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the Edinburgh Reporter

August 2023

EDINBURGH

CAPITAL READ FROM START TO FINISH

Capital firm living the Barbie dream

By PHYLIS STEPHEN

RACHEL HANRETTY started her business, Mademoiselle Macaron, in Edinburgh in 2013. Now some ten years later her trademark products - beautiful macarons - have a starring role in the very pink Greta Gerwig directed blockbuster movie of this summer, Barbie.

The pink delicacies were ordered in five flavours to be delivered to Warner Brothers Studio in Leavesdon, and not just as a perk for the cast, but to appear in a café in Barbie Land.

This was easy for the company based in Bonnington which produces more than 30,000 macarons each week. Rachel learned how to craft the sweet treat in Paris where she first tasted a vanilla macaron on the Champs-Élysées. She attended the Alain Ducasse cookery school in the French capital to perfect making the macarons which is now the centre of her business.

Mademoiselle Macaron products have been on screen before. They appeared on Strictly Come Dancing in 2021 during a dance based in a bakery when a tall tower of macarons appeared on the set. And there is at least one big name that can be revealed as a macaron lover. Courtney Love is a repeat customer who orders their vegan product - and no, we don't know how they make them - the recipe is secret. And in exciting news the business is commissioned to colour match the new Revlon lipstick range in just the right shade.

mademoisellemacaron.co.uk



From Bonnington... ...to Barbie Land

Alan Simpson Photography

CLAIMS BY LIB DEM LEADER ALEX COLE-HAMILTON ON COVID MEETING "SIMPLY INACCURATE" - See page 5

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Editorial

WELCOME TO ALL of you whether you are residents or visitors. This feels like the first year when “things will get back to normal” and we expect many more people to descend on the capital for some culture and fun than in the recent past.

Edinburgh Trams are yet again laying on 24/7 trams at the weekends during August as they have done since 2016. This will surely make a difference to the patronage of pubs and restaurants all the way to Newhaven, making it an easy trip to enjoy much more than just the city centre.

The hoardings are up on Middle Meadow Walk for shows to try and attract custom. Our inbox is full of Fringe shows all desperate to have us review theirs.

What do people in Edinburgh really care about? I have found that planning, transport and local buildings are the issues which exercise much passion and opinion.

Low Traffic Neighbourhoods are the talk of the steamie in Corstorphine where those opposed to the measures have caused thousands of pounds of damage to a bus gate camera. Feelings ran high at a recent meeting called in St Margaret’s Park when the audience was almost universally against the trial scheme introduced by the council.

On Page 5 we take you back to a similar meeting three years ago during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. Feelings ran high then too and the LTN in East Craigs was eventually scrapped. But some fall out from this meeting lingers as you will read in our exclusive story about the Scottish Liberal Democrat leader who made claims about permission for the meeting which simply could not be substantiated.

Kerry Teakle is a Fringe veteran as you will find out when you read her column about “doing” the Fringe on a budget. She has also written about the latest restaurant openings on page 17.

Our local sports coverage knows no boundaries. This month Bill Lothian has written online and in print about paraclimbing, roller derby, some local golf champions, cricket and tennis. Read about Bill himself and his long career in journalism on page 7.

Phyllis Stephen, Editor

Planning News

■ Plans to put several pop up structures alongside Leith Walk Police Box (which look a lot like a police box) have been refused.

■ Plans for 676 homes and 723 square metres commercial space at Brunstane West designed by Barton Willmore/Stantec have been approved. The original plan was for up to 1330 homes and a primary school.

■ Plans have been lodged for a conversion of the former Joules store on George Street to a restaurant. No operator is named as yet.

■ New tennis courts have been approved on appeal at Grange Dyvours- part of the Grange Club which is confusingly located in Stockbridge. There will be two tennis courts in an air supported dome and two covered padel tennis courts. The Reporter said there was a lack of indoor tennis facilities in Edinburgh. The council had originally refused the application on the grounds that it would affect open space provision and heritage. This space is denoted as open space on the local development plan, but The Reporter said it was only a peripheral part and its loss would not be felt as there is a “significant over provision of open space in the area”.



Brunstane West plans will go ahead

■ The West Edinburgh Transport Improvements Programme, natively named WETIP, has now been renamed the Broxburn to Maybury Public Transport and Active Travel Improvements. There is a consultation for anyone to contribute their thoughts on the council website until 5 September. Another consultation which is running alongside it is the equally snappily named West Edinburgh Placemaking Framework & Strategic Masterplan.

■ Plans have been submitted to redevelop the Edinburgh College of Art campus at Lauriston Place. This will include the full refurbishment of the former Central Fire Station, internal alterations to the main building and the north east studios, changes both inside and out to the Hunter Building, which will include opening up Lauriston Place at the ground floor. There will be extensive landscaping and public realm improvements.

Letter to the editor

The article in the local press about Brunstane Road’s new traffic system “working well” is certainly not the case. The majority of local residents voted to keep the road open, but the council overruled the vote.

In addition, the misleading statements about heavy goods vehicles getting stuck and using it as a rat run are simply not true. There are signs at the top and bottom prohibiting them, and as for drivers fighting locals, this is false. The road narrowing at Brighton Place and Southfield Place is the same as Brunstane Road, with much more traffic using the former, and it works well.

With Brunstane Road closed, traffic in the Coillesdene area has increased and has also resulted in damage to many parked cars. Also, in the Park Avenue area, the traffic has increased significantly, putting high school students at risk. Sir Harry Lauder Road, is already a busy road, and has had a



Brunstane Road

number of fatal accidents. So, adding more traffic to this road would not be a good idea. The simple solution is to adopt the same system as Brunstane Drive, using single yellow lines with parking spaces in between to create passing places for the cars. The use of a mobile parking warden until it settles down would also be recommended.

To sum up, just where has democracy gone?

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

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Coming full circle

Edinburgh magician follows father's footsteps and gains a place in the hallowed body

By **PHYLLIS STEPHEN**

AN EDINBURGH magician has followed his father's footsteps and has been welcomed into The Magic Circle in London.

Jim Campbell passed his original interview last year which made him an apprentice magician. He then had to pass an 8 to 12 minute exam before three judges and 30 magicians which he successfully passed this year with flying colours.

He said: "It is a touching and moving moment as my Dad was also a member (he was an Associate Member of the Inner Magic Circle), but sadly died in 2005 before I started learning close-up magic and then became a professional magician.

"The news came as I was beginning three days of magical entertainment at HebCelt Festival. As I performed at this festival I often shed a wee tear thinking of my Dad and I am sure he would be proud of me if he was still alive."

Jim the Magician will return to Pleasance



Courtyard this year as the roving resident close up table magician every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday during the Fringe from early evening until late, although he is not

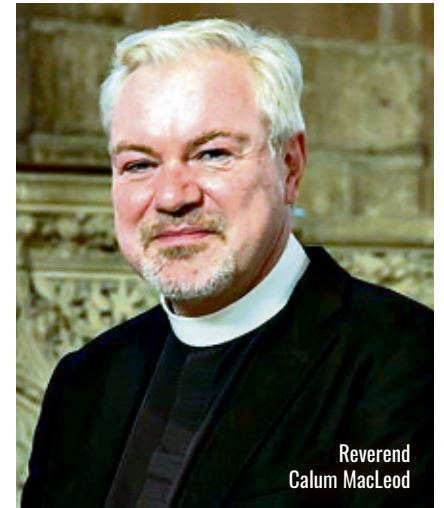
appearing at Pleasance on 3,4,5, and 6 August.

The master of sleight of hand tricks, Jim is well known in Edinburgh and beyond.

He was awarded the Edinburgh Magic Circle Leslie May Award 2022/2023 for his outstanding contribution to the Edinburgh Magic Circle (EMC). This is a regional magic circle and a division of its more famous London counterpart.

He was given the award for fundraising and for creating some fun. He began at the members' Christmas meal with a raffle for a bottle of port followed by a £1 coin roll game to win a bottle of whisky. Elliott Bibby won this beating James McDiarmid at the eleventh hour.

More recently Jim helped to stage the raffle key game which he had created and played throughout the year. This was won by Magic Ian, but the final winner of the season, again James McDiarmid, was victorious at the AGM of the local Magic Circle. In total Jim has raised the best part of £1,000 for the club and has brought lots of new fun to its members.



St Giles' minister Calum Macleod to step down

By **STAFF REPORTER**

REVEREND CALUM MacLeod has intimated he will step down from his post as minister of St Giles' Cathedral, completing a thirty year long career.

Calum has led St Giles' during the recent periods of challenge. The global coronavirus pandemic had catastrophic consequences for the whole world and for St Giles' it meant long periods when the fellowship that lies at the core of the congregational community could only be, at best, remote.

The visitor income which is crucial to the church's survival as a national monument as well as a place of worship vanished overnight.

More recently, the role of St Giles' as the High Kirk of Edinburgh was prominent both after the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth last year and the Thanksgiving Service and presentation of the Honours of Scotland to His Majesty King Charles in July.

HONOUR

In his letter to Mark Batho, Session Clerk of St Giles', Calum said: "Being the Minister of St Giles' has been a great honour for me and the Kirk Session and congregation have been faithful fellow travellers on the journey."

Mark said in response: "It falls to me to thank Calum for his efforts on behalf of St Giles', The Church of Scotland and the wider Church community throughout the world.

"We wish him well and hold him in our prayers as he now seeks to discern his next steps in faith and service."

Calum's decision has been received and discussed by the Kirk Session, which is in the process of establishing a timeline for appointing a new Minister.

In line with standard Church of Scotland procedure, it is expected that an Interim Moderator will be appointed to St Giles', to assist the Kirk Session in navigating the transition period until a new Minister is appointed.



Cllr Euan Davidson cuts the ribbon. From left Christine Jardine MP and former Lord Provost Frank Ross, Friends' Chair Jim McDonough, Jane Geddes and fundraiser Pete Gregson



Café blossoms in Roseburn Park

A GRAND PARTY was held at the new community café in a converted block of toilets in Roseburn Park just opposite Scottish Gas Murrayfield.

Spearheaded by the Friends of Roseburn Park the new Rosebean Café will open under

the management of Euan Hyslop and his team from Dower House Café in St Margaret's Park. Cutting the ribbon local ward councillor Euan Davidson said: "After such a difficult period for Roseburn's small businesses and

community as a whole, it is fantastic to see this amazing project come to fruition.

"It is a great example of partnership working between the council, community organisations and small business which I would like to

see much more of.

"The café represents a fantastic addition to the offering at Roseburn Park which is already one of the best in the city."

Rosebean will open to the public later in the summer.



Lest we forget

Discover, Learn and Remember with a tour of the city's cemeteries

By **OLIVIA THOMAS**

IN GLORIOUS weather Commonwealth War Graves Commission volunteer David Harrison guided individuals on the Edinburgh (North Merchiston) tour around one of the city's 19th century cemeteries.

There are 140 First and Second World War servicemen and women commemorated in the North Merchiston cemetery.

With this year's theme of Discover, Learn and Remember, David brought to life a number of the stories behind the individuals, the majority of whom had died as a result of their wounds, through training accidents or illness.

The screen in front of which the participants

are photographed commemorates 32 First World War servicemen, the majority of whom are thought to be buried behind the memorial.

So close to Hearts' Tynecastle ground there was inevitably discussion of McCrae's Battalion and its members who are commemorated in that particular graveyard.

The tour also included the graves of the two servicemen awarded the Victoria Cross. As part of the CWGC Foundation tour guide programme David will be guiding tours of Corstorphine on 19 August and in Rosebank on 30 September.

Sign up for these tours on the website: www.cwgc.org/tours

Consigned to the bench

By **PHYLLIS STEPHEN**

TRACY GRIFFEN owner of a personal training studio on Balfour Street has complained vociferously about the old bench dumped outside her shop. It appears to be part of Trams to Newhaven, but the bench is not shown on the plans which she saw.

The fitness instructor said the bench is unsightly, and it does not comply with the Edinburgh Street Guidance (ESDG) as it is simply too high.

The bench is 52 cm and

exceeds the recommended height of between 45 and 50 cm. Graffiti had been added to the bench but has since been removed.

Tracy said: "I live upstairs and I watched workers installing all of this in the dark. There is a whole PDF of how street furniture should be grouped and there were no benches on the plan. I would just like them to do what they said they would do - and put in the planters, or really just put this bench elsewhere. I'm just very disappointed that this corner looks as it does and

there is now too much street clutter."

She explained that there are already "two Virgin boxes, a cycle path, concrete bench, 6 cycle racks, 2 street trees plus 1 planter and 4 redundant plastic barriers on nearby Arthur Street".

Cllr Scott Arthur said: "We've installed furniture like benches along the Trams to Newhaven route, which are an important part of the design, to allow people to rest, relax and spend time. They are particularly important for people with mobility problems."

Put a stop to bad behaviour

FOLLOWING OUR article last month about the "boy racers" in South Queensferry causing problems for local residents a meeting was held which along with Cllr Lewis Younie, the local police officer and Queensferry District Community Council.

Locals say they want peace and quiet to enjoy their homes, but they are denied that by groups of young motorists gathering at the Hawes Car Park late in the evening. After the meeting the council has said it will investigate additional measures.

Andy Scott a local resident said: "Residents are looking for positive action about this problem. It is extremely wearing, annoying and dangerous. It must put people off coming here in the evening to enjoy the views.

"The car park is the hub but these cars are racing around both South and North Queensferry, and it is always after 10pm."

Cllr Younie said: "It was a really positive meeting with the relevant stakeholders. We all came away with actions and agreement on the need to do whatever is possible to address the issue of dangerous and disruptive driving."

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Claims scuttled

Assurances of permission are “simply inaccurate”

By **PHYLLIS STEPHEN**

AN OUTDOOR event organised by Scottish Lib Dem leader Alex Cole-Hamilton broke Covid-19 regulations - and now the claims that he had some kind of special approval have been totally debunked.

The Edinburgh Western MSP said that he was “allowed to breach Covid rules for the function of democracy” when he convened a public meeting in the city’s Gyle Park in August 2020.

The Scottish Government has completely rejected his claims, while Police Scotland have confirmed the event, which attracted around 1,000 people, breached lockdown rules in place at the time.

An investigation by The Edinburgh Reporter, using Freedom of Information, established that there is no evidence of the supposed dispensation.

A Scottish Government spokesperson said: “No special dispensation whatsoever was given by the Scottish Government to Mr Cole-Hamilton, to suggest otherwise is simply inaccurate.”

RULE BREACH

And Edinburgh’s top police officer confirmed that he raised his concerns with council officials over the breach of regulations at the time.

Chief Superintendent Sean Scott, Divisional Commander for Edinburgh, said: “Police Scotland was aware of the planned event. No police presence was required at the event, but local officers patrolled the area as part of routine duties.

“The officers observed the gathering was attended by a larger number of people



Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP

than was permitted under legislation for live outdoor events and fed this information back to senior officers. The matter was then raised with council officials in relation to Covid-19 legislation.”

Mr Cole-Hamilton claimed the meeting, called to discuss the hotly debated potential introduction of a Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) in East Craigs, was given the go-ahead by then Justice Minister Humza Yousaf - now First Minister. He claimed it was a face-to-face meeting with Mr Yousaf in the Parliament’s “garden lobby”, but there is no ministerial record of such an event and the MSP said he does not know exactly when the meeting took place.

At a meeting held in Corstorphine in June,

Mr Cole-Hamilton told the audience: “Three years ago I convened a very similar meeting in Gyle Park. It was at the height of the first lockdown. I got special dispensation from the Cabinet Secretary of Justice to breach Covid rules for the function of democracy.”

A former Government minister we spoke to said that civil servants are meticulous in communications and said that where a minister is concerned all meetings are recorded.

However, The Scottish Government confirmed no correspondence between the leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats and the Justice Secretary could be traced.

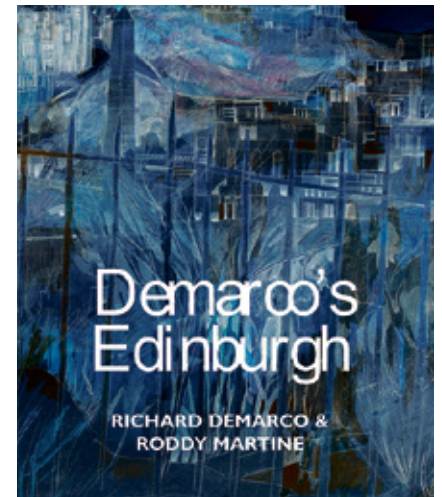
We also asked The City of Edinburgh Council if they were contacted in this regard and they have no record of any permission asked for to use one of the city’s parks, or any other kind of permission.

A Scottish Liberal Democrat spokesperson said: “Mr Cole-Hamilton sought approval from both the Justice Secretary and the police for a socially distanced event to take place on a matter of importance to his constituency. Many residents attended along with Conservative and SNP politicians. The police attended and raised no concerns.”

During the Partygate scandal, Mr Cole-Hamilton accused Boris Johnson of showing contempt to the British people and demanded his resignation.

LOCKDOWN

The situation was changing day by day and week by week. On 10 September, the government introduced more stringent measures restricting indoor and outdoor meetings to no more than six people from two households, reflecting up to the minute data.



Two old boys reminiscing

WRITTEN BY the two people who know Edinburgh and the Festival better than anyone else - Richard Demarco and Roddy Martine - this is a real treasure trove of memories and stories about the entire run of the festival since 1947.

Demarco has been at every single festival since the beginning in the post war period, and in the same year Martine was born. Their lives have criss-crossed many times since they first met - and each of them has their own views on the future of the Edinburgh Festival.

Demarco owned a gallery, is an artist and was a teacher.

Martine was 16 when he edited an Edinburgh Festival magazine in 1963.

Both were dazzled by the greatest international festival of the arts the world has ever seen

In this book they share their memories and wonder where do we go from here?

Demarco’s Edinburgh by Richard Demarco and Roddy Martine. Published by Luath Press.



Festivals boosting the economy

By **ANGUS ROBERTSON MSP**
Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution,
External Affairs and Culture

THE EXCITEMENT is palpable. Once more, Edinburgh plays host to the world, with Edinburgh’s festivals getting underway.

While last year’s festival attendance was still smaller than pre-pandemic levels, this year is expected to see further recovery, both with footfall and economic contribution.

Research carried out by Festivals Edinburgh shows the ever-increasing value of the festivals to Edinburgh and Scotland. Indeed, the economic contribution to Edinburgh has increased from £280m in 2015 to £407m in 2022. In Scotland as a whole, £313m economic impact in

2015 has risen to £367m in 2022.

Public investment in the festivals is well worth the money. Every £1 from the public purse is estimated to generate £33 in economic impact. We also see over 7,150 jobs created in Edinburgh over the festival period, with many going to locals.

Despite the odd criticism, the locals love our festivals. 50 per cent of the festival audience comes from Edinburgh or Scotland more widely, accounting for over 1.5 million performance viewers.

But, Edinburgh’s festivals are not the only global show in Scotland this summer. Indeed, the UCI Cycling World Championships come to Glasgow from 3 to 13 August, bringing together 13 existing UCI World Championship cycling disciplines into one mega event.

The 271 km long Men Elite Road Race takes place from Edinburgh on 6 August beginning at the early hour of 9.30am.

As well as boosting tourism and supporting Scotland’s economy, this major and first-of-its-kind world event can have a lasting legacy. Through our £1 million Community Cycling Fund, we are already supporting sustainable cycling projects and local events to ensure as many communities across Scotland get involved.

Funded by the Scottish Government, Glasgow City Council, UK Sport and British Cycling, the championships are an opportunity to demonstrate Scotland’s success in the sport, the infrastructure and our national hosting abilities, and I urge all to tune in.

Awards are just capital

Edinburgh Parks and green spaces recognised with Green Flag accolades



(L-R) Jamie Ormiston, Barry Fisher, Lezley Marion Cameron, Craig Dunlop and Neil Fraser

By **PHYLLIS STEPHEN**

EDINBURGH HAS been named as the local authority with the highest number of parks and green spaces presented with a Green Flag Award 2023. The capital received 38 awards out of the 87 presented putting it in third place in the UK.

Keep Scotland Beautiful announced the list which includes 35 which are maintained by the Council and others maintained by the Friends of Corstorphine Hill (Corstorphine Hill LNR Community Walled Garden), NHS Lothian (Royal Edinburgh Hospital), and Heriot Watt University (The Lawn & Central Woodlands). Culture and Communities Convener, Cllr Val Walker, said: "I am delighted that 38 parks around Edinburgh have been recognised by Keep Scotland Beautiful and their Green Flag Awards scheme. The scheme recognises the quality of parks and green spaces, their benefits to communities and the hard work of managers, staff and volunteers who keep them ticking over.

"Here in the Capital we are truly spoiled for choice across the city when it comes to fantastic parks and green spaces. Each different space has a unique character and significance for the residents and visitors that it welcomes. As part

of our Edinburgh's Thriving Greenspaces 2050 strategy we are committed to doing everything we can to safeguard, preserve and improve these spaces so that people can continue to enjoy them, and communities feel involved in how they are looked after."

Robbie Fraser, Operations Manager for Landscape, Recycling and Waste at Heriot-Watt University, said: "We are delighted to have been awarded the Green Flag Award for The Lawn and Central Woodlands area for a twelfth consecutive year. We will be applying to extend the award to include the loch and surrounding area next year."

Tracey Mckigen, Services Director, Royal Edinburgh Hospital, said: "I am delighted that once again, our hospital has received the Green Flag Award. To receive this achievement, truly recognises the commitment and hard work of our staff and Third Sector partners, who do so much to ensure the gardens and green spaces are kept so beautiful.

"Greenspaces, like the ones around the Royal Edinburgh Hospital are so important. They enable both our patients and staff to connect with nature, which is hugely supportive for their mental and physical wellbeing."

Jamie Ormiston, Senior Awards Officer at Keep Scotland Beautiful, said: "Congratulations

to our 38 award winners in Edinburgh. Every park has a wide range of people visiting them and their requirements can vary. What is essential is that they are well maintained and provide a safe place for people to relax and have fun.

"Our award-winning parks have demonstrated they are worthy winners, meeting the criteria of the coveted international award. Receiving this prestigious benchmark recognises all the hard work that has gone into maintaining and managing these precious green open spaces.

"It is imperative that Scotland reconnects with the natural world if we are to fix the biodiversity crisis and these green spaces will provide a space for people of all ages to do that.

"Green spaces are so important for our physical and mental wellbeing and it's fantastic to see such a wide range of parks and green spaces across the entire length of the country. I encourage everyone to make the most of them this summer."

The International Green Flag Award recognises parks and green spaces that demonstrate excellent management and adherence to environmental standards. Across the UK there were 2,216 winners, a record number and up eight from 2022's total of 2,208.



John McLellan

Ex councillor to face hearing

By **PHYLLIS STEPHEN**

FORMER COUNCILLOR and Director of the Scottish Newspaper Society, John McLellan, will face The Standards Commission for Scotland in October at a formal hearing

The Conservative councillor, who resigned in 2022 was named as the elected member whose behaviour was described as "manifestly unacceptable" by lawyer Julian Diaz-Rainey. The Pinsent Masons Partner working on behalf of the council complained to the Chief Executive after an alleged incident at the lawyers' Edinburgh offices in October 2021. Mr Diaz-Rainey said that junior members of staff were "left feeling uncomfortable in the presence of Mr McLellan".

ALLEGATIONS

McLellan is said to have shouted and banged his fists on the table, a claim he denies. Cllr McLellan and other elected members were invited to read a report compiled by Susanne Tanner KC into council failings. Ms Tanner insisted that all members came to the offices to read it in person. The report investigated the mishandling by council officials of sexual abuse allegations against former social worker Sean Bell who took his own life. The document included confidential information and was not released electronically. Only 34 of the 63 elected councillors took up the opportunity of reading the report in person.

Mr McLellan is said to have used his mobile phone when all visitors were asked not to. The newspaper journalist and former editor said to The Edinburgh Reporter that he had referred himself to the Standards Commission over the allegation. He also said at the time that he denied all allegations and was confident he would be cleared.



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The George Cinema Portobello

Flicker of life at The George

Friends group hopes to secure cinema's future

By **PHYLLIS STEPHEN**

THE GEORGE Cinema on Bath Street which has been vacant for the last ten years is up for sale and the Friends of the George want to buy it. They confirm that they have “noted interest” and are pursuing the legal route towards submitting an offer to current owners Buckley Building. The Friends say that any purchase will be funded from private funds.

A spokesperson said: “Friends of The George have formally noted interest in acquiring the building, as a ‘restoring purchaser’. Linked to that, we have commissioned a valuation, with a view to submitting a formal offer thereafter. We hope to secure ownership so that we can progress our plans to restore and operate The George as a community-driven independent cinema, and beyond that as a multi-purpose venue offering facilities for recreation alongside training, employment and professional development in Scotland’s expanding moving image industries. Our vision for The George seeks to complement, not replicate, other community facilities in Portobello to serve an ever expanding population and develop a resilient town centre. Securing ownership would unlock access to capital grant funding from public sources going forward.”

Previous attempts to turn the art deco building into housing by owners have failed and now plans for it to become a cinema again might prove to be the best bet.

In April this year the Friends of the George published a new vision document building based on work conducted with arts and education trust, Out of the Blue, from 2015

onwards. The main ambition is to upgrade the building in a project which was costed at around £3.2 million several years ago, and operate it as a “publicly accessible cinema and cultural venue”. It would become a “beacon for the arts in Portobello and a grassroots home for cinema in East Edinburgh”.

The C listed building is in urgent need of repair but the current owner has failed in attempts to have the structure demolished. Friends of the George now want to take over ownership with a programme of restoration.

Queen Margaret University are also involved in the scheme and might be involved as the “educational anchor tenant”. The group suggests that the cinema could be used as studio space and for gala film premieres, but emphasise that the focus on film gives their plans strength and cohesion.

While the Friends have written their plan and have conducted work over the last eight years, they recognise that they are still only at the beginning of a potential project.

The three storey cinema known formerly as The County Cinema dates from 1938 and was designed by T Bowhill Gibson a Scottish cinema architect who also designed the Astoria, the Blue Hall and the Rutland. There were many historic examples of 1930s architecture in Portobello (including the open air swimming pool) but this is the only one which survives. It is also the only cinema to survive out of an original five.

A 2018 application to build flats was rejected by the council and on appeal to Scottish Ministers as was the 2022 application - again to build flats on a cleared site. In April 2023 the building was put up for sale.

Lothian is top of the sports Bill

OUR NEW sports reporter Bill Lothian has 50 years experience in what is commonly referred to as the “toy department” of journalism.

He wrote mostly for the Edinburgh Evening News but was also published in the New Zealand Herald, Japan’s national rugby magazine, The Independent, Scotland on Sunday, The Guardian and The Scotsman.

Bill was “highly commended” in the British Press Awards twice winning the “Sporting Chronicle” Cup for successful daily nap selections.

Once introduced to Muhammad Ali by Ken Buchanan, his interviewees include John McEnroe, Pele and Jonah Lomu.

Have laptop will travel, Bill covered Lions’ rugby tours and World Cups from New Zealand to South Africa.



His CV includes world championship boxing, Open golf, Commonwealth Games, World Cup cricket and Scotland rugby tours. Once he crossed the international date-line and realised he hadn’t had a drink since tomorrow.

He played golden oldies rugby when the Cook Islands team turned up at Murrayfield a man short. He fielded at mid-off to Dennis Lillee when the great Australian fast bowler looked in at a Press cricket match in Oz, drove a stock car and rode a speedway bike in a

match-race.

Journalistically he is most proud of trying to identify young sporting talent before their names become common currency and – if lucky – write about them, Andy Murray being one example.

Bill said: “I really believe local sports coverage with its heroes and dramas is grossly neglected in the media. I hope to fill that void in The Edinburgh Reporter, perhaps giving someone their only mention – or a first write up on the way to becoming a world or Olympic champion.”

He ghosted the autobiography of rugby great Alan Tait, and he also claims to detest name dropping.

To share your stories with Bill or maybe just put the sporting world to rights Email: billlothian1008@gmail.com

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On home straight

Stobo bows out on a high at Musselburgh's Ladies Day

By **STAFF REPORTER**

A TEN YEAR sponsorship of Musselburgh Racecourse's Ladies Day will end on a high for Borders luxury spa Stobo Castle as the popular event heads for another sell-out.

Tickets are going fast for the glamorous event - on Friday 11 August - with more than 6,000 guests expected to dress to impress as they descend on the East Lothian race track.

Billed as a celebration of fashion, live music, delectable food and drink and first-class racing, Stobo Castle Ladies Day is recognised as one of Scotland's most prestigious summer events. Special celebrity guest DJ and television presenter, the former JSL band member Marvin Humes, is on board to add to the stylish party atmosphere, and more than £4,000 in prizes will be on offer to the best dressed on the day.

Elliott Winyard, Managing Director at Stobo Castle, said: "Ladies Day at Musselburgh Racecourse has always been a prime fixture in the raceday calendar and to mark our 10th year of sponsorship, this year's event is set to be the best yet.

"We have loved being a part of such a fantastic and special day in Scotland and are looking forward to seeing what delights are in store for the event in the coming years with some big plans in the works."

An array of packages are available to further elevate the event experience for revellers, including a luxury afternoon tea experience set in the five-star Picnic Pavilion Marquee.

Racegoers are encouraged to come dressed-to-impress with prizes for the Best Dressed and Best Hat competitions in collaboration with female-owned and family-run business, Powder Design UK, for this year's Style Awards.



Marvin Humes

The top prize includes an invitation to visit Champagne Pommery in France, four-star hotel accommodation in the centre of Reims for two nights, £1,500 spending money and £250 worth of Powder Design UK vouchers.

Lisa Beaumont, Design Director at Powder Design UK, said "As a female-owned business Powder is passionate about women expressing themselves through colour, texture, and unique styling. So, I'm very happy to say there's no better excuse to dress to express and impress than this year's Style Awards."



Reveller taking part in the Ladies Day style competition

Aisling Johnston, Commercial Manager for Musselburgh Racecourse, said: "A sea of style, elegance and glamour is promised for everyone involved. With all of the built-up excitement around the event throughout the year, this special day is always a sell-out, so make sure you grab the chance to secure your tickets fast."

Gates open at 11.30am with the first race starting at 2.20pm and the last race starting at 4.50pm. All timings are provisional and may be subject to change with the after party kicking off at 5pm.



Pupils have to move out

By **DONALD TURVILL**
Local Democracy Reporter

PUPILS AT TWO Edinburgh primary schools are to be moved into temporary classrooms after it emerged that roofs there had been built using a dangerous 'crumbling concrete'.

Some pupils at Trinity and Cramond primaries will be taught in portable classroom units when the new term begins, after the discovery of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC).

At Trinity Primary, the bubbly, lightweight material was found in roofs above the kitchen and the ground floor classroom, admin and toilet area. As a result four classes will move into makeshift classrooms being erected in the nearby Trinity Academy playground.

The same plan will be put in place at Cramond, where two blocks each containing two separate rooms and toilets will be sited on the netball pitch in time for the start of the new term.

ASSURANCES

An email to parents said the temporary measure will "provide a very good quality learning environment" and support would be on hand to ensure the transition for pupils was "as smooth as possible".

The council has not said exactly when the remedial work will commence but it has asked engineers to progress initial designs for the roof replacements. An update is expected.

The alarm was raised about the potential dangers of RAAC, also known as Siporex, in 2018 after the roof of a primary school in Kent suddenly gave way.

A freedom of information request by the Local Democracy Reporting Service revealed in February that Edinburgh Council had identified 15 buildings "that may have been constructed" using RAAC and investigations are continuing to determine the full scale of the problem across the city.

Cllr Joan Griffiths Education Convener, said: "The safety of all our young people and staff in our schools is paramount and the measures we have taken reinforce this position.

"We will be replacing the affected roofs at both schools and are putting in quality temporary classroom blocks during the summer break so learning and teaching can continue.



The Association provides full training on "Garry" the lawnmower

Keeping Gogarloch tidy

By **STAFF REPORTER**

THE GOGARLOCH

Community Park Association look after the open spaces on their estate by carrying out weed clearance and litter picking sessions.

The activity is led by a small committee of volunteers and residents who are also invited to make a small annual donation to help with costs of equipment.

This summer already the group has held six litter picking sessions and have cut the grass in the park and the areas called The Muir and The Broadway. And elsewhere bushes and trees on the estate have been trimmed.

The group began in 2017 when it became clear the grass in the park was not being cut as the factoring company had given it up. With the help of a grant from the Edinburgh Airport Community Fund they bought Garry the ride on lawnmower. Funding from Scotmid Community Trust has assisted in maintaining Garry in tip top condition.

The Association has met with local politicians about issues such as the anti-social behaviour on the Bridge, flooding, street cleaning and break-ins in the area. Next they would like the council to consider installing traffic calming measures and bollards. Some bollards were

already installed at the entrance to the park in 2020. In addition the group runs a Neighbourhood Watch group to increase safety for residents.

Last October the association planted nearly 1,000 bulbs for the third year in a row, ensuring a good display in the spring and early summer.

All of their activity is sponsored by St Andrews Timber and Building Supplies, and 25 members of staff at Aegon helped out in June with fence painting, hedge trimming and litter picking.

If you live in the area you can join in a volunteer day. All the details are on the private Facebook group which you can join if you are a local resident.

A night at the museum

Gown by Edinburgh designer Judy R Clark features in Beyond the Little Black Dress



David Stanton

By **PHYLLIS STEPHEN**

EDINBURGH DESIGNER Judy R Clark is thrilled to have a dress in the flagship exhibition Beyond the Little Black Dress at the National Museum of Scotland - but it is far from just a little black dress.

The Lace Noir gown is a sweeping, wonderful affair, typical of Clark's work which is both dramatic and beautiful. She did wear the gown herself to an event at Prestonfield House, but otherwise this creation was a way of using up some Scottish black lace when she first moved to her new studio in Abbeyhill.

When she brought the Scottish lace home from MYB Textiles she set to work draping it onto the mannequin, then pinning it and hand sewing the entire dress - "apart from the zip".

The lace is appliquéd with painted gold lace.

Some of this lace was also used in a shirt which singer Annie Lennox commissioned Judy to make for her in 2021 when she was singing in Los Angeles.

The gown was displayed at an exhibition of Judy's work in the ballroom at Dalkeith Palace where she positioned the gown in an extensive almost museum like display of her current work.

Georgina Ripley, the curator of the Little Black Dress exhibition at the museum, asked for it to be included as soon as she saw it.

The designer was invited to see her dress at an exclusive evening before the show opened.

Judy said: "I was a little nervous before I went along to the opening of the exhibition - when they served Coco Chanel canapés -

but afterwards I was left feeling it was quite an achievement."

Judy is a first class honours graduate who interned for the late Alexander McQueen, was named young designer of the year and she has won many awards since then.

She has recently collaborated with her twin sister Christine who is an artist. The pair have combined their talents along with a photograph of one of Judy's creations by well-known photographer Jodie Mann. This created a juxtaposition of their talents to create unique fashion and art pieces. Jodie's photos featured a photograph of Judy's fashion layered with Christine's unique painting style.

Next Judy will be working on some ready to wear pieces which can be purchased off the shelf and ordered online.



Refreshing Paolozzi mural

By **DONALD TURVILL**
Local Democracy Reporter

A DETERIORATING Leith mural of legendary Edinburgh sculptor Eduardo Paolozzi is to be replaced with one showing the artist as an older man.

The striking artwork near the Shore will be updated after plans put to the city council were approved.

As well as displaying an aged version of Paolozzi, the new piece will also include 'recognizable landmarks' from around Leith, where he was born, in the style of his work.

A black-and-white mural of the renowned artist was painted on a vacant shopfront on Henderson Street in 2014 by Leith Late, a charity commissioned by the Friends of the Water of Leith Basin for the project.

However almost 10 years on, it "has since deteriorated and has become badly weathered and is beyond repair," plans said, adding: "It is therefore proposed that mural be replaced."

Paolozzi, widely considered to be one of Scotland's greatest-ever artists, was a pioneer of the pop art movement whose sculptures and printworks attracted international acclaim during a long career before his death in 2005.

A word in praise of our city's bus gates

By **KIRSTY LEWIN**

WHILE BUS gates aren't new in Edinburgh, more are now appearing. Bus gates are sections of road where only buses and authorised vehicles (usually licensed taxis and bikes) can go through.

These virtual gates are an important part of the transport system. They improve bus reliability which is essential for people who use buses to get to work and education, as well as to medical appointments or other critical services. They can also reduce traffic and improve the comfort and safety of people walking, wheeling and cycling in a particular area.

This has the added benefit of

reducing air pollution, particularly important in residential areas and shopping streets. The gates may operate 24/7 or for limited times during the day. When the gate is operational, drivers can still access streets, but will have to take a different route. Although not fully operational yet, a bus gate was recently installed in Links Place as part of the Leith Connections project.

I cycle through there regularly and have noticed with pleasure the dramatic reduction in motor vehicles, the new sounds of birdsong and children playing, and a lot more families cycling. It's great to see that this previously busy road, where speeding drivers were a problem, is now much safer.

Of course, for bus gates to work, they need enforcement cameras to ensure drivers comply with them. When the gates are introduced, generally as part of a wider traffic management scheme, it can cause frustration. There may be confusion around the gates until drivers get used to them and either alter their route or switch some of their trips to the bus or a bike if they can.

Like any significant change in a system, it takes time for things to settle down. I can understand people's initial annoyance until they get used to the new layouts. What I can't understand is why somebody, or a group of people, damaged the trial bus gate on Manse Road, Corstorphine recently. This type of

camera costs thousands to install.

The column on which the camera was perched was left in a precarious and dangerous position.

I saw the damage when it happened and was shocked at how hazardous it looked. Imagine if it had toppled and landed on someone?

It's an uncomfortable truth that Edinburgh has too much traffic, that our buses are delayed in that traffic, and that those who do need to drive will benefit from traffic reduction. It's time to embrace bus gates. The council must hold its nerve and continue to trial bus gates with enforcement cameras.

I'm sure that, as people start to enjoy their benefits, we'll see a lot more demand for them.



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EDINBURGH 



Life on planet Earth

George Mair tells the story of the experts from the Botanic Garden Edinburgh who have discovered a previously unrecorded begonia nearly 7,000 feet up a mountain on the other side of the world

Dr Mark Hughes of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) has discovered a previously unrecorded begonia plant growing on a cliff face in thick forest near the summit of Mount Tanggamus, in South Sumatra, Indonesia.

A sample cultivated in a tropical glasshouse in Edinburgh took three years to produce flowers and confirm it as a new species to science.

Botanist Dr Hughes, 53, said the new species — discovered at nearly twice the height of Ben Nevis — will soon be named and enter into the “catalogue of life on Earth”.

He said: “I’ll always remember collecting it as it was one of the most wretched nights of fieldwork I’ve ever had. We found the begonia on a rock just below the summit and we camped at the very top, in the cloud forest. It’s just below the equator so it’s warm and pleasant during the day but at night it was freezing.”

“Sadie (Barber), my colleague from horticulture, and I had wanted to reach the summit before dark so when our Indonesian

Dr Mark Hughes of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

guides stopped for a break we pressed ahead and got there first.

“We realised during the night that we had camped on the windward side where the clouds come up and the mist precipitates. We weren’t prepared for the cold and wet and it was perishing.”

The cutting was cultivated in RBGE’s Living Collection of over 13,500 plant species, and finally blossomed in lockdown.

Dr Hughes, a specialist in begonias, said: “It wasn’t flowering when we discovered it. It stood out to me but it also looked similar to another species that we already knew.

“Now we can see it flowering, we can see it’s

new — the other species only produces one or two flowers in a little bunch but this one had about 20 on a single bunch and they were different.

“It took about three years but it has been thriving here so it was worth all the pain of collecting it, because it’s really lovely.”

Dr Hughes has travelled to exotic locations around the world in his 20 years working for the RBGE. Together with his colleagues, he has helped describe hundreds of new plants, including threatened species.

In the last year, RBGE scientists have formally identified a dozen new species ranging from a single-celled diatom found in high intertidal marine rock pools in South Africa to a 50ft tall tree in the swamps of rainforests in the Congo.

They take inspiration from generations of pioneering RBGE plant hunters.

Dr Hughes said: “We are building on their work. There are things that were described over 100 years ago and have not been seen since, and we go back and re-find them.

“When I started I just had a thirst for seeing plants, but it is adventurous. I’ve climbed a large amount of the biggest mountains in Sumatra — a

“

There are things that were described over 100 years ago and have not been seen since

“ A sample cultivated in a tropical glasshouse in Edinburgh took three years to produce flowers and confirm it as a new species to science

lot of them volcanoes. I've seen some of the world's most amazing forests and that for me is just a day in the office.

“There is usually blood, sweat and tears in fieldwork. There is always something trying to bite you. You're always feeding the forest fauna when you are there — leeches and mosquitoes mostly.

“Most large animals disappear before you get near them but I've seen some whopping snakes. You also see spiders, particularly in the mornings. If you're first in line on the trail it's your job to clear the webs.”

It has never been more important to catalogue the world's species, and to conserve them. Some of the RBGE's newly described species may have as yet unknown properties, while others already have cultural importance in their native lands.

Dr Hughes (photographed below) added: “We live on this amazing planet — some of the plants we have described are incredibly beautiful but they've never been given any formal recognition.

“Unless they have a name, these things could be lost and nobody would know. Once they have a name they have a presence and a voice on the conservation stage... We will never know enough because there is always more to be discovered.”

Dr Hughes insists it's not all about the human perspective, however, adding: “We live on a unique planet in the universe, quite possibly the only place with life and who are we to erase it?”

“It's taken millions of years to get here and evolve and it's our moral duty to protect it. And you don't know what you've got until it's gone.”



A begonia growing wild in Gunung Tanggamus South Sumatra



Shining a light on Scotland's Keepers

THE EMPLOYMENT records of more than one thousand lighthouse keepers are now available to see online for the first time on the genealogy website ScotlandsPeople.

More than 2,000 newly scanned images from The Northern Lighthouse Board records give details of more than 1,300 lightkeepers working in 92 lighthouses between 1837 and 1921.

Lightkeepers had hard working lives, long days and nights maintaining light and fog signals, and cleaning and ensuring the upkeep of isolated stations in harsh conditions.

Many keepers lived in cramped spaces for long periods, often with only basic washing facilities or toilets. They could be separated from family and friends while working to maintain the safety of shipping around the Scottish coast.

The records cover all of Scotland, from Muckle Flugga near Shetland to the most southerly at Drumore, Mull of Galloway. They also include Bell Rock, the world's oldest working sea-washed lighthouse, and the three keepers of the Flannan Isles who disappeared following a storm in 1900, presumed drowned.

Jocelyn Grant, NRS Outreach and Learning archivist, said: “The last lighthouse was automated in 1998 and these records shine a light on the working lives of over

LIGHTKEEPERS REGISTER									
PART III									
Showing the Classification of the Personnel, and Appointment Success through the various Lighthouses, and the Dates of their Transfers from one to another.									
The Northern Lighthouse Board									
LIGHTKEEPERS REGISTER									
General Register, 1837-1921									
EDINBURGH									
No.	Name	Class.	Appointed	Transferred	Retired	Remarks	Class.	Appointed	Transferred
1	James Stewart	Assistant	1837	1840	1845	Retired	Assistant	1845	1850
2	John Stewart	Assistant	1837	1840	1845	Retired	Assistant	1845	1850
3	James Stewart	Assistant	1837	1840	1845	Retired	Assistant	1845	1850
4	John Stewart	Assistant	1837	1840	1845	Retired	Assistant	1845	1850
5	James Stewart	Assistant	1837	1840	1845	Retired	Assistant	1845	1850
6	John Stewart	Assistant	1837	1840	1845	Retired	Assistant	1845	1850
7	James Stewart	Assistant	1837	1840	1845	Retired	Assistant	1845	1850
8	John Stewart	Assistant	1837	1840	1845	Retired	Assistant	1845	1850
9	James Stewart	Assistant	1837	1840	1845	Retired	Assistant	1845	1850
10	John Stewart	Assistant	1837	1840	1845	Retired	Assistant	1845	1850

1,300 men in a profession that has now mostly passed into history.

“The Northern Lighthouse Board records are frequently requested by visitors to our buildings. If your ancestor worked in a Scottish lighthouse, there's a good chance you will find them here.”

“This is the latest in a series of popular record sets added to the National Records of Scotland genealogy service ScotlandsPeople as part of our wider programme making more of our archive holdings accessible to people across the country and around the world.”

ScotlandsPeople is the country's official family and social history research website. Record indexes are free to search, with charges for viewing some images.

Jay's walking on air

Veteran radio DJ Crawford unveils his leading Edge broadcast team



Jay Crawford and his team of presenters broadcast from Stockbridge

By **PHYLLIS STEPHEN**

WELL KNOWN radio personality Jay Crawford believes the capital city needs its own radio station and he is using Edge Radio to fill that gap.

He began his career at Forth ahead of the station's launch in 1974, when he was the youngest full time UK broadcaster. He said that even at the very beginning Forth was trying to cover an area from Dundee to the Borders, without concentrating solely on the capital. The station split frequencies between Forth 1 and Forth 2 and now it has changed format to become a network station.

Crawford recently took over another DAB licensed station MIX 1 and has used it to create Edge 2, which is Edinburgh's newest local station airing the best music from the last five decades.

He said: "Edge 1 has been designed really for a younger target demographic of around 15 to 35 or 40, whereas Edge 2 will have an appeal for over 35s. On Edge 1 we are playing mostly chart

music like Beyoncé, Harry Styles, Lewis Capaldi whereas Edge 2 will play the Beatles, the Stones, Roxy Music, David Bowie, a bit of Led Zeppelin, a bit of Pink Floyd, and at the same time Dionne Warwick, Al Green and Marvin Gaye. So there will be a totally different feel to the music on both stations."

Jay Crawford will be on air every Monday to Friday from 10am to 2pm. He said it has been "good fun" getting used to it all again and practicing with the technology. "It's a little bit like riding a bike I suppose, you know once you get the headphones back on, it all comes back to you."

It is around 18 months since Crawford bought Edge Radio and he has spent the time since then mentoring the rest of the team. He said: "The plan was always to bring another brand on board and so when we took over MIX 1 a couple of months ago I decided to change it to Edge 2. We have around 18 presenters including Mark Martin on Edge 1 who used to work at Forth and then with me at Real Radio. He is a very

experienced presenter and is doing a great job on Edge 1 Breakfast.

"We have Brad Yule who used to work at Capital Radio who will be on air mid-morning. And later in the day we will have a former colleague of mine from Forth days, Micky Gavin. So that is a really strong team and on Edge 2 on breakfast we will have Sam Hinks, followed by me mid morning and then Billy Kirkwood in the afternoons. He is a lot of fun to listen to. So we have some really good experienced presenters, 130907 but also one or two young ones who we have been helping to bring on. It's been exciting to be able to pass on that knowledge to the next generation."

The studios in Stockbridge are the main hub although some presenters have also set up to broadcast from home, a real need during the pandemic and now something which just adds to the mix.

For more information please visit: www.edgeradio.co.uk



Recycling made easy for charity

By **BUSINESS REPORTER**

SOCIAL PRINT and Copy CIC (SP&C), Scotland's leading charity supplier of copier and print solutions, has launched Envirobox, a landmark initiative to help the printing industry improve its carbon footprint by disposing of cartridges responsibly.

Made from recycled cardboard, each container measures 600mm high, 480mm wide and 400mm deep and takes up to 60 used cartridges from any copier. The Edinburgh-based social enterprise partnered with Glasgow packaging firm WM Watson to produce the boxes which are available for distribution throughout the country to third sector commercial, corporate and government organisations.

It costs £30 per box transaction, with a dedicated SP&C team on hand to replace them every three months, or sooner should demand dictate an earlier uplift.

MIS-SELLING

SP&C was formed in 2019 to address the mis-selling that is endemic in the printer and copier industries, particularly within the third sector where limited access to finance can lead to excessive costs for poorer quality machines over longer contracts.

Chief executive Ian Gray said: "It struck me there was a gap in the market, particularly in the third sector, when it came to responsibly disposing of consumables and I wanted to use that gap to deliver environmental good," he said.

"When we started out we wanted to change the way the third sector met its printer and copier needs and this is a proud moment for us as the boxes are the first of their kind within the third sector as far as I am aware and will help companies with their carbon offset, which is vital in this day and age.

"When it comes to disposing of these products, there are real challenges for local authorities, from the wastage, to costs involved sending to landfill and the associated environmental issues."

"The aim with Envirobox is to reuse or repurpose the cartridges to give them a longer life by replacing all the components so they become extended life items. The alternative is to have the plastic ground down into pellets which are used to help make up the material for surfacing soft play areas, children's parks and car mats.

"It's all about simplicity with accountability and is a landmark moment for us. It moves our environmental credentials forward, with the sector's, as we all strive to reduce our carbon footprints."

Genesis creates luxury car studio

By **BUSINESS REPORTER**

THE LUXURY car brand Genesis, which is an offshoot of Hyundai has opened a studio on Multrees Walk where there are two cars on display - with more nearby for customers to see and test drive.

This is the first of its kind outside London. The new 'contemporary gallery style' Studio, featuring the electric, award-winning GV70 SUV, is

inspired by Korean architecture and minimalist interior design.

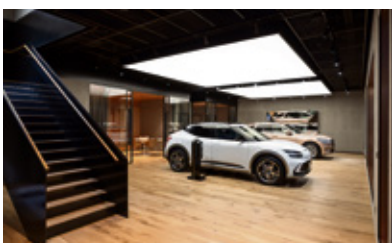
Leigh Aitchison, Centre Manager at Multrees Walk, said: "We are delighted to welcome Genesis to Multrees Walk which will enhance the existing offering of luxury brands, including Louis Vuitton, Harvey Nichols and Burberry."

Andrew Pilkington, Managing Director at Genesis Motors UK, said: "This is our first Studio opening outside of London and

just goes to demonstrate the importance of the Scottish market to the Genesis brand.

"While we initially launched in London and the south-east of England, some of our first sales in the UK were in Scotland.

"We are looking forward to welcoming new guests to the brand, demonstrating our unique hospitality focus on Multrees Walk, as well as seeing more Genesis cars on the road in Scotland."



FRINGE WORLD 2022 AWARD WINNER ADELAIDE FRINGE 2021 AWARD WINNER FRINGE WORLD 2021 AWARD WINNER FRINGE WORLD 2020 AWARD WINNER FRINGE WORLD 2018 AWARD NOMINEE

HYPNOTIST MATT HALE

TOP FUN

80S THEME HYPNOSIS SHOW

★★★★★
"THE LAUGHTER IS UNCONTROLLABLE"
FRINGEFEEED

★★★★★ THE FOURTH WALL
★★★★★ SEE-DO-EAT REVIEW
★★★★★ PERTH HAPPENINGS
★★★★★ 1/2 THE ADVERTISER
★★★★★ 1/2 XPRESS MAG
★★★★★ 1/2 THE WEST

★★★★★ WEEKEND NOTES
★★★★★ FAMILY FRIENDLY ADELAIDE
★★★★★ 1/2 INDAILY
★★★★★ 1/2 PLAY & GO
★★★★★ 1/2 HI-FI WAY
★★★★★ 1/2 ADELAIDE



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GILDED BALLOON
PATTER HOOSE

17:00
2 - 27 AUG 2023
(NOT-13) (60 MINS)

@HYPNOHALE
MATTHALE.CO

volunteers, who must be aged 16 or older, can refuse at any point to continue taking part in the performance.



A MAGIC SHOW BREAKING THROUGH ILLUSIONS AROUND AGENCY AND CONSENT.

MAGIC FOR ANIMALS

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GREENSIDE AT INFIRMARY STREET
VENUE 236

OLIVE STUDIO

Magic for Animals
4th - 26th August
(not 6th, 13th, 20th)
23:25 (50m)

£12.00 (€10.00) (€40.00F)

fringe

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CHOPPED LIVER AND UNIONS

THE WORLD IS CHANGED BY THE WOMEN YOU PUSH TOO FAR



"a stirring performance"
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★★★★★ "beautifully written"
(Marie Lloyd Stole My Life)

Lou Reviews Blog

★★★★★ "left us wanting more"
(Marie Lloyd Stole My Life)

Broadway Baby

Tickets £10 (c£8), 45 mins
Aug 4-12 @ 15.10
Aug 14-26 @ 13.10
No Sunday performances

theSpace on the Mile

Venue 39
Radisson Hotel,
80 High Street,
EH1 1TH

fringe 0131 226 0000
www.edfringe.com

www.thespaceuk.com

BELLE SAUVAGE PRESENTS

THE LAST FLAPPER

HOW THE HELL DID JAZZ-AGE ICON ZELDA END UP UP IN AN ASYLUM?

LIFE AS MRS. F. SCOTT FITZGERALD WASN'T ALL CHAMPAGNE AND PEARLS. IN THIS POWERFUL, ONE-WOMAN SHOW, ZELDA TELLS HER SIDE OF THE STORY

WRITTEN BY
WILLIAM LUCE

ADAPTED AND PERFORMED BY
CATHERINE D. DUBORD

DIRECTED BY
LYDIA MACKAY

www.BelleSauvage.us

GREENSIDE AT RIDDLE'S COURT
VENUE 16

CLOVER STUDIO

The Last Flapper
4th - 19th August (excl. 13th)
13.45 (50mins)

£13.00 (Full) £10.00 (Concession)

fringe

BUY TICKETS HERE



CAFÉ SCENE IN EDINBURGH

By Charlie Ellis



Bean 'n' gone

Changes brewing for popular Edinburgh coffee shops

THE COFFEE SCENE in Edinburgh, as elsewhere, is constantly in flux. New places are opening while others depart. In particular, Black Sheep Coffee has spread its tentacles throughout the city centre. New branches are due to open on Princes Street and Shandwick Place in the coming weeks. Will they start to overtake the more established chains? Certainly, their existing cafés all seem to be consistently busy - especially their new location opposite Waverley Station.

At Waverley Market, some of the difficulties faced by those in the specialty coffee sector are evident. The unit at the top was previously a café run by Williams and Johnson - an offshoot of their Leith base. More recently Linton & Co were based there, serving equally high quality coffee. The place was often a calm nook despite being in one of the busiest parts of the city. Linton & Co were forced to 'leave abruptly' apparently due to 'issues with the landlord'. They hope to open a new location closer to their base - in Perthshire. Meanwhile, they continue to run their coffee van on the terrace of The Hub. Many other cafés have come and gone. In recent weeks, Gooseneck on Grindlay Street has closed. Their

business was hit by the long period during which the nearby Usher Hall and Lyceum Theatre were shut - the staff there provided a lot of custom. However, Gooseneck remains as an online bakery, delivering to addresses in Edinburgh and East Lothian.

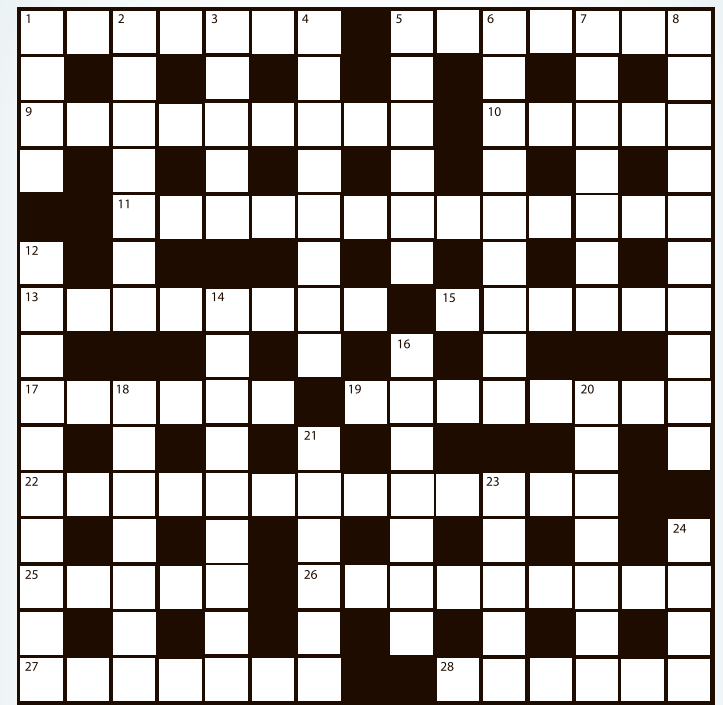
In similar fashion, No. 33 on Deanhaugh Street in Stockbridge has closed after almost a decade in business. Cheese 'N' Toasted has taken over but also serves specialty coffee, using beans from Williams and Johnson. Nearby in St Stephen Street, the Kilted Donut recently announced the 'sad' news they were closing their shop. However, their Grassmarket shop remains open and they 'hope to be back in Stockbridge soon'.

One pleasing aspect of the coffee scene is how quickly cafés can take over dormant locations. Liverpool-based indie chain 92 Degrees opened their first Edinburgh café in May. 92 Degrees opened its first roastery in 2014 and then its first café the next year. The Edinburgh café is part of a big expansion - they hope to have 30 locations in the UK by the end of 2023.

92 Degrees have taken over what was the deli section of vegetarian pioneers Hendersons - on Hanover

Street. The café is minimalist, cool and spacious. As the summer heats up and the city becomes busier, this will be ideal. The original salad bar in the basement below is, sadly, still empty (and to become a dentist's surgery I think). A tattered remnant of an Edinburgh institution. Other new locations for specialty coffee include the excellent Beatnik (on Brougham Place), and Fortitude's upcoming new café in Abbeyhill, which is an increasingly fashionable area in the city with a lot of new businesses starting up there in recent years. No surprise given how central it is, only a few minutes walk from the foot of the Royal Mile and also the east end of Princess Street. It also provides great access to Holyrood Park and Arthur Seat. Fortitude has built a substantial reputation since starting off on York Place. When the Abbeyhill branch opens they will have four cafés, including their very popular Stockbridge branch on Hamilton Place. Based in Abbeyhill they will also be close to one of Scotland's other leading roasters, Obadiah - whose coffee is used by a variety of specialty cafés in the city including Little Fitzroy, one of the very best in the city.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 A long spear with an axe blade and a pick at one end (7)
- 5 Reprimand (4,3)
- 9 Exaggeratedly impressive (9)
- 10 Speak aloud (5)
- 11 Congenital disorder caused by an abnormality in chromosomes (5,8)
- 13 Not standard (8)
- 15 Having a common race or cultural tradition (6)
- 17 Incentive, driving force (6)
- 19 Extremely hot period (4,4)
- 22 Gentle on the skin (3-10)
- 25 Food blended to a pulp (5)
- 26 Proverbially, one who catches the worm (5,4)
- 27 Vengeance (7)
- 28 Extremely heavy downpours (7)

DOWN

- 1 Elevated (4)
- 2 February 29th in certain years (4-3)
- 3 Provide a source of income by bequest (5)
- 4 The end of the world (8)
- 5 Colour materials in various hues, using knots (3-3)
- 6 Violent overthrow of a government (4,5)
- 7 Obsolete, no longer in fashion (7)
- 8 Extremely fanciful (10)
- 12 Device for heating a bed using hot coals (7-3)
- 14 City in the north of Scotland (9)
- 16 Mended (8)
- 18 Outburst of petulant bad temper (7)
- 20 Fishing (7)
- 21 Muscles, especially in the upper arm (6)
- 23 Pastoral poem (5)
- 24 In the Roman calendar, the 15th day of certain months, including March (4)

ANSWERS
 Across: 1 Halberd, 5 Tuck off, 9 Grandiose, 10 Uter, 11 Down's syndrome, 13 Atypical, 15 Ethnic, 17 Motive, 19 Heat wave, 22 Non-irritating, 25 Puree, 26 Early bird, 27 Nemesis, 28 Deluges.
 Down: 1 High, 2 Leap-day, 3 Endow, 4 Doomday, 5 Tie-dye, 6 Coup d'état, 7 Outworn, 8 Farfetched, 12 Warning-pan, 14 Inverness, 16 Repaired, 18 Tanttrum, 20 Angling, 21 Biceps, 23 Idyll, 24 Ides.

All hands on deck at Ondine

ONDINE OYSTER & Grill in Edinburgh has completely transformed the entire look and feel of the restaurant. It has now reopened taking diners on a unique and magical dining experience with a twist, emulating a ship at sea.

The exterior is currently fully covered in scaffolding and out of their control which will be in place until at least early next year. This forced the award-winning restaurant to change their entire appearance. The opulent space

has been converted to emulate a ship at sea featuring a very clever window display.

Ondine who are renowned for their Scottish seafood have more of a focus on meat with their robata grill - cooking over hot charcoal on an open fireplace which intensifies the flavour and adds a different texture to the meat and fish, serving dishes such as Perthshire Rib of Beef, Isle of Mull Scallop and Native Lobster.

www.ondinerestaurant.co.uk



The Culture Vulture

Culinary capers in the capital with **Kerry Teakle**



PARRILLA ARGENTINIAN GRILL

30-34 Fountain Place, Loanhead, EH20 9DU
www.parrillaargentiniangrill.co.uk

Raising the 'steaks' in Loanhead, a second branch of Parrilla Argentinian Grill has opened its doors, with an Argentinian inspired cuisine, similar to that of its sister restaurant in Musselburgh.



Owners and brothers, Nazim and Ateeq Ahmed

I have just had Covid-19 for the third time which has put a bit of dampener on my social excursions, but here is what is on my radar for new openings this August:

CARTE BLANCHE

Voodoo Rooms, 17 West Register Street, Edinburgh EH2 2AA
www.cartablanca.scot

A new space for artists to convene and for art enthusiasts to step beyond the velvet rope, Carte Blanche is a cocktail bar doubling as a night-time gallery, showing off up-and-coming talent while filling in or complementing any sensory gaps left by the art with mixed drinks. You might not be able to smell, taste or hear a painting, but Carte Blanche hopes to fill those gaps with soundscapes, textures and flavours. Over the next few years, they plan to host a mixture of resident artists and fully immersive exhibits.

Open from 7 pm until 1 am,
 Wednesday to Friday only

MALONES, LEITH

48-52 Constitution Street, Leith, Edinburgh
www.malonesleith.com

An authentic Irish pub (rather than an Irish-themed pub) with strong links to Leith has opened on Constitution Street. Simon Keane, one of the owners, has a strong motivation to extend the family of pubs to Leith, including a significant personal influence in discovering a considerable number of his wife Celena's ancestors had arrived in Scotland through the Port of Leith.

The menu focuses on quality, locally-caught

seafood, a speciality of head chef and Leith local, Ruxi Mirton-Teng. He previously worked at Michelin-starred restaurant Heron, so the pub grub with an Irish twist is sure to deliver. Paired with quality drinks, including their own brand Smugglers Spirits of gin and vodka, and live music, Malones looks like it will be a great craic.



Co-owner of Malones, Simon Keane



Graham Williams

FOODIES FESTIVAL

4-6 August

www.foodiesfestival.com/events/edinburgh-2

Known as Gastro-Glastonbury, Foodies Festival, the UK's biggest touring celebrity food and music festival series will be at Inverleith Park, from 4 – 6 August. If the sun is shining, there really isn't a better way to spend your weekend for a great day of tasting, socialising, and indulgence.

Learn how to make show-stopping cakes in The Cake & Bake Theatre with expert bakers. Great British Bake Off stars will share their best baking hints and tips live on stage with easy-to-make recipes that are as delicious to look at as they are to eat. Sample new wines, champagnes and cocktails in The Drinks Theatre and do check out Diana Thompson from Wine Events Scotland who will be showcasing some great wines in workshops every day throughout the Foodies Festival. Eat delicious street food from around the world. Taste new flavours. Meet artisan producers. Have fun all day with chilli-eating competitions and food challenges! Kids join in the fun at The Kids Cookery Theatre. And the music line-up includes: rising singer-songwriter, Callum Beattie and Edinburgh-based singer-songwriter, Callum Bowie.

LE PETIT BEEFBAR

19-21 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PB

www.beefbar.com/le-petit-beefbar-edinburgh

Created by Riccardo Giraudi, Le Petit Beefbar, its first Scottish residence, can be found inside the Intercontinental Hotel, which any local will



refer to as the George. Housed in the hotel's grand dining room, the menu centres around the best quality produce and carefully selected beef cuts. The menu pays homage to Beefbar classics such as the Croque Sando filled with beef ribeye prosciutto and served with Beefbar's signature sauce, La Sauce Beefbar, and Kobe beef jamon aged in Leon, Spain. This is definitely one for a special occasion and an evening of pure decadence.

Times are changing

Lubna Kerr writes about her return to the Fringe with *Tickbox 2* – a timely update of her hit show

I AM BACK on the Fringe with *Tickbox 2* – a new version of my hit show, which has been updated to reflect the changing times.

A week is a long time in politics. It's the same for the arts. We have had three Prime Ministers since I performed *Tickbox* at the Fringe last year.

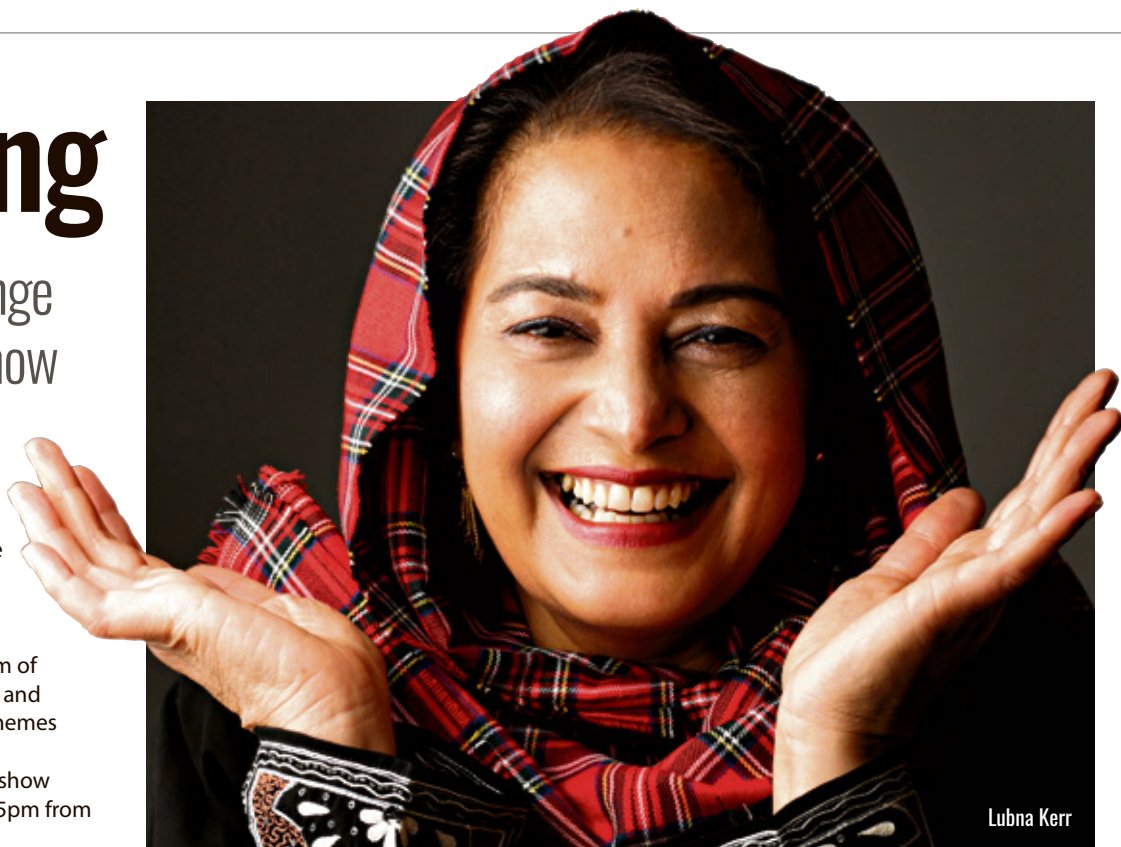
Not to mention a new First Minister in Scotland, Humza Yousaf, a Pakistani Muslim.

Over the past year I have toured with *Tickbox*, from Portgordon in Aberdeenshire to Twickenham, London. Rural touring took me to places where I struggled to pronounce the name, like Tayvallich. The turnout for the rural venues was outstanding.

Tickbox 2 has been directed by Nigerian British female director Jairus Obayomi. We felt there was a real need to update parts of the play (which explores the experience of growing up as a person of colour in Scotland) following all of the political changes.

Jairus, like me, has been the victim of racist and discriminatory behaviour and we felt we needed to bring these themes to the fore.

We'd love to welcome you to the show which is at Pleasance Courtyard, at 5pm from 2 August.



Lubna Kerr



Clockwise from top left Philip Gerrard CEO of Deaf Action, actor Amy Murray, festival producer Jamie Rea and festival ambassador Nadia Nadarajah

See hear!

Edinburgh Deaf Festival welcomes everyone to experience their culture

AFTER A SUCCESSFUL foray into the Edinburgh Festivals scene in 2022, Edinburgh Deaf Festival is back. Boasting a jam-packed programme over 10 days, the festival features some of the country's best deaf talent, and they want to welcome you to their world.

Running from 11 to 20 August, it offers everything from drama, comedy and cabaret, to workshops, tours and exhibitions. With over 60 events, accessible to both deaf and hearing audiences, the festival aims to encourage mainstream audiences to dive into the deaf world and experience a culture like no other.

Returning with her highly anticipated show, Amy Murray, star of Netflix's *The Witcher: Blood Origin* said: "I'm really looking forward to the festival and would love to see lots of hearing people in the audience, so they can find out more about deaf identity, culture, and language."

Organisers, Edinburgh-based charity, Deaf Action, would like to extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to experience the deaf community's rich cultural heritage first hand.

Throughout the festival there will be opportunities to learn about Edinburgh's thriving deaf community, explore exhibitions

and live installations by deaf artists, meet new friends, and experience a karaoke night like no other.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

■ **Red Aphrodite by Amy Murray:** Inspired by Eve Ensler's *Vagina Monologues*, it's a funny and relatable exploration of sex, passion, female empowerment, and the awkward side of femininity.

■ **Deaf Karaoke Gala Night:** Whether it's singing, signing, or both. Everyone is welcome to this extraordinary evening of entertainment.

■ **Faslane:** This adaptation of a Fringe First winning show dissects Scotland's nuclear debate. Adapted to BSL, it's inspired by interviews with those close to the issue.

■ **The Gavin Lilley Show:** One of the deaf community's best-known entertainers, Gavin returns to the festival with a stand-up show aimed at hearing and deaf audiences.

For more information visit www.edinburghdeaffestival.com

Picks of the Fringe...

■ **FOR ONE** night only Dean Owens & The Sinners play *Teviot Debating Hall, Gilded Balloon* on 23 August. The award winning Scottish musician is bringing his six piece band (including Kirsten Adamson as special guest Sinner)

to transport you to a downtown desert cantina, with music from his acclaimed last two albums (which he recorded with desert noir icons Calexico). A pale skinned, red headed working class musician from Leith finding his happy place

in the south west US deserts with his musical heroes! *Tales of sinners and saints, the displaced, the wanderers and the border ghosts.*

■ **REVELATIONS** of Rab McVie 24 and 25 Aug at Pleasance Grand-

Live music, painting and performance - a uniquely immersive theatrical experience.

■ **FOLLOWING** its sold out, celebrated debut earlier this year at the Traverse – a mighty collision

of creative forces with post punk goths The Filthy Tongues (inc Martin Metcalfe and musicians from *Goodbye Mr Mackenzie*), artist Maria Rud and a tour de force performance by actor Tam Dean Burn. Dedicated to a torn world.



LIZ TOONKEL'S *Magic For Animals*, Maggie Widdoes' *Stay Big & Go Get 'Em* and *A Trilogy* by Dennis Elkins accomplish compelling observations on modern life with a mix of magic, comedy, music, drama and storytelling.

MAGGIE WIDDOES
Stay Big & Go Get 'Em

Maggie Widdoes' international premiere of *Stay Big & Go Get 'Em*. Honest, funny and naughty – it's a comedy show that takes a rollercoaster ride through her life's ups and downs.

It's also a chance to enjoy the Fringe debut of a highly rated comedian who comes direct from the LA and NYC improv scenes.

Self-described as a "diagnosed, dead ass too-many-feelings-having human" you'll join Maggie on a comic deep dive into life's harsh realities, embracing physical and mental ill health, the absurdities of grief, fear, and lifelong horniness.

LIZ TOONKEL
Magic for Animals

In most magic shows women and animals are there to be cut in half or disappeared – but queer American Jewish female magician, and animal



rights activist, Liz Toonkel shakes things up.

Joyful, funny, thought-provoking and with lots of great tricks she revels in finding entertaining ways to look at society and animal rights.

Liz is stylish, witty and talented with fabulous (vegan) costumes and a delightful approach to magic and audience participation. A real treat.

DENNIS ELKINS
A Trilogy

Dennis Elkins was passing life as an ageing, married, straight white dad. Then that all collapsed.

His solo shows stand alone, but together deftly navigate life's speed bumps, including the death of his son and coming out at 50.

A Trilogy: box is a comedy examining why identity is bound up in possessions.

A Trilogy: bag follows Dennis' jaunty sprint across India in search of a life-affirming epiphany.

A Trilogy: blood (line) is LGBTQ+ musical theatre celebrating casting free from "normal".



Maggie Widdoes



80s themed hypno show

GRAB YOUR SHELL suit, shoulder pads and Rubik's Cube then strap in for a high-octane, show with comedy hypnotist Matt Hale's TOP FUN! 80s Hypnosis Spectacular.

After sensational reviews (★★★★★ "The laughter's uncontrollable!" *FringeFeed*) he's heading from Australia to Edinburgh.

Matt creates a joyful party-vibe, with loads of audience participation, that's perfect for all ages. Renowned for his modern brand of hypno-laughs, Matt turns the traditional hypnosis show upside down.

With the power of suggestion, audience members enjoy a wild ride featuring air guitars, bizarre walks, jet fighter skills, animal noises and the best dance moves this side of 85

Unabomber to TUNEabomber



NOT A MONSTER, just a frustrated musical theatre star – Unabomber Ted Kaczynski performs the show he wrote and rehearsed in solitary for you – the parole board.

Michael Wysong and John Lampe are a hugely accomplished duo and their highly entertaining satirical musical about Kaczynski premieres at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

He may have built bombs and written mad manifestoes but that wasn't the true Ted.

Hampered by handcuffs Kaczynski (who recently died in jail) tells his story through music and song – supported by his court appointed pianist/attorney.

Should we learn to love the man responsible for 16 bombs? You decide.

This month back when...

Compiled by Jerry Ozaniec, Membership Secretary of the Old Edinburgh Club. E: membership@oldedinburghclub.org.uk

3RD

■ In 1769, the side walls of the south abutment of the new North Bridge suddenly gave way, causing a partial collapse of the structure and tragically claiming the lives of five people.

6TH

■ In 1678, the first Glasgow/Edinburgh coach service began from White Horse Inn, Edinburgh. And in 1796, painter David Allan died in Edinburgh. Allan became famous for both his portrait work and historic scenes, and was also responsible for a number of fine

works to illustrate the work of well-known authors, including Robbie Burns. Also in 1942, four 500 pound bombs fell quite near Craighentiny.

8TH

■ In 1503, King James IV married Margaret Tudor at Holyrood Abbey in Edinburgh.

14TH

■ In 1829, the foundation stone of George IV Bridge was laid. It was not completed until 1836 due to lack of funds. And in 1902, Lillian Mary Pickford, FRS,

FRSE, a pioneering British neuro-endocrinologist was born. She was the first woman to be appointed to a medical professorship at the University of Edinburgh.

27TH

■ In 1429, Alexander Macdonald, Lord of the Isles and self-styled 'master' (i.e. heir) of the earldom of Ross, clad only in shirt and drawers and on his knees, offered and rendered to the king a naked sword before the high altar of Holyrood as a humiliating submission to

King James I of Scotland.

Also, in 1784, James Tytler, editor of the second edition of the Encyclopædia Britannica, made the first balloon ascent in Britain from Holyrood Park. Finally in 1788, the trial of Deacon William Brodie, a skilled and trusted cabinetmaker, councillor and deacon of a trades guild, began in Edinburgh.

The complete list of all notable events which took place in August in years past can be read on our website at: www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk



Flavour of the month

Our Culture Vulture **Kerry Teakle** taps into her vast Festival experience to give us all the best tips and tricks to get the most out of this year's events...

SO, TO ME, AUGUST means one thing – Festival month.

I used to be Head of Press at both Assembly and the Gilded Balloon, so I know a thing or two about 'how to work the Festival'.

I look forward to August every year and admit to spending a small fortune, but I've spent the last year, putting aside money each month so I can enjoy the Fringe like a tourist.

Yes, the Fringe can be expensive but there are lots of ways to enjoy everything Edinburgh has to offer at low cost or for free. There's no excuse not to get out there and experience just how wonderful Edinburgh in August can be.

GET YOUR STEPS IN!

I used to advise visitors to the city to invest in a pass but now Lothian buses are 'TapTapCap', you can get the cheapest adult daily and weekly fare, without the hassle of buying a separate card. The maximum cap is £5 a day. However, if you will be using the bus every day, it might make sense to buy a 1-week Advance Purchase Ridacard for just £22. To be honest, during the Fringe, it's quicker to get your walking shoes on. So, leave the high heels at home, put on the trainers, and get your steps in. You'll be amazed how many you get in during the month.

Take advantage of the previews. The Fringe doesn't officially start until Friday, 4 August but many shows will offer discounted previews from as early as Wednesday, 2 August. Check out the Fringe website for more details. On Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 August many of the shows are 2 for 1.

GET VALUE FROM YOUR LICENCE FEE!

BBC at Edinburgh Festivals is back at Dynamic Earth, their new home from 7 to 20 August. You do need a ticket to enter the events and you may have missed out on the ballot, which ended on 23 July, but hang around this venue and you will often find they have some returns or more tickets available for the day. Just ask at the information desk.

LOITER WITH INTENT

If you hang about some of the big venues on preview days, you might even score some freebies. Promoters and acts are keen to get 'bums on seats' particularly for early performances, and can often be found offering free tickets to people lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time. A good place to hang out for these is in the beer garden at Underbelly, Assembly Gardens or the Gilded Balloon at Teviot.



Cris Peplow, Claudia Cawthorne and Martha Haskins launch the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2023 Programme

Various promoters run free events, such as the original PBH's Free Fringe. While you can technically pay nothing, they do ask you to pay what you can afford. These artists have to eat and pay for their accommodation too, so be generous if you can, especially if you've enjoyed it.

TAKE IN A COUPLE OF SHOWS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE TICKET

The big venues, Assembly, Gilded Balloon, Underbelly, and the Pleasance run a Gala launch of their top shows each year at the beginning of the Fringe. They normally feature highlights from their biggest and best productions so it's a good way to see lots of shows for the price of one ticket. In the case of the Assembly's Gala Launch, they are celebrating their 40th anniversary, which is hard to believe. The ticket is £17.50, which for a two-hour show is a steal.

Some of the benefit shows. Underbelly's Big Brain-Tumour Benefit, which takes place on 15 August is a stupendous evening of comedy to help in the treatment of or finding a cure for brain tumours. All box office income goes straight to the Brain Tumour Charity, and Underbelly matches this amount as a donation to the charity, doubling the amount that they can

raise on the night. Last year's line-up included John Bishop, Phil Wang and Maisie Adam.

AND YET MORE FREE SHOWS

Hang around the Royal Mile transformed into a huge street performance playground where hundreds of world-class street artists mix with thousands of festivalgoers, creating the most vibrant and visible event of Edinburgh's summer.

The performances are free to watch – although you might be asked to donate. Among the performance areas, in every nook and cranny, you'll find someone exchanging a skill for a donation: portrait artists, caricaturists, hair braiders, face painters, palmists and more.

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE FRINGE

If you intend seeing lots of shows, become a Friend of the Fringe. From £49 (or £39 DD) it'll entitle you to lots of benefits, including 2-for-1 tickets, a priority telephone booking line, and lots more. Find a friend and share the cost. You'll reap the rewards in no time.

PICTURE THIS!

This is one thing I never miss. From 5-26 August 2023 (Monday to Saturday), see the world's best photojournalism for free at The Scottish Parliament, the only UK venue to host this exhibition. No need to book – the exhibition is free to view in the Main Hall during opening hours. If art and photography is your thing, other photo exhibitions include Steve Ullathorne's Annual Photo Fest at the Gilded Balloon at Teviot and don't forget, the Edinburgh Art Festival, which takes place from 11-27 August 2023.

IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT COMEDY

There's so much more to do, from walking tours to exhibitions. If you're a fan of Harry Potter, try

the Potter Trail, a walking tour of Edinburgh. If history is more your thing, Free Royal Mile Tours offers a historical walking tour around Edinburgh's world-famous Old Town, and if you want to release your inner dancing diva, join in with Guru Dudu's Silent Disco Walking Tours.

From £12, you are guaranteed spontaneous flash mobs through the streets of Edinburgh, interpretative dance around local landmarks, group singing, and lots of fun interaction with onlookers, which will have your cheeks hurting from laughing so much.

And finally, if you find the Fringe brochure so overwhelming and can't decide what to see, you can always consult my spreadsheet. I've been producing a spreadsheet for circa 15 years for friends and family, in the hope that they will take a chance on seeing at least one show.

The 170-plus shows I have picked (whittled down from 3,013) are compiled as a result of my own research, based on companies who I know produce good work, emails from PRs selling me their show, shows I have warmly reviewed in previous years or because the show has a catchy title or an intriguing description.

I've tried to include a cross-section of shows and events, many of them free, or pay what you can afford, or are part of the PBH Free Fringe (reminder - if you go and see a show, and like it, please give a donation).

So go take a chance yourself. That's what the Fringe is all about, taking a punt on something - after all, enjoyment is very subjective. That's what makes us all different! Have a great August.

And if you go and see something that you see recommended on my spreadsheet, please do drop me a message on Facebook to let me know whether or not you enjoyed it.

My Fringe spreadsheet can be found here: <https://rb.gy/jh6wf>



Back on board

Andy Webster returns to Hearts as club's new academy manager

By NIGEL DUNCAN

ANDY WEBSTER played 272 games for Heart of Midlothian in all competitions during two spells, the second of which ended in 2013, now the popular retired player is back to guide the potential stars of the future.

The Dundee-born former central defender has been appointed as the Tynecastle club's new academy manager, taking over from Frankie McAvoy.

Webster is a former Scottish Cup winner with Hearts and he has left his role as St Mirren's head of the professional game to help shape the future at Tynecastle.

It's a key role as the Jambos aim to develop their own top talent and the 41-year-old will oversee all aspects of the club's Football Academy at Oriam situated at Riccarton, in the extensive Heriot-Watt University complex, on the outskirts of the city.

The 28-times capped Scotland defender has overall responsibility for coach education, developing young talent and continuing to build the pathway from youth level to the first team.

And he knows that path having been signed by Hearts for £75,000 as a raw 18-year-old after making 17 appearances for Arbroath between 1999 and 2001.

Between 2001 and 2006, Webster made 149 appearances for the Men in Maroon before moving across the Border to play for Wigan Athletic. He came back to Scotland to join Rangers, where he endured three seasons of injury problems, then back south to Bristol City.

Dundee United was his next port of call on loan where he won the Scottish Cup in 2010 before he returned to Gorgie in February 2011 to make 73 appearances. One of them was in the Scottish Cup Final of 2012 when the Gorgie boys swept to victory by



Andy Webster in action for hearts

thrashing city rivals Hibs.

He moved on again made 71 appearances for Coventry City and returned to Scotland to join St Mirren, playing of The Buddies on 47 occasions. Webster then hung up his boots and switching to work with the Paisley club's under-18, under-20 and reserve teams.

Joe Savage, sporting director, paid tribute to the work of Webster's predecessor, Frankie McAvoy, who, he said, did a great job during his near 18-months in the role.

Of course, McAvoy has stepped-up to

become the club's head coach and Savage said: "It was vital that we brought in someone who could not only carry on that good work but take it even further forward.

"In Andrew, we believe we have that person. He has amassed tremendous experience at St Mirren and, of course, this is a place he knows extremely well thanks to his hugely-successful playing career here.

"We're excited to have him on board and looking forward to him using his skills for the benefit of our Football Academy."



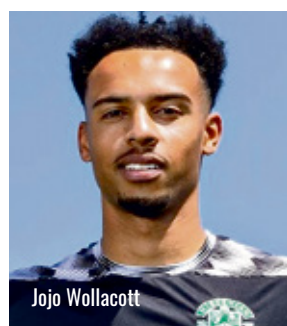
Gillian Wood

SWF appoint Gillian Wood

SENIOR PLAYER and community coach Gillian Wood who played at Cumbernauld Colts at the age of ten, has been appointed Club & Competitions Coordinator for Scottish Women's Football (SWF).

SWF CEO Aileen Campbell said: "In Gillian we have added more practical experience to SWF's club and competitions team, which I'm delighted to say is now all-female for the first time. She comes at a time when our leagues are growing and ahead of a Women's World Cup which is sure to inspire yet more girls to play the game. Our focus on player wellbeing is further strengthened now that we have three women with playing experience running our leagues, and I'm pleased that our leagues will benefit from this experience."

Gillian said: "I am delighted to join SWF at a time of unprecedented growth in the girls' game. When I was a youth player many girls left football in their teens and while that challenge remains there are so many more opportunities to forge a career in football, whether that be playing, coaching or jobs off the pitch. I know from the coaching I have done in schools, that girls can be encouraged and inspired to see a female coach. That shows there's still lots to do, to remove boundaries and tackle the stigma that sometimes still persists in our game."



Jojo Wollacott



Jordan Obita

Players in and out as Hibs prep for Europe

By JOHN HISLOP

HIBS' BOSS Lee Johnson has had a busy summer with several players coming and going from the club as he prepares for the return of European football to Easter Road.

First up was Ghanaian international goalkeeper Jojo Wollacott who signed from English League One side Charlton Athletic for undisclosed terms and has put pen-to-paper on a three-year deal. Wollacott will compete with David Marshall for the starting place.

Wollacott was joined between the sticks by Maksymilian Boruc, a 20-year-old goalkeeper joined from Polish side Slask Wroclaw who signed a two-year

deal with the Hibeas. 'Max' is the cousin of former Celtic keeper Artur Boruc.

Next to sign up was 29-year-old left-back Jordan Obita has signed a two-year deal with the Club having left Wycombe Wanderers this summer

Obita is comfortable at both left-back and left-wing and adds great versatility to Lee Johnson's First Team squad.

Wales international Dylan Levitt then joined the Club from Dundee United for an undisclosed fee on a three-year deal.

Levitt, came through the youth ranks at Manchester United and made his debut in the UEFA Europa League, before gaining further senior experience on loan at Charlton Athletic

and Croatian side Istra 1961.

The final arrival so far is Riley Harbottle, a strong, powerful centre-back with an eye for goal joined on a permanent transfer from Nottingham Forest.

Nottingham-born and bred, Harbottle (22) joined the Forest Academy at the age of seven and progressed all the way up through the youth ranks to the First Team.

But fans are hoping for at least one more signing, namely Will Fish on loan from Manchester United who enjoyed a successful spell at the club last season.

Fish played 45 minutes for the Manchester United first team at Scottish Gas Murrayfield last month

in a pre-season challenge match against Lyon.

Heading in the opposite direction is Nohan Kenneh who joined English League One side Shrewsbury Town on loan for the 2023/24 campaign to gain regular football, Dylan Tait who has joined Hamilton Academical on loan and Runar Hauge who joined Hibs in January 2022 from Bodø/Glimt and has joined Norwegian side FK Jerv on a free transfer.

Out-of-contract Kevin Dabrowski, has signed for Raith Rovers, and the highly-regarded longterm prospect Murray Johnson has gone out on a season-long loan to Queen of the South in search of regular first team football.



BILL LOTHIAN

THE VOICE OF SPORT

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Travels with a racquet

Septuagenarian Ian Ross proves age need be no barrier to acquiring an array of squash trophies

IAN ROSS, a retired engineer from Portobello, has just added the British Open Masters over-75 title to a national (closed) crown gained in February, again at the expense of England's Barry Featherstone in the final.

The previous year, aged 74, he overcame a number of "youngsters" to take the over-70 title as well.

Ian has developed a keen rivalry with Australia's Brian Cook who beat him 12-10 in the deciding game of the World Masters (over-70) in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2019.

Ian said: "Last year I met up again with Brian in Wroclaw, Poland, before the World Masters there and casually asked him by how much he qualified, age-wise?"

"I couldn't believe it on discovering we were born on the same day - and just before the entry deadline.

"This time Brian beat me 3-1 in the final.

"I first competed at age group level in the over-45's section when a World Masters was held in Edinburgh 30 years ago but work kind of got in the way.

"I was content playing league squash until my daughter-in-law, Holly (wife of former Scotland rugby stand-off Gordon Ross) entered me in a seniors British Open and I reached the semi-final.

"That fired my enthusiasm helped by the fact I have always kept myself pretty fit including attending pilates and yoga classes as well as playing a bit of golf with younger son, David.

"The thing about Masters squash is also the sociability and I have enjoyed a fair bit of travel including the USA, Austria and Poland."

And next month (September) Ian, who turns out at local level for the Grange Club 3rd team, will be looking out his passport again for a trip to the European Masters in Hamburg hoping to go one better than in 2022 when he finished runner-up.

"Basically there is no upper limit to age-group squash - as long as you can stand up there will be a category for you!" he says!

Ian is pictured left receiving his latest award from a representative of tournament sponsor, Karakal, the squash equipment manufacturer.



Ian (left) receives his Masters trophy

Scaling the heights with a new Every Body Moves award



Climbers on a high

Para athletes turn out in numbers to celebrate 'Club of the Month' award

THE "EVERY BODY MOVES" initiative, created to encourage more physical activity among the disabled community, has named Scottish Paraclimbing, as its latest club of the month winner.

Para climbers turned out in force at their base at the Edinburgh International Climbing Arena, Ratho, for a presentation ceremony.

Secretary Ian Flockhart said: The club currently has around 25 active members. At a guess it started with just under 10 (after being founded by Keith Lynch in 2018).

"Over the years since inception we have had over 75 climbers pass through the club.

"Many are still climbing, but are now located in other parts of the country or in some cases abroad.

"We lost many members during Covid, a big disruptor in many ways. Some people moved away, others are still reluctant to mix in groups, etc. but it's picking up back to and beyond its pre-Covid level.

"We have members with a huge range of disabilities, such as loss of limb, sight loss, MS, learning disabilities and autism. Everyone is able to climb within their own goals, and see improvement over the weeks.

"The award is from a GB wide organisation

developed by ParalympicsGB and Toyota so we're delighted to have been selected for the award."

Louise Gillespie, Regional Manager with Scottish Disability Sport, praised the club on their achievements. She said: "It's fantastic that the Scottish Paraclimbing Club have received the 'Every Body Moves' Club of the Month. It's wonderful to recognise the hard work and commitment of the participants, coaches and volunteers at the EICA and also to showcase the breadth of opportunities available for people with a disability across the East of Scotland."

Gold medal for table tennis teen



Nichole (right) shows off her medals

TALENTED table tennis ace Nichole Lee, who was impressive in last season's Edinburgh and Lothians League, has been crowned under-14 champion at the British senior schools international championships in Galway.

The teenager, who trains at Murrayfield Table Tennis Club, took top honours for the very first time at this level and was the only Scottish gold medallist beating fellow Scot Maja Wojcicka (from Aberdeen) in the quarter final, followed by victories against English pair Sophie Ackred and Brooke Morris in the semi-final and final respectively.

Nichole also teamed up with Maja to take bronze in the under-14 girls team event.

Norm is Porty bowls champ



Norman Macleod

NORMAN MACLEOD is this year's men's champion at Portobello Bowling Club after beating Brian Sinclair in a final marked by Graeme Brodie with Tommy Gray on scoreboard.

The presentation ceremony paid tribute also to Green Ranger Billy Kilgour for the excellent condition of the playing surface at the Lee Crescent club.



Kashif Hussein with Umair Mohammed

Carlton flying the flag in Scottish T20

CARLTON WILL fly the flag for East cricket in the Scottish twenty:20 championship at Stirling on 6 August after defeating RH Corstorphine in the regional final at Linlithgow.

Others through so far are holders Forfarshire and Falkland with the Glasgow representatives due to be decided on Thursday.

One of the stars of the Carlton team's 41 run victory was former Scotland under-19

captain Shujaa Khan who took six wickets for 12 runs including a 'hat-trick'.

David Potter's photograph shows Carlton skipper Umair Mohammed receiving the trophy from East President Kashif Hussein. That capped a memorable week for Shujaa who a few days earlier had qualified as a doctor.

It wasn't all plain sailing for Carlton who had three batsmen back in the pavilion with just 19

runs on the board.

But Ali Shah (60) and Hugo Southwell (32) steadied the ship with a partnership of 58.

Replying, RH Corstorphine were all out in 15.2 overs for 102 runs. Only Ian Worth got to grips with the opposition bowling before he, too, succumbed for 40.

A few days later the Carlton women's side captured their Scottish premiership title for a third successive year.



All night trams

EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT IN AUGUST!

Edinburgh's award-winning tram network is helping everyone to make the most of a packed programme of events in the city by running all night trams at weekends.

NEWHAVEN - CITY CENTRE - AIRPORT

Saturday & Sunday early mornings			EVERY 20 MINS			EVERY 30 MINS				
Newhaven	23:50		10	30	50		02:50	20	50	05:20
Ocean Terminal	23:52		12	32	52		02:52	22	52	05:22
Foot of the Walk	00:00		20	40	00		03:00	30	00	05:30
Picardy Place	00:07		27	47	07		03:07	37	07	05:37
St Andrew Square	00:10		30	50	10		03:10	40	10	05:40
Princes Street	00:12	NORMAL DAYTIME SERVICES RUN UNTIL	32	52	12		03:12	42	12	05:42
Haymarket	00:19		39	59	19	UNTIL	03:19	49	19	UNTIL
Murrayfield Stadium	00:22		42	02	22		03:22	52	22	05:52
Edinburgh Park Station	00:30		50	10	30		03:30	00	30	06:00
Gyle Centre	00:34		54	14	34		03:34	04	34	06:04
Edinburgh Gateway	00:37		57	17	37		03:37	07	37	06:07
Ingliston Park & Ride	00:42		02	22	42		03:42	12	42	06:12
Edinburgh Airport	00:44		04	24	44		03:44	14	44	06:14

AIRPORT - CITY CENTRE - NEWHAVEN

Saturday & Sunday early mornings			EVERY 20 MINS			EVERY 30 MINS				
Edinburgh Airport	22:48		08	28	48		01:48	08	38	05:08
Ingliston Park & Ride	22:50		10	30	50		01:50	10	40	05:10
Edinburgh Gateway	22:56		16	36	56		01:56	16	46	05:16
Gyle Centre	22:57		17	37	57		01:57	17	47	05:17
Edinburgh Park Station	23:01		21	41	01		02:01	21	51	05:21
Murrayfield Stadium	23:10	NORMAL DAYTIME SERVICES RUN UNTIL	30	50	10		02:10	30	00	05:30
Haymarket	23:13		33	53	13	UNTIL	02:13	33	03	UNTIL
Princes Street	23:19		39	59	19		02:19	39	09	05:39
St Andrew Square	23:22		42	02	22		02:22	42	12	05:42
Picardy Place	23:25		45	05	25		02:25	45	15	05:45
Foot of the Walk	23:32		52	12	32		02:32	52	22	05:52
Ocean Terminal	23:39		59	19	39		02:39	59	29	05:59
Newhaven	23:42		02	22	42		02:42	02	32	06:02

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