget.

There is a depot at Gogar where work is reported to be progressing well.

Edinburgh Park viaduct, Gogarburn bridge

The dispute with Infraco has been settled on 135 separate points. In settling these points only 61% of the costs charged by Infraco has been paid on average.

There is provision in the contract for settling disputes. Four issues have gone through this complete process and have been adjudicated on. 14 other issues are still in the dispute process.

A nine month extension to the Infraco contract has been agreed since there were more works required to divert utilities than first envisaged.

In the background the first Traffic Regulation Order is going through the process of public consultation. Comments were invited until 21 March 2010 from emergency services public transport operators and road haulage representatives. A report on this order is due to be made to the council imminently.

Cyclists have been given some representation, particularly on matters of safety. A booklet has been produced which explains what is being done to provide cyclists with safe routes, and advice on safe cycling in the area where the trams will be. You can read that [here](#).

NEW CHIEF FIRE OFFICER APPOINTED IN Lothian & BORDERS



He was the successful candidate after interviews were held by the Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Board. Campbell is currently Chief Fire Officer with Fife Fire and Rescue Service.

He began his career as a firefighter with Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service in 1975 and served as a Crew Commander, Watch Commander and Station Commander. He also served in the Emergency Planning, Operations and Training departments before joining Tayside Fire & Rescue Service in 2004 as Assistant Chief Fire Officer.

He became Deputy Chief Fire Officer in 2006 and took up his current role in 2008.

Councillor Mike Bridgman, Chair of the Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Board, said: "We interviewed a number of highly qualified candidates and I'm delighted to welcome Jimmy Campbell to the post of Chief Fire Officer.

"He has an excellent track record and brings with him a wealth of experience. I am sure he will continue to deliver the first class service that the public of the Lothians and Borders have received over the years."

Jimmy Campbell said: "It is an honour to be offered the position of Chief Fire Officer for Lothian and Borders Fire


and Rescue Service where I first started as a firefighter.

“I can’t wait to get started and hope to build on the excellent work that Lothian and Borders is renowned for and lead the service through the challenges that lie ahead.”

Chief Fire Officer Brian Allaway said: “I am delighted to learn that Jimmy Campbell has been appointed as my successor in Lothian and Borders. Jimmy began his career here and will already know many people from the Service, he will be looking forward to meeting both them and the staff that he doesn’t know yet.

I’ve known Jimmy for many years and I have absolutely no doubt that he will make an excellent Chief Fire Officer throughout his term of office. I am also sure that being the service it is Lothian and Borders will give him every support in the years to come.”

Watch out for beavers!

 An additional breeding pair of two beavers, one male and one female, has now been released into the wild in Scotland as part of the Scottish Beaver Trial (SBT), a project which marks the first formal trial reintroduction of a native mammal back into the UK.

The Trial, which is a partnership project between the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) and the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT), aims to determine how beavers will prosper in Scottish habitats and to assess their impact in the current Scottish environment by monitoring them over a five-year trial period.

The pair, which were transported from a holding facility at the Highland Wildlife Park and released into the wild on 4 May

and after nearly a week in their new home, have been settling in well. This release follows the release of three beaver families, 11 beavers, into the Trial site at Knapdale Forest, Mid-Argyll, in May last year. All animal releases follow the conditions outline as part of the licence issued by the Scottish Government.

Prior to the release, two artificial lodges were created by the project team to provide temporary shelter until the pair can build a lodge of their own. Food and used bedding will be placed in these lodges to encourage them to settle in this new loch and make it their home.

Roisin Campbell-Palmer, SBT Project Leader said: "Whenever you release an animal into the wild it is a nerve-wracking moment and you want to give them the best chance at adapting to their new environment. Knapdale is ideal for beavers and already we have seen our other animals really making it home and doing what comes naturally to them. The two beavers are in good health, having passed all the required veterinary health checks and we are confident they should settle in well."



There are great hopes for the future of this pair and the other beavers, as Campbell-Palmer continue: "Following arrival from Norway, these beavers underwent a six-month quarantine period in England before being transported to the Highland Wildlife Park, where they have lived together for several months, giving them a chance to get used to life in Scotland. Even our harshest weather is nothing compared to the cold they have been used to. With plenty of food and space to explore we hope that this pair along with the others may start breeding in the coming months and years."

Simon Jones, SBT Project Manager, explained more about the decision to release a fourth family almost one year into the Trial.

Jones said: "It was always a possibility for us to release a fourth family of beavers as part of our Trial. Our licence fro

the Scottish Government permits us to release up to four families and we feel that by having four breeding pairs in Knapdale our Trial stands the best chance of creating a viable population of beavers. It is very important that we create the most natural conditions possible for our wild beavers to allow the results to inform decisions about the impact a wider beaver reintroduction might have on Scotland's environment.

Over the course of the Trial, all our beavers will be tracked closely by the project team. The release of a fourth pair will provide important additional field data and hopefully show how neighbouring families of beavers interact with one another."

The Scottish Beaver Trial could determine whether or not beavers are reintroduced into the wild across Scotland. Twenty-five European countries have already reintroduced beavers to their wild lands. Beavers are a native species to the UK and were once a common sight before they were hunted to extinction by man. Beavers are known as a keystone species and bring many benefits to wetland environments and improve habitats for many other animals including invertebrates, birds and otters.

The release of the fourth family of beavers was discussed with Scottish Natural Heritage, which is coordinating the independent scientific monitoring of the Trial.

Fundraising for Dog and Cat Home

Between them they managed to skip 528 times in 3 minutes and raised £100 for The Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home at Seafield!

At present the kennels report that they are full of unwanted dogs and cats, who are there through no fault of their own.

The funds raised by Carrie & Jianna will help enormously to make these animals' stay at the Home more enjoyable. Carrie's family have an EDCH rescue dog called Sammy, who has been with them for some time now. She has settled in perfectly and comes back for regular visits to say 'hello' to the staff who cared for her.

Great effort from these two girls!

Fundraising for MS



Fraser, a founding member of Kingdom Cheese Company operating from premises in Cowdenbeath and lives in Dalgety Bay.

He is married with two daughters aged 11 and 14 and took the decision to take on this enormous challenge when his wife Ashley was diagnosed with MS a year ago.

In an effort to help raise awareness of Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and vital funds for support organisation The MS Society. "As a successful businessman I am not used to things being outside my control or facing insurmountable challenges and in order to cope I needed to create something positive from this regrettable situation," said Fraser.

David owner of Castle & Kingdom Chem-Dry, a specialist cleaning and restoration company based in both Edinburgh and Fife said:

" Ashley's diagnosis was upsetting as several of my relatives have suffered at the hands of this disease. When Fraser asked me if I would help him raise funds for the MS society I didn't hesitate for one second. "

MS is a condition of the central nervous system; it is the most common disabling neurological disease among young adults

and affects around 100,000 people in the UK. MS is most often diagnosed in people between the ages of 20 and 40, and women are almost twice as likely to develop it as men. Once diagnosed, MS stays with you for life, but treatments and specialists can help you to manage many symptoms well. The MS Society is the UK's largest charity for people affected by multiple sclerosis (MS) – about 100,000 people in the UK. A keen cyclist Fraser knew all about L'Etape du Tour, an event that gives amateur cyclists the chance to race over the same route as a Tour de France stage. This years sportive, which normally attracts around 8,500 riders, will take place on 18 July, four days before the pros attack the same climbs in stage 17 of the Tour de France. Starting in Pau in the foothills of the Pyrennes and ending on the Col du Tourmalet, the race is made up of 3 climbs Col de Marie Blanque (1,035m) Col du Soulor (1,474) and culminates with the highest peak, Col du Tourmalet 2,115m). At a distance of 181 km (112 miles) the course is a gruelling, thigh-busting climb of over 4,500m in total.



Fraser and David's preparations for the race have got off to a good start with some intensive training over the weekend as they took part in the BEALACH-NA-BA cycle race on Saturday 8th May. The pair completed the 44 mile course with 626 metres of climb along the highest mountain pass in Britain in only 3 hrs 30 mins. It was just a taster of the physical and mental preparation that Fraser and David will need to undertake if they are to achieve their goal. If you would like to show your support or learn more about MS Fraser and David have a fundraising web site. You can follow their training blog and a chart shows how they are doing on the fundraising front. <http://www.theroadtotourmalet.co.uk>

Gannochy Trust Award

The Gannochy Trust Innovation Award of The Royal Society of Edinburgh was established in 2003 to encourage and reward Scotland's young innovators for work which benefits Scotland's wellbeing.

Presented annually, the award is targeted at innovators aged 45 or under, and carries a £50,000 cash prize, a specially commissioned gold medal and serious recognition for what has been achieved.

The award seeks to encourage careers in the fields of science, technology and research which promote Scotland's inventiveness internationally. It also recognises outstanding individual achievement which contributes to the common good of Scotland.

Read more on The Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce [website](#)

General Election 2010

GENERAL ELECTION 2010

update at 8.30a.m. 7 May 2010

Conservatives now lead on 286 seats and need 40 to win an outright majority, Labour have 239 and Lib Dems have 51.

There are 48 seats left to declare their results.

GENERAL ELECTION 2010

7.30 AM FRIDAY 7 MAY 2010

Now the Conservative Party have won 283 seats, Labour in

second place with 229 and the LibDems have 50. To recap any party needs 326 seats to gain an outright majority otherwise there will be a hung parliament. (see below for an explanation of that.

589 of 650 seats have now declared, leaving the UK in limbo until later on Friday when all results are known. Gordon Brown has returned to Number 10 Downing Street, perhaps for the last time, unless he can form a meaningful coalition with the LibDems

Caroline Lucas the very first Green Party MP has won her seat in Brighton Pavilion, whilst Jacqui Smith one of the MPs who was the focus of the MPs expenses scandal has lost her seat.

LABOUR HOLD TWO SEATS IN EDINBURGH
report at 2.30 a.m Friday 7 May 2010

The first Edinburgh results are now in at 2.45 and Labour have held Edinburgh East and also the seat of Midlothian.

GENERAL ELECTION 2010
report at 2.30 am Friday 7 May 2010

We do not anticipate running a 'through the night' minute by minute announcement, but here is the news in Scotland and Edinburgh as it stands at 2.30 am.

The BBC exit poll for the UK predicts a Conservative win of 305, Labour 255, Lib Dem 61 and Others 29.

Gordon Brown has held his seat with an improved majority in Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath.

Turnout in Edinburgh South has been high but the recount has been delayed till Friday morning. Problems are reported elsewhere of voters who were turned away from polling stations at closing time after delays and queuing.

The first Scottish result came from Rutherglen and Hamilton West where Labour have won with an increased majority. Motherwell and Wishaw is another Labour win with a 16,806 majority. East Kilbride Strathaven and Lesmahagow is another Labour hold in staunch Labour country.

Fife North East has been held by Menzies Campbell for the Lib Dems with a majority of 9048.

Western Isles has been held by SNP. Labour hold Lanark and Hamilton East, East Lothian , Dundee West, Glenrothes, Kilmarnock & Loudon where Cathy Jamieson has become the new MP, Falkirk, Coatbridge Chryston and Bellshill, Dunfermline and West Fife which they regain from the Lib Dems.

SNP hold Angus.

Labour win in Inverclyde, Glasgow East where the SNP's John Mason has been ousted by Margaret Curran the current MSP.

Douglas Alexander has been elected for Labour with a majority of 16,614. The SNP hold Dundee East where Stewart Hosie has been elected.

Labour hold Cumbernauld Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East, Livingston, Airdrie & Shotts, Glasgow Central where Mohammed Sarwar's son has held his father's seat. Labour also hold Stirling and the Edinburgh seat Midlothian. Labour hold Linlithgow and Falkirk East and Paisley and Renfrewshire North.

It appears that Labour have also held Stirling.

SNP have held Perth and Perthshire North where former Runrig member Pete Wishart has been re-elected, whilst Labour have held Glasgow North.

Counting is still ongoing in Edinburgh seats with Alistair Darling predicted to hold on to his Edinburgh South West seat and Edinburgh & North Leith to be close for the current Labour

MP Mark Lazarowicz.

Jim Murphy the Scottish Secretary has held his seat in East Renfrewshire.

So far nationwide Labour have won 67 seats, Conservative 51 and Lib Dems have won 8 seats. 146 results have been declared out of 650 so far.

HUNG PARLIAMENT

There are 650 seats and one party requires 326 seats to have an overall majority. If no party has that then there will be a hung parliament.

There is a very good explanation of what it means on the [BBC website](#).

Tigerfest 2010

by Kate Donnelly



And this year's mini festival, which runs for three weeks, features indie legend Martin Stephenson and TV21 headlining in Edinburgh. Tigerfest 2010 also has gigs in Aberdeen and Dunfermline, with many established names appearing alongside local bands. This year the capital is hosting a total of seven shows and 20 acts who will be performing during the first two weeks of May.

Top of the bill is indie legend Martin Stephenson, who will be performing on May 14 at the Wee Red Bar with Alex Cornish and Riley Briggs of Aberfeldy, and fans of reformed '80s band TV21

can catch them in Cabaret Voltaire on May 11.

Scotland-based post punk pioneers TV21 have just released their second album – 28 years since their first LP. Critics believe 'Forever 22' was worth the wait.

Some of the best new talent playing at the festival include There Will Be Fireworks, Jesus H Foxx, X-Lion Tamer, The Gothenburg Address and Chris Bradley. Further afield, former Arab Strap man Malcolm Middleton is taking time out from recording and writing to play in Dunfermline, while King Creosote will also be taking to the stage in Fife.

In Aberdeen, a special one-off gig sees The Unwinding Hours perform, supported by Katerwaul. Tigerfest has run since 2004 as a regular independent festival of new music.

Bands such as Idlewild, King Creosote, Emma Pollock, Malcolm Middleton, Half Man Half Biscuit, Nouvelle Vague and Camera Obscura have performed as well as promoting early gigs by KT Tunstall and We Were Promised Jetpacks.

The mini-festival runs in conjunction with its affiliates Baby Tiger, the Carnegie Hall, Interesting Music Promotions, and online/media partner is this music?

There's also a clutch of co-promotions with partners such as Electric Circus and the Cabaret Voltaire, plus the Fence and 17seconds labels.

For more information, log on to www.tigerfest.co.uk.

Scribbler Challenge!



Now, irreverent greetings card chain Scribbler is launching a

competition to find Edinburgh's defining image – and put it on a card.

The cheeky card and gift retailer want a new card that speaks about Edinburgh to sell in their recently opened Princes Street store.

The competition will not just help discover what people really think of their capital city – it will offer a budding or amateur photographer or artist the fabulous chance to have their design chosen as the winning entry that is put into production.

The image which best sums up Edinburgh in 2010 – in the wittiest or most stylish way – will be transformed into a special edition greetings card and go on sale in store and online at www.scribbler.co.uk.

John Procter, Scribbler owner and founder, said: "We want to find out what image Edinburgh people think defines their city and then create a greetings card that we can sell in our newest shop.

"One of our best-selling cards in our English stores features the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace, where the poor guardsman has fallen flat on his face. It is a powerful image because it's immediately recognisable, but extremely funny at the same time.

"It is clear that there is more to Scots than the tartan-clad haggis-munching stereotype – though many do seem to enjoy their national dish deep fried on a Saturday night.

"In particular we'd like to tap into the famous Scottish sense of humour. In the case of Edinburgh, this may be the perfect opportunity to have a dig at the city's notorious Trams problems."

All entries – either submitted in pen, paint, photograph or

scribble – are welcome.

The winner could be a master photographer, an amateur snapper, or perhaps a budding painter on their way to becoming the next Vetriciano.

John added: “The winning entry will be turned into a card and given pride of place in Scribbler’s Edinburgh store.

“It is an excellent chance for a would-be photographer, artist or designer to get their work seen by a large audience, or simply for a proud Scot to have their say on their city today.

“The only rule with this competition is that anything goes. We can’t exactly ban swearing because some of our most popular cards use rather colourful language anyway.”

Jemma Holford, manager for Scribbler Edinburgh, said: “There’s a lot going on in Edinburgh that’s just begging to be put down on a card. People in the capital have been stirred up by the trams and the city centre traffic congestion – and there are plenty of sights to behold during the Edinburgh festival.

“We want people to think about what makes them giggle and make it into a card.”

The competition will be open until May 31 2010, and entries can be posted or handed into the Edinburgh store at 80a Princes Street or posted on the Scribbler Facebook page ; or using Twitter hash tag: #ScribEdiComp

More information can be found on the Scribbler blog online.

COME ON EDINBURGH REPORTER READERS! YOU COULD DO THIS!

Fruits in the City



With Scotland's obesity problem growing and only second to the United States, with a cost of up to £457m a year, there is a strong focus on tackling the problem at source.

Adults spend up to 60% of their waking hours in the workplace employers are actively looking for healthy alternatives to replace sugary, high calorie laden snacks.

[Fruits in the City](#) will promote health in the workplace by delivering fruit boxes and corporate fruit baskets to offices and workplaces across the city. James Henderson, Director of Fruits in the City, commented, "Whilst working as a public relations executive, I helped to arrange a weekly fruit basket for our office with a local deli as my colleagues and I wanted to get rid of the unhealthy sweet bowl we had in our boardroom. I immediately recognised that this could be taken further and in December 2009 I gave up my current role and started talking to local businesses about my idea and realised that there was a gap in the market. We've already received a huge amount of interest in the service with a number of well recognised professional services companies ordering our boxes."

Eating fruit provides more efficient energy alongside helping employees avoid the late afternoon "sugar slump." A healthier diet means fewer sick days and a happier workplace. Boxes vary in content depending on the season and box size. Fruit boxes start from as little as £14.

TRAMS 2 – Trams in the Media

[The Scotsman](#) report in May 2010 that the plans for the £43m rail and tram interchange at Gogar had been rubber-stamped by councillors and work will get under way later in 2010. Network Rail are undertaking the works at their expense but the Council will pay just over quarter of a million pounds towards some of the work required to Gogar roundabout.

The [BBC](#) reported in March 2010 that the Transport chiefs 'want the Edinburgh tram network'. They highlighted the various problems affecting the tramline and the fact that " Soaring costs and seemingly endless traffic disruption have already caused frustration and anger in the capital."

[The Scotsman](#) related that Ian Rankin was apparently not consulted on the proposal to use his name and a photo of him to decorate a tram.

The [BBC](#) also reported in December 2009 that the tram lines are dangerous for cyclists who are to be offered classes in navigational issues.

The [BBC](#) carried a report in November 2009 that Princes Street was to reopen for Christmas.

There is a very nice YouTube film in our gallery which you can see [here](#). It tries to tell some of the official story

Trams 3



The Edinburgh Reporter commends you to read the open letter to Jenny Dawe in [The Scotsman](#) which invites her response to some fairly crucial questions, such as where is the extra money coming from and also why is the tram not integrated with the railways?

For example, why will there be no tram stop near Waverley which the tram could use to deposit possible rail travellers....? The number 23 bus which goes from Trinity to the other side of town was actually rerouted past Waverley for a time, because of the tram works in Princes Street. However now that the workers have deserted Princes Street for other pastures, the number 23 is back to its old route, going up The Mound.....where you could get off for Waverley but you still have a considerable walk to the station (and usually trailing bags with you).

Is there anyone out there who is doing joined up thinking about our transport systems? Then we too should be pleased to hear from you! Our email address is theedinburghreporter@gmail.com

Junior Golf Tournament in Scotland

Hundreds of youngsters and their families from across the globe will arrive in East Lothian next week for the U.S. Kids Golf European Championship – a three-day event that will

showcase the best emerging talent in junior golf.

Businesses, restaurants and hotels across East Lothian and the rest of Scotland are expected to benefit hugely from the tournament, which will see around 500 youngsters aged between 6-18 competing for the title of European Champion.

The majority of competitors – who are travelling from as far afield as Australia, Venezuela, India, Columbia and Egypt, as well as United States and from all over the UK – are likely to bring many of their family members to the tournament, which is expected to have a knock-on effect on the local economy. Overall, the event is expected to bring economic benefits of around \$4,000,000 (£2.72 million) to Scotland.

Tournament co-ordinator Alasdair Good, who is the head PGA professional at Gullane Golf Club, said: “The U.S. Kids Golf European Championship brings huge economic benefits to the local economy and the rest of Scotland. Over the past couple of years, the event has brought millions of pounds to businesses across the country and we’re expecting the 2010 tournament to be equally successful.

“Some of of our young players are coming from as far afield as Australia, South America and India for the tournament, and they will each be bringing between two and four family members to Scotland with them. It’s a big trip for players to make, so it becomes a family holiday for them – and while they compete in the tournament, some of their family will go and explore the surrounding area.

“In past years, we have found that many players and their families choose to stay in East Lothian but others will find accommodation in Edinburgh or elsewhere in the Lothians. They visited local restaurants and shops and their families explored tourist attractions across Scotland while the children were playing golf. It’s a massive direct boost for the national economy and we expect this year’s event to be

just as beneficial.”

The tournament has already been welcomed by tourism and economic figures across Scotland, who highlighted it as a key event in the country’s golfing calendar.

Mark McCardie, VisitScotland golf product manager said: “This is a fantastic opportunity to highlight golf in East Lothian and Scotland to a huge audience of young golfers but also to family and relatives who will be joining the youngsters during their stay. The massive global reach the competition affords Scotland is crucial to the ongoing drive to cement Scotland’s status as a world class golfing destination.

“Showcasing some of the very best courses in East Lothian during the championship will undoubtedly see kids returning for many years to come, meaning that initial economic impact is fantastic but the legacy created will contribute significantly to the sustainability of the golf industry and tourism overall.

“I wish everyone taking part the best of luck and above all else I hope there is plenty of fun and the kids enjoy some perfect golf.”

Councillor Stuart MacKinnon, economic development spokesman for East Lothian Council added: “We are delighted to play host to the U.S. Kids Golf European Championship again this year and to welcome the cream of young golfers from all over the world. We have a knowledgeable golfing audience here who are always impressed, and not a little envious, at the great skill the young people display.

“The game has been played in the county for centuries and continues to be an important part of our sporting culture and tourist economy. East Lothian’s 22 courses, each with its own challenge and historical standing, offers our guests a golfing experience probably without equal anywhere.”

The tournament over June 1-3 will take place on four historic courses – Gullane No. 2, Gullane No. 3, Craighielaw Golf Club and Longniddry Golf Club – which are modified for each age group in order to provide the same level challenge, meaning holes are progressively shorter as the age groups get younger. It ultimately allows the players to reach the greens in the same number of strokes as the top pros on the PGA tour.

The top finishers in each category will then compete in the Van Horn Cup over Gullane No 1 – a showpiece event, modelled on the Ryder Cup, where the best European players are pitted against the top non-Europe golfers. The top five finishers in each age and gender group will automatically receive an invitation to the U.S. Kids Golf World Championships at Pinehurst Golf Club, North Carolina, in August.

This year's competition has been expanded to allow 15 to 18-year-olds to compete for the first time, and it is hoped that this will encourage even more entries from budding junior golfers across the globe.

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

Alexander Millar



Experience 'The Spirit of a Gadgie!' the Breeze art gallery in Jenners on:

Saturday 29th May 3 – 5pm

Join us for a glass of champagne and discover 'The Spirit of a Gadgie' at our exclusive event as we honour Alex's work. Join the celebration and have the unique opportunity to:

Bid for a signed Alexander Millar classic style leather football – Charity auction

Exclusive Limited Edition – ‘H’Way The Lads’ – Only available at event

Enjoy a glass of Champagne

Call the gallery now on 0131 220 2655 for more information

John Cleese on Tour – 2011

✖ For the first time ever, in the spring of 2011, comedy legend and the most senile member of Monty Python will be bringing his “Alimony Tour” to the UK.

Best known for his idiosyncratic turns in “Monty Python’s Flying Circus” and “Fawlty Towers,” John Cleese will bring his unique comedic perspective to audiences across the UK next year.

Starting in Cambridge on 3rd May 2011, he will then visit Birmingham, Salford, Liverpool, Oxford and finish in Bristol, on 21st June 2011.

Cleese has achieved a lot in his career which started as a sketch writer for BBC Radio’s Dick Emery Show and then The Frost Report. After this stardom beckoned, and Monty Python was created with Cleese co-writing and starring in four series and three films. He went on to achieve further great success as the neurotic hotel manager Basil Fawlty in Fawlty Towers, which he co-wrote with then wife Connie Booth. After huge UK success John went on to crack the USA with A Fish Called Wanda (which he wrote and starred in with Jamie Lee Curtis). The late 1990s saw the unstoppable Mr Cleese appear in Bond movie The World is Not Enough and later Die Another Day. From

writing to starring in plays, musicals, theatrical and comedy productions, to films and sitcoms, Cleese has done it all, and now it's time for him to tell you about his jam-packed life.

Cleese says "it is an evening of well honed anecdotes, psychoanalytical tit-bits, details of recent surgical procedures, and unprovoked attacks on former colleagues, especially Michael Palin".

Tour Dates 2011:

Tuesday 3rd May Cambridge Corn Exchange 01223 357851
Tuesday 10th May Birmingham Hippodrome 0844 338 5000
Wednesday 11th May Birmingham Hippodrome 0844 338 5000
Tuesday 24th May The Lowry, Salford 0843 208 6000
Tuesday 31st May Liverpool Empire 0844 847 2525
Friday 3rd June Leeds, Grand Theatre 0844 848 2706
Friday 10th June Edinburgh, Festival Theatre 0131 529 6000
Friday 17th June New Theatre, Oxford 01865 320 760
Tuesday 21st June Bristol Hippodrome 0844 847 2325

LISTINGS

Festival Theatre, Edinburgh
Friday 10th June 2011, 7.30pm
Tickets: £20 – £32.50
Box office: 0131 529 6000
www.festivaltheatre.co.uk

The Meadows Festival 5th & 6th June 2010

 The event is run by a committee of local residents and will

include stalls, two music stages, a school football competition, a bicycle powered cinema, a school art competition, kids tent and on Saturday only animals from the Gorgie City Farm.

“The festival is run by local people for our community” said Meadows Festival Association Convenor Fred Mackintosh “We hope to make the festival this year the best ever, but that can’t happen without volunteers. I would urge local people who want to help over the weekend to find us on Facebook, Myspace or at www.meadowsfestival.org.uk and volunteer. They would be made most welcome.”

The first Meadows Festival was held in 1974 and since then the Festival has been an annual feature of the calendar (except for a break in 2006-7). The Festival Committee work hard throughout the year to put on the event. In 2009 over 8,000 people attended on both days and this year the musical lineup is shaping up to be one of the best yet. There will 25 acts over 2 stages, playing everything from funk to indie-pop and rock to samba.

Headlining the main Festival Stage will be the wonderful Banana Sessions, who have built up quite a reputation for their quirky cover versions and the mental Big Fat Panda with their own brand of wild, bouncy ska.

“We’re really excited about this years lineup. We’ve got a really diverse range of music, a great mix of established bands and some of the best local up and coming talent. It should be a great weekend of live music on the Meadows.” said Daragh Lynch, Festival Stage manager.

SNP and FOI



Kevin Dunion Scottish Information Commissioner [Read more](#)

Writer in Residence



Mr Robertson is the author of acclaimed novels *The Testament of Gideon Mack* and *Joseph Knight*, the latter garnering the Angus-based writer both the Saltire Society and Scottish Arts Council Book of the Year awards.

His diverse body of work includes Scots translations of children's classics such as Roald Dahl's *Fantastic Mr Fox* and, more recently, a new No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency book for younger readers by Alexander McCall Smith.

The new Edinburgh Napier post has received substantial funding from The Binks Trust for four years. A fresh appointment will be made each Easter.

Mr Robertson, who was the first writer-in-residence at the Scottish Parliament, will spend two to three days each week writing at the University's iconic Craighouse Campus, where students on its new MA in Creative Writing will be able to turn to him for advice and guidance.

The groundbreaking course, which was launched last autumn, embraces commercial genres such as science fiction, fantasy and crime writing and was the first in the UK to offer specialist modules in writing for computer games and comics. It also replaced traditional workshop-based teaching with one-

to-one mentoring and piloted a unique reader-in-residence post, currently held by Scottish literary editor and author, Stuart Kelly.

Mr Robertson said: "I am very pleased to be the first writer-in-residence on the Creative Writing programme at Edinburgh Napier. The course is dynamic and innovative, practical yet intellectually demanding, and has been designed to take full account of the many challenges that face anybody wanting to make a living as a writer today.

"Over the years, I've been a publisher's sales rep, bookseller, editor and publisher, and as a writer my work has also been diverse, so I hope I can offer useful insights and advice to the students. I also fully expect to gain much from working with them in such a stimulating, creative environment."

The Edinburgh Napier MA in Creative Writing is run by former literary agent Sam Kelly and acclaimed screenwriter and author David Bishop, a former editor of UK comic 2000AD.

Ms Kelly said: "For us, hosting a high-profile working author alongside our students is a way of extending the community of the course, and adding a new influence to our ongoing debates about writing. James embodies all the qualities we were looking for and, thanks to generous funding from the Binks Trust we have been able to make our vision a reality.

She added: "With this course we really feel we have started a small revolution in how the teaching of creative writing is approached. James' primary role will be to develop new work while he is here and to speak to students about his projects. I'm delighted he is joining us and certain that he will bring even more to the post than we expect."

Noise Action Week

During this week, the City of Edinburgh Council's Noise Team will be running roadshows at the local neighbourhood offices to raise awareness of the impact of noise and the simple measures that can be taken to prevent noise problems.

The roadshows will feature a noise induced hearing simulator. This piece of kit demonstrates how hearing can deteriorate with age and with exposure to various noise levels. Members of the Noise Team will also be on hand with information on what they do and how they can help to address noise issues.

Each year the Noise Team receives around 11,000 noise complaints, of which around 9,000 concern Antisocial behaviour. In 2009-2010, 85% of noise complainants surveyed were satisfied with the way their complaint had been dealt with.

Councillor Robert Aldridge, the city's Environment Leader, said: "We're very keen to ensure that there's a better awareness about domestic and industrial noise and also because of our responsibilities on antisocial behaviour."

"We all have a responsibility to each other, whether as employers, neighbours or because we're sharing the same public space. Anyone who's concerned about noise should get in touch with us and we will try to help."

For Noise Action Week everybody is urged to:

- Consider the noise they make and the effect it has on others
- Consider the noises that disturb them
- Use practical solutions to everyday noise problems

The roadshow will be at the following locations:

Monday 26 April – South West Neighbourhood Office, 10 Westside Plaza. 9:15am – 4:30pm.

Tuesday 27 April -North Neighbourhood Office, 8 West Pilton Gardens. 10:00am – 4:30pm.

Wednesday 28 April – South Neighbourhood Office, 40 Captains Road. 9:15am – 4:30pm.

Thursday 29 April – Waverley Court, East Market Street. 9:15 am – 4.30pm. (Staff access only)

Thursday, 29 April 2010 – South Queensferry local office at 53 High Street, South Queensferry. 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Friday 30 April – East Neighbourhood Office, 86 Niddrie Mains Road. 9:15am – 3:00pm.

Queen Vic

Tourists in Edinburgh may not have been aware that the sale was taking place, but the eventual buyer was apparently very intent on securing the purchase of the silk stockings, as the garment was only valued at £400. Auctioned by Lyon and Turnbull, the black and white tights are described as dating back to 1874, with crests sewn into the item. Head of antiques at the company Lee Young explained that such a garment would be seen as quite a find for any collectors of clothing from that era. Back in 2008, a pair of bloomers that once belonged to the same monarch was sold for £4,500, with the original asking price set at £500, according to the BBC. Those undergarments showed that Queen Victoria's waist by about the 1890s was around 50 inches.

U.S. Kids Golf European Championship

So it is good to hear that four of our young golfers from the Lothians are set to take on some of the world's best junior players at a major tournament in Scotland this summer.



More than 500 players from 30 countries will compete at the 2010 U.S. Kids Golf European Championships in June – Europe's premier tournament to showcase the next generation of golfing superstars.

The event will see some of the best young golfers from across the globe battling it out for the title of U.S. Kids Golf European Champion as well as coveted places in the U.S. Kids Golf World Championships at Pinehurst Golf Club, North Carolina, later this year.

Edinburgh and the Lothians will be represented by four talented young hopefuls at this year's tournament:

14-year-old Calum Hill, from North Berwick, who is competing in the boys 14s category. The North Berwick High School pupil and Tantallon golf club member is back competing in his third European Championship. Calum is a member of the Scottish Golf Academy and a Glen Golf Club Junior Champion.

15-year-old Alexander Wilson, from Edinburgh, who is competing in the boys 15 and over section

Charlotte Munro from Gullane, who is competing in the girls 10s category

Brodie Good, also from Gullane, who is competing in the boys 11s section

The event which is now in its third year has been organised U.S. Kids Golf Foundation, which provides opportunities for children across the world to learn and play golf. Children as young as five and, for the first time, up to the age of 18 will be challenging across four historic courses in East Lothian for the various age group European Champion titles at the event, which also aims to promote the sport among children and families, as well as giving young players the chance to forge lifelong friendships through the game of golf.

Dan Van Horn, President and founder of U.S. Kids Golf, said:- "We're delighted to be coming back to East Lothian once again to stage the U.S. Kids Golf European Championship. Last year's event was a tightly-contested tournament and I expect the standard of play at this year's event to be even better.

"The skill of the players really has to be seen to be believed. Despite their age, these players demonstrate great poise, balance and professionalism and are a credit to the game.

"I am sure that many of these youngsters will be go on to become at the very least competent golfers, but possibly even the Rory McIlroy's of tomorrow.

"It's great that we will have players from Edinburgh and the Lothians representing their local golf union at this year's tournament, which will once again be staged on some of the most stunning courses in the home of golf."

The tournament over June 1-3 will take place on four historic courses – Gullane No. 2, Gullane No. 3, Craigiellaw Golf Club and Longniddry Golf Club – which are modified for each age group in order to provide the same level challenge, meaning holes are progressively shorter as the age groups get younger. It ultimately allows the players to reach the greens in the same number of strokes as the top pros on the PGA tour.

The top finishers in each category will then compete in the

Van Horn Cup over Gullane No 1 – a showpiece event, modelled on the Ryder Cup, where the best European players are pitted against the top non-Europe golfers. The top five finishers in each age and gender group also automatically receive an invitation to the U.S. Kids Golf World Championships at Pinehurst Golf Club, North Carolina, in August.

This year's competition has also been expanded to allow 15 to 18-year-olds to compete for the first time, and it is hoped that this will encourage even more entries from budding junior golfers across the globe.

Tournament Co-ordinator Alasdair Good, Head Professional at Gullane GC, said: "2010 is a big year for golf in Scotland, especially with the Open Championship taking place at St Andrews. However, in terms of the overall number of entrants, the U.S. Kids Golf European Championship will actually be the biggest tournament taking place in Scotland this year – as there may be around 500 players competing.

"We're going to see some of the world's best young golfers in action over four days and the standard will be exceptionally high. I've no doubt that we could even see a few Major winners of the future among the field of competitors.

"I'm delighted that the U.S. Kids Golf European Championship is back to East Lothian for another year. The tournament will continue to showcase both golf in Scotland and the emerging talent in the game and I'll guarantee no one will be disappointed at the golf they will see."

The U.S. Kids Golf Foundation was launched in 2001 to provide opportunities for kids to play and learn the game through local tours and tournaments such as the European Championships. Since holding its first tournament in 2000, U.S. Kids Golf Foundation now runs some 400 events each year including the prestigious World Championships at Pinehurst.

The Foundation is the charitable branch of U.S. Kids Golf –

the world's largest producer of junior golf equipment for ages 14 and under. The firm has pioneered the development of golf clubs for young people, eliminating the problem of kids using heavier, cut-down adult clubs which often hurts developing swings and discourages budding players.

Edinburgh v Newport Gwent Dragons

EDINBURGH V NEWPORT GWENT DRAGONS

15TH APRIL 2010

by Stewart Primrose

Last weekend's defeat away to bottom side Connacht was a huge blow to Rob Moffat's side, and the coach will know they may need to win every game left this campaign to secure one of the play-off spots.

It wasn't a bad performance by Edinburgh in Ireland. They were in control for much of the match and were unlucky to lose by a solitary point. However, at this stage of the season performances are secondary to results.

The trip to Wales is a tricky one, and the Dragons know they will need to collect all four points to put themselves back in the hunt for a top four finish. Defeat and their remaining fixtures become meaningless.

This makes it all the more harder because, if they had nothing to play for the Welsh side may have an extra edge taken off their game, but they know this is their last chance to do something this year.

However, it's all in Edinburgh's hands. They currently sit in the all important fourth position, just one point ahead of

rivals Glasgow. Glasgow, however, have amore favourable run-in, highlighted this weekend when they play host to Ulster at Firhill.

Edinburgh, as well, face Ulster next week in what is their final home match of the season. Then they will finish up with a tough trip to Ireland to face Leinster, the current league leaders. Glasgow, on the other hand, face Leinster at home and Scarlets away respectively.

Defeat this weekend would not be catastrophic for Edinburgh, but they would then give the initiative back to Glasgow, who should take care of a poor Ulster side.

A failure to reach the play-offs this year will be extremely disappointing for Edinburgh and not the start Moffat was hoping for in his maiden season as first team coach after Andy Robinson took over the International affairs.

After the good start to the season, Edinburgh simply must make the top four. Anything after that will be seen as a bonus, but last years runners-up finish has meant expectation has heightened for the future.

For too long Scottish rugby has been in the doldrums, but after some impressive displays by Scotland in the Six Nations, which brought about mixed results, there is more optimism that the sport is ready for a bullish upturn in fortunes.

It is good to see both the Scottish clubs challenging at the top end of the table, but they still lag way behind the top two Irish clubs, Munster and Leinster. However, until finances improve, this is likely to last a little longer.

All Moffat and Edinburgh can do presently is to make sure they pick as many points as possible, which will hopefully be enough for them to finish at least fourth. They have played well for most of the season and will no doubt feel they deserve to be there. If not, and they slip-up in the remaining fixtures, they will only have themselves to blame.

Scottish Cricket

ACA Sports have released a stock advisory notice following a recent flood at their Kirkcaldy headquarters. ACA Sports, official suppliers to Cricket Scotland, were hit by a freak wave from the Forth at the beginning of the month, causing extensive damage to stock. The full range of 2009 Cricket Scotland clothing was contaminated and written off by the insurance company.

ACA Sports managing director Alistair Cameron said: "We were hit by a huge wave which came over the flood defences during the bad weather at the beginning of the month. The water flooded our stock room and rendered much of our stock unfit for purpose and completely unsalvageable.

"However, a number of items, including the contaminated stock of Cricket Scotland clothing, were sold on for salvage by the insurance company. We are advising people not to purchase any of the damaged stock which may become available from other outlets such as e-bay or public auction.

"Any items purchased from external outlets other than ACA Sports will be sold as seen and we are unable to offer any return on faulty items. This announcement will not affect any of the new 2010 stock which is due into stock in time for the new season in May. We would like to thank all of our customers for their patience during the recent flooding."

ACA Sports offer one of the most comprehensive ranges of sporting equipment and apparel in the UK. Stockists of all the major leading sports brands, they offer full ranges across a diverse range of sports from football to darts and cricket to combat sports.

ACA Sports are official online retailers for Scottish FA Cup semi finalists Raith Rovers and Scottish League Two club Annan Athletic, Cricket Scotland and the Scottish Junior Football Association, and are official retail partners for the Mitre and Precision Training sports brands.

ACA Sports brand ambassador, Robbie Savage, is club captain of Derby County and has made over 500 first-class appearances in a career with Crewe, Leicester City, Birmingham City and Blackburn Rovers. He has won 39 international caps for Wales.

World Corporate Golf Challenge

The lucky pair were selected to fly the golfing flag for Scotland in the worldwide challenge after securing their place through qualifying rounds at Archerfield Golf Club in September 2009.

Paul, Head of HR for Sales at leading Edinburgh based pensions company AEGON, and Lee, who is founder of human resources magazine HR Network Scotland, beat off stiff competition to win their place in the finals which take place at the Fancourt & Oubaai golf courses in Cape Town, at the beginning of the month.



Amateur golfers Paul Blair, Head of HR at AEGON, and Lee Turner, founder of HR Network magazine, have been selected to represent Scotland in the World Corporate Golf Challenge. Pictured with professional golfer Elliot Saltman.

Paul was delighted to qualify and be chosen to represent his country, and said:

“Both Lee and I were thrilled to come through the qualifiers to represent Scotland at the World Corporate Golf Challenge. We’re looking forward to competing in South Africa and hopefully we’ll secure a decent place in the competition.

“We’ll definitely be going all out to get a good score, but we are looking forward to playing somewhere special and as regular club golfers we don’t have any unrealistic expectations.”

Lee said “We played well together as a team in the qualifying round. We’ll give it our best shot in South Africa, enjoy ourselves and see where we end up in the table – hopefully it will be somewhere near the top!”

Paul and Lee are one of only two teams who qualified to represent Scotland in the event. Paul has played golf for 30 years and practices at Murrayfield Golf Club. He has a current handicap of 10. Lee has been involved with business golf tournaments over the years but has only really taken up golf seriously in the past 12 months. He has a handicap of 28 and plays at Kings Acre Golf Club.

The World Corporate Golf Challenge runs from 4th to 9th May in the Garden Route district of South Africa. The Tournament is the biggest corporate golf tournament in the world and since its inception 16 years ago over one million golfers have competed across the globe for the chance to represent their country.

Edinburgh Capitals

Edinburgh Capitals are leading the way in development opportunities for prospective professional hockey players in the UK with the introduction of the Edinburgh Capitals Elite Hockey Academy.

The programme will be held at Murrayfield Ice Rink, Edinburgh and will run for 6 months, from October to March. It will provide significantly improved development opportunities in the UK for the Under 16 to Under 20 age groups.

The Academy will cater for 4 categories of student:

1. Under 20s player – 2 hours training/games per week.
2. Capitals SNL/Junior Under 20 – minimum of 4.15 hours of training & games per week.
3. Capitals Junior Elite – minimum of 8.15 hours of training/games per week (4 training hours will be with the Edinburgh Capitals Elite team).
4. Capitals Junior Elite Residential – minimum of 8.15 hours of training/games per week (4 training hours will be with the Edinburgh Capitals Elite team).

Categories 3 and 4 will be subject to ability and a maximum of 6 students will be selected for the Capitals Junior Elite positions.

Edinburgh Capitals Elite Hockey Academy plays with an Under 20 Junior team, a Scottish National League team and the professional Edinburgh Capitals Elite League team.

A training camp is conducted at the beginning of the season to evaluate all students and to place them on the appropriate team according to skill and attitude.

Applications for Capitals Junior Elite players will be assessed by the Edinburgh Capitals coaching staff and successful applicants will be eligible to play with the Elite

team. (Please note residential candidates need to be at least 18 years of age).

The goal of the Elite Hockey Academy is to develop skill, speed, strength and an understanding of the game to allow students the best opportunity to reach their hockey goals and potential.

FURTHER EDUCATION

Elite Hockey Academy students are encouraged to pursue further education at one of Edinburgh's Universities or Colleges. Assistance will be provided in this area to help Elite Hockey Academy students find a suitable course that can integrate with their hockey timetable.



(Photo Ross Forsyth)

Moredun Library

By Ali George

The scheme is being piloted in the Liberton/Gilmerton area of Edinburgh with a view to expanding it across the city. The City Council's Library Service is working together with the Children and Families Department to provide free information and advice for parents and carers of children aged 0-16, on topics such as diet, dyslexia, dealing with challenging behaviour and finding out about the nearest local family-friendly events.

Project coordinator Pat Southall was keen to stress that the scheme is aimed at supporting families in every way.

"This includes providing information on a range of areas, like local mother and toddler groups and books on everything from

having a baby to dealing with difficult teenagers.”

“But we also want to let people know there is outreach work going on too – they can get one to one support in their home if they need it. Being a parent can be tough, but there is help available and it can be discreet as well as being free.”

Moredun Library is equipped with a manned information point including a PC with internet access, whilst nearby Gilmerton Library has a large number of new books and information relating to the project.

Several local groups who work with families attended the launch. These included The South Edinburgh Healthy Living Initiative, who provided fresh fruit which was then made into smoothies by teenage library users; Gracemount Leisure Centre who tested people’s football skills with a mini set of goals; and the Community Health Partnership who breathalysed everyone in sight to find out whether they smoked or not.

Currently the project is focused on Liberton and Gilmerton, but staff are optimistic that other areas will be targeted soon. In the meantime parents and carers from other areas of the city are advised to contact their local nursery, school or GP for support and advice.

Stevenson College

The celebrations were officially launched on 28th January when Robin Harper MSP gave a historical perspective of Robert Stevenson, the famous civil engineer, after whom the College is named. Among the events planned throughout the year is a fashion show with music and fashions from the 70’s, 80’s 90’s and 00’s, Stevenson’s Got Talent for students with an earlier version of the talent show in the form of Opportunity Knocks featuring staff, a Global Week and events showing how sports and fitness has changed over the years.

Principal at Stevenson College Edinburgh, Brian Lister OBE, said:-“The College has come a long way since 1970. Then, we had three thousand students and today Stevenson is one of the largest further education Colleges in Scotland with over 18,000 students from a range of backgrounds, studying across a wide variety of subject areas.

“We are also very proud of the international dimension at Stevenson with over 1,000 EU and international students enrolling at the College every year, so we are keen to reflect the cultural diversity of the College as part of our celebrations. We also plan to showcase the work of our current students and reflect on our successes with former students and staff who we hope will join in our 40th anniversary events.”

David Dick OBE was the first Principal of Stevenson College Edinburgh and served from 1969 until his retirement in 1987. Mr Dick (80) was awarded a Fellowship of the College at Stevenson’s Graduation Ceremony in November 2009 for his exceptional and outstanding service. Mr Dick said:-“There have been many changes since the College opened in 1970. In my day there were very few women students and teachers with the exception of the health department. Today, many women are in senior management positions and female students study across a wide range of courses.

“To allow a wider range of people to study we were the first to introduce block study and distance learning. We were also the first college to have a computer and I recall sending one member of staff to train and show the rest of us how it worked. Today, even pre-school children know how to operate them and every desk has a PC.

“Education has improved for the better over the past 40 years and I hope it continues to adapt and improve for the benefit of future generations.”

Stevenson is interested to hear from any former students or

staff who would like to join in on the 40th celebrations. Please contact Tammy McAllister or Joe West on 0131 535 4600 or by e-mail at 40years@stevenson.ac.uk

Scottish Power Reading Challenge

To stand a chance of winning an exclusive visit by a popular children's author, all you need to do is register for the ScottishPower Story Swap Shop before the deadline of Friday May 14th.

Already schools across the country have signed up to take part in the initiative which encourages youngsters to recycle books with their friends.

This is the second year that ScottishPower has organised the joint venture with the Edinburgh International Book Festival and Friends of the Earth Scotland.

ScottishPower Group Sponsorships Manager, Heather McDonald said:

"Last year's winners the Community School of Auchterarder really enjoyed taking part in this initiative. It's a fun way for youngsters to swap their old books with their classmates and raise money for environmental projects at the same time.

"The pupils and their teachers had a great time taking part in the swap shop and also loved their visit from author Andy Stanton – it's really a fantastic prize to have an author of someone like Andy's calibre come and spend so much time with young fans.

“Taking part in the Swap Shop will give other young readers a chance to experience an opportunity like that and we really hope they don’t miss their chance.”

All schools have to do to take part in the competition is to hold a book swap before the end of summer term with pupils donating 50p for every book they want to swap.

The money raised will go to Friends of the Earth Scotland, which works to promote energy saving and waste reduction.

Every school which enters the ScottishPower Story Swap Shop will stand a chance of winning a visit from an author who will be part of the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

To register to take part in the book swap shop please contact Eva Swanson at The BIG Partnership on 0141 333 9585 / 07876021367 eva.swanson@bigpartnership.co.uk. Schools should register their interest before May 14th.