

# THE NATIONAL

THE NEWSPAPER THAT SUPPORTS AN INDEPENDENT SCOTLAND



## MURRAYFIELD: PARK DE TRIOMPHE

Scotland trounce France  
32-26 in Six Nations  
spectacle



# GET READY FOR INDY!

SNP depute leadership  
contender James Doman  
pledges to get Scotland  
ready for referendum  
as early as next year



N

Here's  
what we've  
got for you  
today!

WE'RE kicking off the week with a National Roadshow in Arbroath!

Wee Ginger Dug – with the help of Paul Kavanagh – will today open the town's new Yes Hub at 2pm. Later, they will be joined by editor Callum Baird at Arbroath Bowling Club from 7pm for an evening of indy chat and debate. We'd love to see you there!

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# Labour leaders slammed for stance on Brexit

## Leonard and Corbyn face calls to explain why they don't back the single market

BY KATHLEEN NUTT

**R**ICHARD Leonard and Jeremy Corbyn have been called on again to explain why they back leaving the single market, despite studies by both the UK and Scottish Government that the move will cause major economic damage.

With the UK Labour leader to visit Scotland today, the STUC and SNP have urged him to tell voters why he is refusing to back a so-called soft Brexit – forecast to be the least worst Brexit scenario, though still leading to a 2.5 per cent drop in economic growth.

Despite the warnings, Corbyn is due to say the economy is “failing people right across Scotland” and has accused the Scottish Government of being “too timid” against the powerful.

The leaked Brexit impact analysis papers, finally released last week to MPs, revealed the severe impact a hard Brexit is set to cause the Scottish economy – with a forecasted fall in Scottish GDP of up to nine per cent.

Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC) general secretary Grahame Smith yesterday criticised both Corbyn and Leonard's position on Brexit, demanding they “get their act together” to stop a hard Brexit and “at the very least” back membership of the single market.

“The Labour leadership has got to



Jeremy Corbyn, top, and Richard Leonard won't back a soft Brexit

get its act together and ditch its longstanding and lukewarm attitude to the EU,” Smith told our sister paper the Sunday Herald. “At the very minimum they should campaign to remain in the single market.”

Joan McAlpine, the SNP MSP added: “The leak of Whitehall Brexit analysis means the cat is out of the bag on the crippling cost of leaving the single market and customs union. Everybody now agrees it will inflict catastrophic damage on Scotland's economy, with fewer jobs and lower living standards.

“The Labour leadership have no more excuses. Jeremy Corbyn must explain why he has so meekly signed up for this Tory hard Brexit.

“Labour and the Tories have

revived the Better Together band of the indyref years, and working people are set to pay the price.

The appeals came as it emerged Theresa May is set to make two keynote addresses in a bid to regain the initiative on Brexit after a rocky few weeks during which Cabinet tensions came to the surface.

The three leading Brexiteers – Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, Brexit Secretary David Davis, and International Trade Secretary Liam Fox – are also to deliver speeches, but the only minister to back Remain taking part in the project is Cabinet Office Minister David Lidington.

Chancellor Philip Hammond, who favours a softer Brexit, will not take part in the co-ordinated bid to set out the Government's position.

Justice Secretary David Gauke told ITV's Peston on Sunday: “[Hammond] is not part of the set of speeches that have been outlined today, but that doesn't mean that the Chancellor is not expressing his views both internally in the Cabinet conversations, but also externally.

“So, I don't think that there really is anything in this, that this is somehow any kind of plot to gag a particular faction of ministers. I don't think that's a fair characterisation at all.”

Johnson will kick-off the Brexit blitz on Wednesday with a call for unity over Brexit.

May will deliver a major speech on post-Brexit UK-EU security in Germany on Saturday, and will round-off the process in about three weeks time with a keynote address on the overall EU-UK future relationship.

Tory tensions continue to simmer with leading Remainer Anna Soubry delivering a warning to the PM. Asked if she believed there is a majority in the Commons to defeat “the kind of Brexit the Prime Minister wants”, she told BBC's Andrew Marr show: “If she's not careful, yes.”

## News in brief

### One-vehicle crash

A MAN has been taken to hospital with serious injuries after a crash near the Queensferry Crossing.

The one-vehicle collision involving a red BMW 3 series happened on the M90 south of the crossing at junction 1A at around

8.10pm on Saturday. The 29-year-old man was taken to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh for treatment.

Police have appealed for information.

Sergeant Scott Sneddon said the “investigations into the collision are ongoing”.





Clockwise from left: Cairngorm Mountain Rescue Team, Alan Gibson and Neil Gibson

# More ice and snow on the way with walker still missing

BY MARTIN HANNAN

**A** SEARCH by mountain rescue teams was continuing yesterday in the area of Achnashellach in Wester Ross for the brother of a hillwalker who was found dead on Saturday.

Neil Gibson, 63, and his family's pet pointer dog Archie were reported missing on Friday after they and Neil's brother Alan, 56, failed to return from a walk in the area on Thursday.

The body of Alan, believed to be from County Durham, was found on Saturday after an extensive search by Torridon and Dundonnell Mountain Rescue Teams, Coastguard Rescue Helicopter and the Search and Rescue Dog Association.

They were widening the search yesterday. Police Scotland said: "The

family of Alan have been informed and our thoughts are with them at this very sad time."

Dundonnell Mountain Rescue Team said on their Facebook page that the search was being carried out in "full winter conditions" and added: "Sadly, one of the brothers was located but had passed away. We are out again to try and find the other brother and their dog. Our condolences and love goes out to the family at this very difficult time."

There was better news for another walker who was rescued following a nine-hour operation after he became stranded in blizzard conditions almost 3000 ft up Carn Ban Mor, a Munro-height mountain in the Glen Feshie area.

Cairngorm Mountain Rescue Team was called out on Saturday evening and found the walker's feet and boots had frozen, which resulted in

the man, who has not been named, cutting the laces off his footwear.

The Mountain Rescue Team said on Facebook: "It sounded like he was in a bad way and it was proving really difficult to get to him.

"In the end, a party of Cairngorm Team members had to climb up from the valley to the summit of the hill to locate and rescue the walker.

"The helicopter crew kept trying to reach the stranded walker through the night, but the weather was simply too bad. The rescue effort lasted nine hours."

Meanwhile the Met Office is predicting hazardous ice and snowy showers will hit the west and central areas of the country today following the deterioration in the weather yesterday.

The Yellow "be aware" warning covers most of Scotland and parts of the country can expect power

cuts and disruption to mobile phone coverage while public transport will be hit and as motorists are asked to plan ahead and expect heavy delays on the roads, with pedestrians urged to take care on icy pavements.

The Met Office has said that it is not unusual to experience cold conditions in February – the last month of meteorological winter.

They reported: "The current cold weather is being influenced by a polar maritime air mass with its origins over Canada. This is expected to continue affecting the UK for much of the next week, with only brief milder interludes affecting southern parts of the country.

"For an insight into the longer-term prospects, our meteorologists are monitoring the stratosphere – a high layer in the atmosphere above the region containing most of our weather."



We are out again to try and find the other brother and their dog

## Mundell in East Asia

SCOTTISH Secretary David Mundell will visit Hong Kong and Japan this week to strengthen trade links with Scotland and the UK. He will meet senior political and business figures on his five-day trip and promote Scotland as a place

for investment, business and study.

In Hong Kong, Mundell will meet Scottish companies seeking to develop business interests in the region, Scottish students studying at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and meet winners of the annual UK Government's Hong Kong FinTech Awards.



## Murder probe

A MURDER investigation has been launched after a man was found dead in an Edinburgh flat.

Officers were called to the property in the Port Hamilton area at around 4.45pm on Thursday and found the body of Alan Glancy, 47.

Following a post-mortem examination his death is being treated as murder.

Police are urging anyone with information to contact them.

Detective Chief Inspector David Pinkney said: "We are keen to speak to anyone with information that can assist our enquiries."

# Leonard put under pressure as racism row rumbles on

Yousaf calls for Scottish Labour leader to suspend Hugh Gaffney

BY KATHLEEN NUTT

**H**UMZA Yousaf has accused Richard Leonard of a "weak" response to racial slurs by a Scottish Labour MP, which he said was a "slap in the face" for ethnic minorities.

The SNP minister renewed a call for Hugh Gaffney to be suspended "at the very least" after he admitted using offensive language during a Burns Supper speech.

Gaffney is reported to have attempted to make a joke about the bard not being "bent", and to have used a racist term when referring to a Chinese meal.

The MP for Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill apologised and has been instructed to go on "equality and diversity training" by the party.

The row continues to simmer as UK Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn arrives today in Scotland for a campaign tour as part of his commitment to ensure his party remains on an election footing.

Last month Labour MSP Anas Sarwar, who lost the party's Scottish leadership contest to Leonard, claimed an elected councillor had told him he could not back him because he was a "brown, Muslim Paki".

Yesterday Yousaf, who also spoke out last week about the matter, said Scottish Labour had shown itself to be "weak in the face of racial slurs".

He said that although Leonard could not remove Gaffney as an MP he should take stronger action, pointing to the suspension of the councillor alleged to be responsible for the comments to Sarwar.

Yousaf told BBC Sunday Politics Scotland: "I think you're the leader of your party or you're not the leader of your party."

"You take a commanding role over your Scottish MPs, your Scottish MSPs, your councillors and, of course, this is the nub of the problem - the complete inconsistency in approach from Richard Leonard."

"The councillor who made the alleged remarks to Anas Sarwar, that is being investigated, he denies those remarks that councillor, but of course rightly he has been suspended."

"Hugh Gaffney admits making a racial slur absolutely comparable to the remark that was made to Anas Sarwar and yet all he gets is barely a tickle on the wrist."

"That kind of weak action from Richard Leonard actually is a slap in the face of every single ethnic minority in the country."

Leonard has insisted he is taking action to develop a comprehensive anti-discrimination and harassment policy and has charged a sub-committee of his party's Scottish Executive to develop one.

The plan will also take in Sarwar's eight point plan to tackle everyday



Humza Yousaf (right) has demanded further punishment for Hugh Gaffney (above)

racism and Islamophobia which he drew up after speaking out on the abuse he received during the Scottish leadership campaign.

"The Labour Party is the party of equality. There is no place for racial, gender or other forms of discrimination or harassment in our party."

"Under my leadership, I will work to build a society free from all forms of sexism, homophobia, racism, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, discrimination against disabled people and bigotry and prejudice in all their manifestations," he said.

He said the sub-committee will also consider recommendations agreed by the Scottish Executive Committee on tackling sexual harassment and that an interim report would be given to Scottish Labour's conference next month.

Responding to the plans, Sarwar said: "This is an important first step forward for the Labour party in challenging everyday racism. The issue of racism and Islamophobia goes beyond any one single political party and sadly is too prevalent in our society."

"The Labour party must take the lead on these issues, and establish a precedent for other political parties and Scottish society. Ultimately we will be judged by our actions, not our words."

A Labour Party spokesman said: "Hugh Gaffney MP has been reprimanded for using inappropriate and offensive language."



manded for using inappropriate and offensive language.

"He has apologised unreservedly and referred himself for equality and diversity training. The Labour Party is clear that this language is unacceptable."

The row has re-ignited divisions between the left and centrists in the party with Corbyn and Leonard being accused of double standards in terms of taking disciplinary action.

Last week a Labour source told the

## Private eye firm hired by SNP to probe new complaint



Mark McDonald resigned from the Cabinet in November

BY KATHLEEN NUTT

**A**FIRM of private detectives has been hired by the SNP to investigate a new complaint made against former childcare and early years minister, Mark McDonald.

The MSP has not voted or spoken in the Scottish Parliament since resigning from his Cabinet position in November after he admitted that "some of his behaviour" had "been considered inappropriate".

It later emerged this related to text messages he had sent to a woman.

Two weeks later he was suspended by the party after "new information" arose about his conduct, also relating to text messages.

It was reported yesterday that now a further complaint has been made by a woman about his behaviour.

According to a Sunday newspaper the firm of private detectives is due to submit its report to the SNP over the coming days. Party bosses will then decide what action, if any, to take against McDonald.

It is understood McDonald has told party bosses he vehemently denies any wrongdoing over the new

complaint. Meanwhile, following his three month absence from Holyrood, opposition politicians have called for him to return to the Scottish Parliament or quit his Aberdeen Donside seat.

Labour MSP Rhoda Grant said: "The Mark McDonald situation is getting ridiculous. He disappeared in a cloak of secrecy and has been missing for three months now."

"Serious questions need to be asked about how the SNP handled this situation. It cannot be right that the people of Aberdeen Donside have an AWOL MSP."

Lib Dem MSP Alex Cole-Hamilton said: "Mark McDonald has let down his constituents in the north east, who have been without an MSP for months. He owes his constituents an explanation."

A by election would be called should McDonald stand down, a development which could see Alex Salmond run as a candidate. It was reported in December that friends of the former First Minister have said he would be keen to stand should McDonald resign his seat.

The Aberdeen Donside seat held by McDonald contains part of the



# Dornan says Yes vote may come in 2019

BY KATHLEEN NUTT

**S**NP depute leadership candidate James Dornan has said Scotland could vote for independence next year as he pledged to get the party ready for it in his pitch for the job.

Speaking to a Sunday newspaper the Glasgow Cathcart MSP said a Yes vote in a new referendum could be achieved as soon as 2019 or 2020.

"Circumstances are changing almost every day. It has to be at a time from the SNP viewpoint when it is of maximum benefit for us and when that will be will be close to the [Scottish] election time, maybe 2019/2020 would be my guess.

"Politics have never been more volatile than they have over the last few years."

Dornan said driving the party towards achieving independence would be "crucial" to his campaign to replace Angus Robertson, who stood down earlier this month.

Dornan said he was "not convinced", as some have argued, that plans for another referendum were to blame for the SNP losing 21 Westminster seats.

"I know people have equated that [a second referendum] with the 2017 result," Dornan said. "I'm not so convinced. In 2017 there was clearly a co-ordinated arrangement – maybe unofficial – to get Alex [Salmond] out, get Angus [Robertson] out."

In the same interview Dornan added that he did not think the attitude of Leave voters would stand in the way of the fight for independence after it emerged around a third of SNP voters backed a leave vote in the EU referendum in 2016.

He told the paper: "They talk about a third of our party voting to Leave, but I would bet you that having seen the burach – as Alex [Salmond] was fond of saying – they will be reconsidering their views on Brexit."

Dornan said he would be campaigning to represent the SNP's "authentic working-class voices". With previous deputies having been Westminster-based, he said the next should come from Holyrood because the SNP should recognise the Scottish Parliament as the primary parliament.

Dornan, who is the convener of Holyrood's education committee, is to date the only candidate to officially

declare his intention to run in the contest.

The party's Westminster leader Ian Blackford, along with fellow MPs Pete Wishart, Tommy Sheppard, Philippa Whitford and Kirsty Blackman, are other possible contenders. Ivan McKee, the Glasgow Provan MP, is also thought to be considering entering the race.

The main debate among the candidates is expected to focus on new strategies for achieving independence. On Friday, Wishart called for a debate in the party and for a need to unite Yes Remainers and Yes Leavers. He said a graduated approach to regaining EU membership may be one way of doing this.

SNP's bosses are expected to announce a timetable for the race early next month with the winner unveiled at the party's June conference in Aberdeen.

Europe expert Kirsty Hughes told The National in December a Yes vote would be needed in a second referendum by early 2019 if an independent Scotland wanted to move smoothly to European Union membership.

The director of the Scottish Centre of European Relations said if a new plebiscite within this timescale resulted in a Yes vote it would give the country two years to become independent before the UK left the single market in the event of a transition period of this length.

Support for independence currently stands at around 44 per cent to 49 per cent, according to recent opinion polls.

Following the triggering of Article 50 in March last year, the First Minister set out plans for a new referendum between Autumn 2018 and Spring 2019. However, after the snap General Election and the loss of 21 SNP MPs she put her plans temporarily on hold announcing a "reset" of her proposed timetable.

She told Holyrood she would delay her proposal to introduce legislation for a referendum, though later said it was still "likely" a referendum would be held by 2021.

After the election result a number of senior SNP figures advised the First Minister to put a second vote on hold until after the next Holyrood election in 2021, but as the Brexit process unfolds some have since revised their views.



**Glasgow Cathcart MSP James Dornan has officially declared interest in the deputy leader position**

National it seemed there was "one rule for Corbynistas" and another rule for others under the party's current regime. The insider pointed out ex Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale was given a written warning after she took an unauthorised leave of absence to take part in the reality TV show 'I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here' while Gaffney 'got off with a slap on the wrist'.

"There's a lot of anger around the fact Hugh simply just got sent on di-

versity training. It seems what he did is being brushed under the carpet," the National was told.

Meanwhile, it emerged Gaffney's local Labour branch tried to pass a motion condemning Sarwar for what they claimed was an attempt to undermine Leonard by making his claims about racism public. Sources said MSP Mark Giffin "talked down" the motion at Thursday's meeting of the Uddingston and Belshill Constituency Labour Party (CLP).

## against McDonald

Gordon Westminster seat Salmond lost in last year's snap general election.

A SNP spokesman said: "An independent investigation remains ongoing."

McDonald was first elected to Holyrood as a list MSP for the North East in 2011, but following the death of Brian Adam in April 2013, he was selected as the SNP candidate for Aberdeen Donside and resigned his North East seat to fight the by-election.

He held the seat for the SNP and was returned to the Scottish

Parliament in June 2013. He then held the seat in the 2016 Holyrood election winning 56 per cent of the vote and increasing the SNP majority to 11,630 – the largest majority in the whole of Scotland.

Following Nicola Sturgeon's reshuffle on 18 May 2016, McDonald was appointed minister for childcare and early years.

In this role he was responsible for the launch of the high profile baby box policy. He was replaced by Maree Todd as childcare and early years minister.



They talk about a third of our party voting Leave. Having seen the burach, they will be changing their views on Brexit

# Blunt warning from Scots environment agency

BY GREG RUSSELL

SCOTLAND's environment body has warned that compliance with the law is non-negotiable.

The blunt message came from Terry A'Hearn, chief executive of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa), and followed two prosecutions it led relating to water pollution.

Scottish Water was fined £17,000 over discharges from its Dunswood sewage treatment plant, North Lanarkshire, into the Red Burn at Cumbernauld.

And farm partnership David McCreery and Sons, was fined £1200 for discharging slurry and silage into the Gifford Water, East Lothian.

Sepa said the prosecutions highlighted the importance of managing farm effluents and maintaining critical water treatment infrastructure.

"Both these incidents caused damage to those water bodies, both these incidents caused fish mortalities, and both these incidents should not have happened," said A'Hearn.

"So, we're disappointed that they took place but we're pleased that both organisations have been held to account.

"This is at the core of our One Planet Prosperity regulatory strategy. Businesses and organisations that do the right thing for the environment will be supported by SEPA, they'll be helped to keep doing the right thing and do even better.

"Those that get it wrong will be held to account in this way.



**Terry A'Hearn, of Sepa, said the incidents – one of which was at the Red Burn, Cumbernauld – should not have happened**

"We now look forward to working with both organisations to ensure that their environmental management improves, these incidents don't reoccur and they can move on and become top-class environmental stewards in their own right."

Scottish Water was penalised at Airdrie Sheriff Court for causing sewage from the Dunswood sewage works to discharge to the Red Burn in July 2014.

A failure at the works resulted in the release of an estimated two million litres of untreated sewage into the burn. Scottish Water reported the discharge to Sepa and environment protection officers launched an investigation into the cause.

They found that macerators, which are needed to break down solids, had become blocked and material backed up when the works was unmanned.

Sewage was then discharged via an emergency overflow outflow pipe into the Red Burn.

Under the site's licence, this should have triggered warning signals to Scottish Water's control room, but this did not happen and it did not immediately send staff to correct the issue.

A number of fish died in the Burn and the Bonny Water, which is a favourite fishing spot.

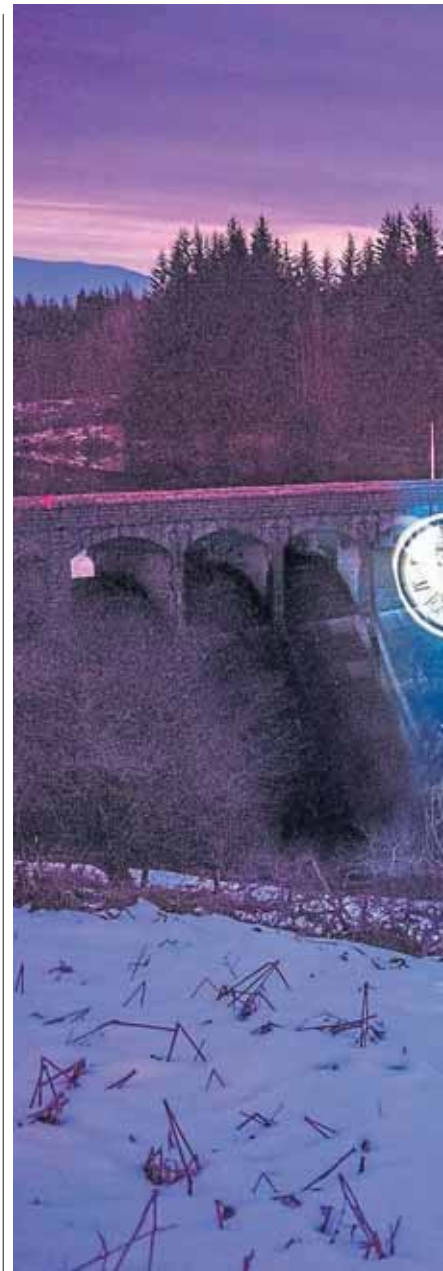
Callum Waddell, Sepa's reporting officer, said: "The impact of this incident was evident for approximately 2.5km downstream of Dunswood sewage treatment works. This unauthorised discharge, along with the low flow in the watercourse due to a recent dry spell of weather, resulted in a number of fish being killed. Sepa is very clear that compliance with regulations designed to protect the environment is not optional."

The McCreery partnership, which runs Yester Mains Farm, admitted at Edinburgh Sheriff Court repeatedly discharging slurry and silage to unnamed tributaries of the Gifford Water, causing pollution to the waters and harm to fish and invertebrate populations.

Sepa reporting officer, Pamela Mackay, said it resulted in a serious pollution incident.

"The silage pollution could have been avoided if the correct storage practices had been followed and the silo had been maintained," she said.

"This case highlights the importance of ensuring all farm effluents are managed appropriately to ensure they do not escape into the environment."



## MSPs: Pre-release of stats should end

BY BRIDGET MORRIS



**Gordon Lindhurst, convenor of the economy committee**

SCOTTISH Ministers should no longer be given early sight of official statistics, a parliamentary report has recommended.

A majority of opposition MSPs on Holyrood's economy committee called for an end to the practice which allows ministers and officials access to official figures before they are released.

Their report said there was the potential for confusion between the production of independent statistics and government commentary, highlighted by recent debates over the Government Expenditure and Revenue Scotland (GERS) figures.

"While there is no evidence of the statistics being subject to "influence" prior to their publication, the greater

concern is around the opportunity to "spin" the numbers in a positive way in advance of any other commentator or political party being able to respond," the report said.

Last year the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Bank of England scrapped pre-release access for ministers.

The committee report said the prevailing view of its six Labour, Tory and Green MSPs was that early access to market-sensitive statistics, including Scottish GDP and GERS, should end.

However four SNP members instead backed a "presumption" against early access following the committee's inquiry on economic data in Scotland. The report highlighted the importance of high-quality economic statistics in

Scotland given the Parliament's new fiscal powers and ongoing debates around constitutional reform.

Research commissioned by the Devolution suggested the pace of devolution was beginning to "expose cracks" in the UK's system of producing economic statistics.

It urged ministers and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to prioritise improving the quality of data on earnings, trade, Scottish prices and regional economic statistics.

The inquiry found no evidence of a problem with the independence of the production of statistics but recommended a review.

Committee convenor Gordon Lindhurst said: "There is no suggestion the Scottish Government exercised any undue influence in its

early access to economic data, but placing restrictions on pre-release access in certain key areas could be an important step towards reducing public cynicism in those statistics that directly affect them and where greater understanding could bring significant benefits.

"Above all, now is a crucial time for the Scottish Government to consider greater independence for the production of economic statistics in Scotland, and a robust and independent analysis of the kind of data Scotland needs for a strong, thriving and sustainable economy."

A Scottish Government spokesman said: As the report makes clear, there is no suggestion that Scottish economic statistics are subject to political influence prior to publication.

Highlands innovation  
HIE mark  
Innovation Day  
with HIE Time  
to Innovate  
projection on  
to Laggan Dam

# Innovation gives a £2.2m boost to Highland firms

## New campaign is set to build on two years of success

BY GREG RUSSELL

**I**NNOVATION is at the forefront of a campaign being launched by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) this week under the slogan: "HIE time to innovate."

It will be launched on Friday to mark Innovation Day and follows news that HIE's funding for the project has increased turnover for local organisations by £2.2 million – and aims to generate a further £1.4m.

The campaign will offer companies the tools to bring their creative visions to life, with 24 hours of offering them access to funding, a free hotline and opportunities to book one-to-one consultations with innovation experts.

It will also roll out various campaign activities, ranging from digital content provided by online experts, peer influencers and industry leaders to hyper-localised events delivering networking opportunities.

One of the agency's aims is to continue realising Scotland's commercial ambitions, where innovation is a driver of long-term competitiveness at the heart of the country's economic strategy.

Over the past two years, HIE's

innovation team has supported more than 500 local organisations and awarded 30 small business grants, totalling over £270,000.

As a result, it has directly increased employment by almost 80, and the HIE time to innovate #HIETime campaign aims to build on these successes by extending support to the yet untapped pool of businesses that could benefit from innovation.

Gillian Galloway, HIE's head of innovation says she is focused on ensuring it makes a positive impact for more businesses in the area.

"It's crucial for companies to embrace innovation if they want to remain competitive in their market," says Galloway.

"Innovation can take many shapes and forms. From the big eureka moments like Airbnb, to a smart technology like Amazon Alexa or something on the scale of Laggan Dam's hydro power.

"However, some of the best innovations can come from small usability changes to existing products, new ways to deliver services to customers or improving internal processes.

"Whilst these changes may appear relatively small the overall impact they can have can be huge."

Crùbag, an Oban-based textile

company inspired by marine research and oceans, has been working with the agency's innovation team since the company's inception.


Its owner and founder, Jessica Giannotti, said: "It's been a generous, very human, informative experience. An essential one too, as often businesses are left to fend for themselves but partnering with HIE gives you that extra edge.

"For me innovation is something that should always be present in our business discussions. If we don't solve problems we become stagnant."


Galloway added: "We offer year-round opportunities for funding and hope that our initiative will get more businesses interested and eager to make positive changes.

"We know that time can be a key challenge for companies exploring innovation, with concerns about the effort involved proving worthwhile.

"Our HIE time to innovate #HIETime campaign aims to address these concerns. International best practice indicates that all businesses can benefit from innovation support, regardless of their size, sector or location. Being innovative can ultimately make your business more profitable so it makes sense for companies to integrate this into their workings."

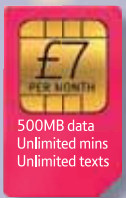


## Free extra data for when you need it most



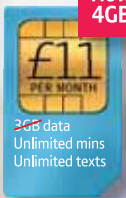
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# Two Robert the Bruce films in production

Scottish actor to reprise the role he first played 23 years ago

BY HAMISH MACPHERSON

**Y**OU wait for one film about Robert the Bruce, and then along come two at the same time.

It was revealed at the weekend that the actor Angus Macfadyen, who played Bruce in Braveheart 23 years ago, is the driving force behind a new film called Robert the Bruce that is described as picking up where Braveheart left off. Well, they could hardly have a proper sequel with Wallace in it, on account of him having been executed...

It remains to be seen exactly what this film will be about. If it really is a sort of a sequel to Braveheart it will undoubtedly cover some of the same territory as Outlaw King, which is currently in production.

We can hope, but it will be slightly miraculous if either movie conveys the extraordinary courage, tenacity, tactical genius and sheer downrate doggedness which the

Bruce showed in the period from 1306 to 1314.

We really only have the word of John Barbour, in his epic poem The Brus, for what happened in that period, apart from some references in English chronicles that may well have been adjusted to suit English propaganda.

Bearing in mind that Bruce knew Wallace and admired him, it may well have been that he was inspired to take the kingship of Scotland and battle for Scottish independence by the judicial murder of Wallace by Edward Longshanks. Yes, the Bruce family had paid homage to Edward in 1302 when just about every other lord in Scotland was doing the same, but by 1306, the year after Wallace's death, Bruce knew full well that Longshanks was a tyrant who would do his best to destroy Scotland, so he embarked upon the campaign to confirm himself the King of Scots.

Presumably both films promote Bruce as a hero, so it will be inter-

esting to see how they handle the crisis moment which made it all or nothing for him – the murder of John Comyn the Red in Dumfries in February, 1306.

Whether the future king struck the fatal blow is immaterial: he brought about the death of his main competitor for the throne and he wasted no time in having himself crowned at Scone.

It would be great for the dramatic content of both films if they were to show the setbacks that Bruce suffered at first both militarily and dynastically. His defeat at Methven, the murder on Longshanks's orders of his brother Neil and the brutal imprisonment of his wife and sister will undoubtedly get viewers on the side of the man who really was both an outlaw and king, and who had also been excommunicated for Comyn's killing. Expect the spider to appear at this lowest point.

Yet as we know, once Longshanks was dead in 1307 and his son Ed-



ward II proved not to be a chip off the old block, Bruce gradually began to amass an army and win success upon success in a long guerilla war that lasted for the next seven years – the capture of castle after castle will surely make stirring sights on screen.

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He not only had the English to deal with, but also enemies across Scotland, particularly those in the Comyn faction. He was by no means king of a united Scotland, even after Bannockburn.

Hopefully the filmmakers will not

**Clockwise from main: Mel Gibson in 1995's Braveheart, his co-star Angus Macfadyen, and Robert the Bruce**



end their movies with Bruce's death from a leprosy-like illness in 1329, and instead he will go out in a blaze of glory with the Declaration of Independence at Arbroath in 1320, with all its resonances for that magical word – freedom!

## Talks continue over Catalonia stalemate

BY GREG RUSSELL

CATALAN pro-independence parties will hold yet more talks today to try to end the impasse over the investiture of the next president of Catalonia.

Together for Catalonia (JxCat) and the Republican Left of Catalonia (ERC) will continue negotiations after the original swearing-in of deposed president Carles Puigdemont a fortnight ago was postponed.

JxCat wants to reinstate Puigdemont remotely from his exile in Brussels, because he faces arrest on charges of rebellion and sedition should he return to Spain. But ERC insisted on having more time to reach an agreement.

Talks are expected to be "intense" according to party sources, with Puigdemont's JxCat determined that he is the only legitimate candidate. But swearing in the "hologram president" as head of the "Council of the Republic" would require a change in the law.

ERC favours a candidate who would be able to govern Catalonia immediately, and Marta Rovira, the party's number two said a "global"



**Deposed Catalan president Carles Puigdemont**

agreement can be reached.

However, the Catalan National Assembly (ANC) has urged the political parties to invest Puigdemont, who, they say, is the "legitimate" president, but to refuse to bow to what they described as the "discredited" Spanish courts.

The pro-independence grassroots group said it would remain at Puigdemont's side to "defend our institutions and govern" until he "returns to Catalonia to face the challenge of leading the effective creation of the Catalan Republic".

In a statement, the group denounced inaction and pledged to mobilise support for his swearing in: "We call to mobilise immediately to demand the investiture of the president that we have voted for and in favour of the republic."

## Property conference to represent Scots cities

BY MARTIN HANNAN

SCOTLAND's seven cities are to be represented at the world's largest property investment market which is taking place in Cannes in the south of France next month.

The MIPIM exhibition and conference brings together more than 5000 investors and 24,000 participants from more than 100 countries and is the world's largest property market offering unrivalled access to the greatest number of development projects and sources of capital worldwide.

MIPIM has become Europe's showcase for major cities, property developments, investment opportunities and international networking, and Glasgow itself has been attending for the past six years.

The conference will offer opportunities to invest in property across Scotland. The Scottish Cities Alliance (SCA) stated: "Scotland is

looking beyond Brexit by opening its sights to the world and is actively seeking foreign investment into the real estate sector.

"The economic landscape is fertile: with a growing economy and lower rates of unemployment, the Scottish Government is investing massively in infrastructure, with £4 billion earmarked for implementation in 2018/9 alone.

"Opportunities are to be found across sectors including offices, logistics and retail. One notable growth sector is hotels/hospitality (infrastructure), as tourism in Scotland increased 15 per cent last year, with over 14m people, mainly from Europe, visiting in 2017.

"Scotland's world-class universities continue to attract large numbers of foreign students, so student housing poses a strong investment. The residential market is being pushed up the agenda as the

shortage of housing, especially affordable housing, is becoming apparent."

The SCA say they offer a one-stop shop for prospective investors. Created to promote the economic potential of Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Inverness, Dundee, Perth and Stirling, the SCA has billions of pounds worth of diverse projects on offer.

Confirming that it will be at MIPIM, InvestGlasgow stated: "Widely recognised as the powerhouse of Scotland's economy, Glasgow city region's economic output equates to 33 per cent of GVA, 34 per cent of jobs and 29 per cent of businesses in Scotland.

"Underpinned by highly competitive property costs, prime rents and prime yields, Glasgow is the top Scottish city and third overall in the UK outwith London for attracting capital investment over the last 10 years."

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# SNP deputy leader must be a radical who will fire up the young



**D**EPUTY leadership contests don't generally set politics alight. If you asked most people in the street to name the current British Labour deputy leader, a few people might mistakenly suggest the name of John McDonnell – though I suspect most people would just look at you blankly.

And who is the deputy leader of the Scottish Conservatives? No prizes for guessing it's David Mundell – because you'd be wrong. And as I write this, I cannot for the life of me remember who the deputy leader of the Scottish LibDems is.

So, it's fair to assume that the contest to replace Angus Robertson will not be provoking raging

arguments in homes and workplaces across the length and breadth of Scotland over these next few months.

Yet so dominant has the SNP become in Scotland, the outcome of this contest does matter beyond the circles of those who eat and breathe politics on a daily basis. Last time around, I was struck by the number of window posters on display in Glasgow in support of Tommy Sheppard's candidacy.

When did an internal deputy leadership election ever before resonate so strongly with at least a section of the wider public? Probably not since the early 1980s, when Denis Healey beat Tony Benn by a fraction of one per cent to take the number two spot in the Labour Party. Had that knife-edge contest gone the other way, who knows what the long-term impact might have been? New Labour may well have never come into being, and Tony Blair might have remained an obscure barrister.

Although I don't have a vote in this election I will be watching it with some interest, because it will give us a clue about the future direction of Scotland's biggest party. And for the wider independence movement beyond the SNP, that matters.

Most big political parties are an uneasy coalition of forces. For decades there has been periodic and vicious blood-letting in the Tory Party over the European Union – and that looks like it's about to escalate in the run-up to the autumn conference season. The Labour Party was always a battleground between right and left, until the New Labourites swept all before them in the 1990s and early 2000s. For now, the pendulum has swung to the left,

but woe betide Jeremy Corbyn and the left if they fail to deliver a victory in the next General Election.

The SNP, too, has always been what is sometimes euphemistically described as a "broad church". Alex Salmond was famously expelled in the 1980s for being part of a left-wing cabal. And a party that can today comfortably accommodate Fergus Ewing and Mhairi Black can't ever be accused of being a narrow, ideological sect.

That's been one of the strengths of the SNP – but such a wide coalition can only be sustained until Scotland achieves full independence. At that point, I suspect the ideological differences that have been held in check for decades will start to erupt.

I realise that the SNP membership may be tempted to play it safe when choosing Robertson's successor. After all, the party remains way out in front of all challengers, despite more than a decade in power. Support for independence is holding up and might surge ahead in the near future. The prospect of the triumvirate of Boris Johnson, Michael Gove and Jacob Rees-Mogg taking control of the UK Government by the end of this year could create a whole new dynamic. So too could the potentially catastrophic consequences of a Tory Brexit.

But we don't know for sure what the future will bring. What we do know is that, although the SNP is ahead in the polls, the pro-independence parties still lag behind the pro-Union parties.

So, should the SNP continue along the same careful path, progressive on social policies, leaning a little bit to the left economically, but frustratingly cautious to the point of timidity? Or should it shift

**The contest is on to replace Angus Robertson as SNP deputy leader**

more decisively in one direction or another?

Anyone who reads this column, or knows my political background, won't be surprised to find out that I would like the SNP to be more robust in challenging big business and the establishment, and bolder in offering sweeping change.

There are also strong tactical reasons why the SNP should avoid at all costs dawdling in the middle of the road.

To drive forward towards independence, the party has to win back votes from either of its two biggest rivals, the Tories or Labour. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist party is exactly what it says on the tin. It is Unionist to its red, white and blue core, so there ain't many votes in that direction for the independence cause. Labour is a different kettle of fish. Its support base is more open to change, less committed to the United Kingdom, and probably less than inspired by the performance so far of its new Scottish leader.

Robertson is a capable individual, and good luck to him in whatever new career he pursues. But I would like to see him replaced by someone very different. Someone with a radical edge. Someone who will help fire up the young, the poor, the urban and rural working classes. Someone who is an authentic voice of the people rather than a polished politician.

And someone who, if they happen to be a Westminster MP, will spend most of their time campaigning in Scotland to build support for independence rather than wasting their time in London squabbling with the privileged public schoolboys of the Tory Party.



**Most big political parties are an uneasy coalition of forces**



Carolyn Leckie

TOMORROW:  
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РЕЛИЗ ГРУППЫ "What's News" VK.COM/WSNWS

## Anti-dairy protesters hold demonstration outside Edinburgh's Cheesefest event

BY MARTIN HANNAN

EDINBURGH'S Corn Exchange yesterday saw a protest against dairy farming by campaigners who displayed banners outside the Cheesefest event in the venue on the west side of the Capital.

Some 20 people displaying banners with anti-dairy slogans protested peacefully outside the event, which was the first time it had been held in Edinburgh.

One banner read "All dairy cows end up at the slaughterhouse – down with dairy," while another stated "150,000 cows are slaughtered whilst still pregnant in the UK each year."

Protest organiser Kate Powell said: "Because people had already bought their tickets we were not trying to get them to stop going in to eat the cheese.

"We disagree with the dairy industry and we try to show people why, though not by using emotive language but by showing the facts we have discovered.

"A lot of people think that dairy is



like Old Macdonald's farm and a benign industry and we have come to the conclusion that is not the reality.

"We had representatives from different animal rights activists but the main groups were the Save Movement Scotland and Anonymous for the Voiceless who speak up for animals that can't speak up for themselves."

The National tried to contact Cheesefest organisers but there was no reply by the time we went to press.



Around 20 protesters displayed anti-dairy slogans, main, outside the Cheesefest event



# Universities join forces to boost health using data

Group of six Scottish institutions are selected as part of £54m UK-wide project

BY MARTIN HANNAN

A HISTORIC combination of six Scottish universities has been selected for a £54 million programme to improve health through better use of data.

The universities of Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, St Andrews, and Strathclyde have joined together for the first time in the field of data science and have been selected to be part of a UK-wide project.

Health Data Research UK is awarding £30m to six sites across the UK – Scotland, Wales/Northern Ireland, London, Cambridge, Oxford and the Midlands – with a further £24m to be invested later to address healthcare challenges using data science.

Each of the six sites has world-class expertise and a track record in using health data to derive new knowledge, scientific discovery and insight. They will work in close partnership with NHS bodies and the public to trans-

late research findings into benefits for patients and populations.

A statement from Health Data Research UK said: "From April this year, the six sites will work collaboratively as foundation partners in Health Data Research UK to make game-changing improvements in people's health by harnessing data science at scale across the UK.

"Each site's research organisations will receive long-term funding awards and will become part of a collaborative research community working together to deliver the priorities of Health Data Research UK. This initial funding is awarded following a rigorous application process, which included interviews with an international panel of experts."

Professor Andrew Morris, director of Health Data Research UK, said the project was a unique opportunity for scientists, researchers and clinicians to use their expertise to transform the health of the population.

He said: "The six HDR UK sites,

comprising 22 universities, research and NHS organisations, have tremendous individual strengths and will form a solid foundation for our long-term ambition. By working together and with NHS and industry partners to the highest ethical standards, our vision is to harness data science on a national scale.

"This will unleash the potential for data and technologies to drive breakthroughs in medical research, improving the way we are able to prevent, detect and diagnose diseases like cancer, heart disease and asthma."

This is the first phase of investment to establish Health Data Research UK. A further £24m will be invested in upcoming activities, including a Future Talent Programme and work to address targeted data research challenges through additional partnership sites.

Health Data Research UK is a joint investment co-ordinated by the Medical Research Council, working in partnership with the British Heart



This will unleash the potential for data to drive innovation in medical research

Foundation, the National Institute for Health Research, the Economic and Social Research Council, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, Health and Social Care Research and Development Division (Welsh Government), Health and Social Care Research and Development Division (Public Health Agency, Northern Ireland), the Chief Scientist Office of the Scottish Government Health and Social Care Directorates, and Wellcome.

Professor Cathie Sudlow, who will lead the project in Scotland, said the announcement aligned with recent investment in the Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Deal, which aims to make Edinburgh the data science capital of Europe.

Professor Sudlow, who is Head of the Centre for Medical Informatics at the Edinburgh University's Usher Institute, said: "This capitalises on our world-leading health and informatics research capabilities and Scotland's exceptional data assets."

# 'Serious questions' about East Coast rail

BY BRIDGET MORRIS

THE UK Government Transport Committee is launching an inquiry into the InterCity East Coast rail franchise.

The committee said there are "serious questions" to be asked, adding that they will look at the best way forward, and the wider implications for the rail franchising system.

Earlier this month, Transport Secretary Chris Grayling announced that the Stagecoach-led franchise would only be able to continue in its current form for a "very small number of months".

Lilian Greenwood, who is the chair of the Transport Committee, said: "This failure – not once, but three times – has drawn criticism from all corners.

"There are serious questions to be asked of the train operator, Network Rail and ministers, and the Transport Committee intends to ask them.

"The failure of the East Coast franchise has wider implications for rail franchising and the competitiveness of the current system.

"Lessons need to be learned by all

concerned. In the meantime, the Department for Transport must take the right steps to protect passengers and taxpayers.

"Safeguards must be put in place to restore public confidence in the sustainability of our railways."

A Stagecoach Group spokesman said: "Virgin Trains East Coast is a well-run, profitable railway and we are continuing to meet our contractual commitments, as we have done throughout the past 21 years in operating train services on behalf of the government

"We are progressing our £140 million investment plans, topping franchise league tables for customer satisfaction and delivering 30 per cent higher payments to the taxpayer than when the route was in public ownership, and we are happy to assist the work of the Transport Committee."

A Department for Transport official said: "The Transport Secretary has been clear over the issues facing the East Coast rail franchise and the next steps we will take to protect services for passengers.

"We will work with the Transport Select Committee on this inquiry."



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# Global share crash is a \$5trn warning sign

**L**AST week three things happened that suggest the world – Scotland very much included – has entered a bumpy new economic phase. So fasten your seat belts.

First up: that global drop in share prices. Now shares go up and down, as everyone knows. But this was different. For starters, this mini crash came after a long and very unusual period of market stability – a bit like the point where animals go quiet before an earthquake. This made the tumble all that more frightening. In barely a week, share prices have lost a 10th of their value. Put another way, in the

Capitalism remains unstable ... but Scotland can do something about it

past fortnight the value of global companies has crashed by around \$5 trillion – roughly twice the entire output of the UK.

We need to put this into perspective. This drop was not that huge, given that share values had ramped up from the start of the year. Call it the froth coming off the market. But everyone in finance knows it is a warning sign. This past decade we have lived through the biggest rise in share values in history. This rise has been driven artificially by two factors. First, central banks printing money (aka quantitative easing) deliberately aimed at boosting share purchases. And second, by low interest rates engineered via those same central banks. Cheap credit lets companies borrow to pay out high owner dividends, which in turn props up the shares irrespective of how well the company is really performing (think Carillion).

So why are markets getting jittery now? The main reason is the return of inflation. Last week's sell-off was triggered on Wall Street after a report that US wages are rising steeply. Normal folk would consider this a blessing as it raises standards of living and boosts consumption. Investors, who are not normal folk, only see squeezed profits and rising prices. In turn, central banks will try to curb that inflation by ending quantitative easing and raising interest rates steeply for the first time in 10 years (as the Bank of England threatened on Thursday). Cue a rush to dump shares.

This sell-off was exacerbated by the fact that most share trading in the world is now done by robots. They buy and sell in nanoseconds based on average market trends. So if the market is rising, they buy. Which then makes the market rise again, and so on. This explains the lack of volatility in share prices that

has seemed so spooky over the past year. However, if markets tip the other way and start to fall, then the robots start selling in nanoseconds. Result: last week's instant crash. (Incidentally, if trading is done by robotic algorithms, why are you paying your pension fund so much in "expert" management fees? Answer: because you are being ripped off.)

Where are we now? Because shares are down a bit, there will be investors hunting bargains. For instance, despite the market drop, a lot of cash went into high-tech shares last week. So we could see shares see-sawing up and down for a bit yet. But in the longer run, sentiment has changed profoundly. Investors now expect a permanent "correction" – code for a serious collapse in share values. And that spells economic trouble.

Why? Because rising interest rates – the bottom line from all this – will expose lots of zombie companies, which will then go bust. As we noted above, companies have used low interest rates to borrow hand over fist. In the past six years, non-financial companies increased their debt holdings massively. Standard and Poor's, the ratings agency, calculates that 37 per cent of companies are now "highly leveraged" – code for being unable to pay their loan debt if interest rates rise. Oops.

The second big economic event of last week happened on Thursday when the US Republicans voted to end austerity. Actually, the US right has talked more about austerity than practicing it, over the past decade. But now they have given up pretending to be in favour of fiscal discipline (though they attacked Obama for spending too much). The US Senate has just voted to boost discretionary spending by \$300 billion over the next two years and cut taxes by \$1.5trn. As a result, US government borrowing will soar, hitting \$2.1trn a year. In relative terms, President Trump will be borrowing twice as much per annum (and rising) than miserly Chancellor Hammond.



Why is this important? Faced with growing economic volatility, competition from China and a return to a world of higher interest rates, the Trump administration has decided to abandon the norms of fiscal prudence beloved of Tory politicians in the UK. Instead, Trump will offset the impact of rising interest rates on US company debt by cutting business taxes to the bone. He will boost company sales by massive federal borrowing and spending, especially on arms and infrastructure projects. The Donald is a misogynist boor but he represents the interests of US capitalism and he does it well. Memo to all Tory Brexiteers: if you think President Trump will offer the UK a sweetheart trade deal, think again.

The third big event of last week was the announcement from the Bank of England that interest rates would rise ... but not just yet. Once again, Dr Carney at the bank talked a good game, then did absolutely nothing. This is curious as inflation



George Kerevan



in the UK is picking up far faster than in America or Europe. One explanation is that the bank is under pressure from shambolic British industry not to make life more difficult. The other reason is that any rise in interest rates will lead to a big jump in the amount the Treasury must pay out for its borrowing. That will squeeze cash for the NHS unless Chancellor Hammond borrows more. Cue a political crisis whatever happens. My bet is that friendless Mr Hammond has his coat at the Treasury hanging on a shoogly peg. Jacob Rees-Mogg for Chancellor, anyone?

What should Scotland do, given these increasingly choppy economic waters? The Scottish economy suffers from a massive dearth of private investment. That gap can only be filled by public investment or through the new Scottish Investment Bank. Finding the necessary capital may run up against Treasury rules. I've argued before that Scottish Government and MPs need to play

**The mini crash came after a long and very unusual period of market stability**



Rising interest rates will expose lots of zombie companies

hardball with the Treasury, including defying those rules. If we believe we have sovereignty, let's use it. Playing the Westminster constitutional game means being defeated in the Commons voting lobbies every time. The next independence referendum should be about something the voters can understand – preferably the sovereign right of an elected Scottish Parliament to decide how Scottish taxes are raised and spent.

Will share prices fall further? Undoubtedly, for the market is still artificially high. When that great "correction" will come is anyone's guess. Yet there's a silver lining. The Scottish Government should move now to create a publicly owned, sovereign wealth fund. The bottom of the market will be the best time for this fund to buy shares – earning profits to fund the welfare state and giving Scotland more control over its own economic destiny. The lesson of the past week is that capitalism remains inherently unstable. Let's do something about it.

# Call to roll out new homeless initiative

BY MARTIN HANNAN

A SCHEME that puts homeless people into permanent homes first without having to go through periods in temporary accommodation should be rolled out across Scotland, according to MSPs.

Holyrood's Local Government and Communities Committee says the Housing First strategy should be introduced nationwide to help tackle homelessness and rough sleeping.

The committee's report follows the successful introduction of Housing First in some part of Scotland. It has already been used effectively in Finland – the only country in Europe where homelessness has declined.

Housing First prioritises a person's unconditional right to a permanent home without the need to engage with housing support services or several levels of temporary accommodation first.

The scheme's roll-out across the country is one of a series of recommendations in a report published following the committee's year-long inquiry into the causes of and long-term solutions to homelessness in Scotland.

The latest figures show councils received more than 34,800 applications for homelessness assistance in the year to September 2017.

Evidence presented to the committee suggested Housing First was the most suitable method for supporting homeless people with complex needs, such as drug and alcohol addictions, mental health issues or offending behaviour.

Turning Point Scotland, one of the first organisations to implement the model in Scotland, said the initiative meant individuals did not have to demonstrate commitment to maintaining a tenancy or progress in recovering from their addictions before they were

given a permanent tenancy accompanied by the right support.

In Finland, the scheme's widespread use has resulted in "dramatic improvements in individuals' health and wellbeing and in tenancy retentions".

The committee's report states: "In many cases, it was found that for those who had had problems with substance and alcohol misuse, their using reduced dramatically or stopped when they were given a secure tenancy and the right support."

Convener Bob Dorris said: "After hearing directly from people who are homeless and those who have experienced sleeping on the streets or sofa-surfing, as well as service providers on the front line, it was clear that further action is needed.

"That's why our committee has recommended that the Scottish Government learns from Finland and rolls out a Scottish version of Housing First, as a part of a potential solution to addressing homelessness."

Housing Minister Kevin Stewart said: "I welcome the committee's report, which will help inform the steps we are already taking to address this important issue.

"Scotland has some of the strongest housing rights for homeless people, but as this report highlights, for some people – who may have more complex needs or be rough sleeping – simply providing accommodation is not always enough.

"That approach is at the heart of developments such as the Housing First model, which is already being delivered in areas of Scotland and has shown great results so far, along with our wider focus on prevention through Housing Options."

"The committee has highlighted a number of important areas for further work which I will consider fully and carefully."

# JET CRASH IN RUSSIA KILLS ALL 71 PEOPLE ON BOARD

BY GREG RUSSELL

**T**HERE were no survivors from a passenger plane that crashed near Moscow, according to Russia's transport minister.

The AN-148 regional jet disappeared from radar screens shortly after taking off from Moscow's Domodedovo Airport yesterday afternoon.

Maxim Sololov said that "judging by everything, no-one has survived this crash".

News reports said a total of 71 people – 65 passengers and six crew – were on board Flight 703, which was heading for the city of Orsk, near the southern tip of the Ural Mountains, around 1000 miles south-east of Moscow.

Wreckage was found in the Ramenskoye area about 25 miles from the airport, but it was unclear if there were any casualties among people on the ground at the crash site.

Russia's emergency situations ministry said: "Several minutes after take-off, radio connection with the crew disappeared, the plane's mark disappeared from radars."

The ministry posted the names of passengers and crew members online yesterday – a list revealing that at least three children were on board the plane.

A spokeswoman for the Orsk city administration, Yelena Abramova, told the Interfax news agency that one of the passengers was a Swiss citizen.

Fragments of the plane and many bodies were found near the village of Stepanovskoe, said the official news agency Tass, quoting a spokesman for the emergency services, who said "rescue workers, ambulances and firefighters" were headed to the site of the crash, an open field.

Andrei Kulakov, who heads the administration in the Ramenskoye district, told state news channel Rossiya 24: "The snow is deep, we need heavy-duty equipment."

Video broadcast from the scene



Wreckage from the flight between Moscow and Orsk was found 25 miles away from the departure airport



showed rescuers slogging through snowy fields to try to reach the crash site and a piece of the plane protruding from the snow.

Investigators and emergency crews could be seen working at the snow-covered scene,

Tass quoted one source as saying: "Debris has been found, there are no survivors."

It was not immediately clear what caused the crash and the Russian transport ministry was considering a number of possibilities, including weather conditions and pilot error, according to Interfax.

Russian news website gazeta.ru quoted unnamed investigators as saying the pilot had reported a malfunction and requested clearance for an emergency landing.

The Interfax news agency said witnesses reported that they saw a burning plane fall to the ground.

It quoted Sergei Sheremetsinsky, a spokesman for the regional governor, as saying that all passengers were residents of the Orenburg region, which sits on the boundary between Europe and Asia.

President Vladimir Putin postponed a planned trip to Sochi to closely monitor the investigation.

He was due to meet Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian leader, in the Black Sea resort where the president has an official residence.

Instead, Abbas is expected to meet Putin in Moscow later this afternoon, said his Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov.

Russian media said the crashed short-haul jet belonged to Saratov Airlines. Tass said it had first flown in 2010, with a two-year break because of a shortage of parts.

A subsidiary of Aeroflot - Rossiya Airlines – ordered the aircraft, but it was put into storage between 2015-17 because of a lack of parts.

Tass said it re-entered service for Saratov in February 2017.

Flightradar 24, the flight-tracking website, said on social media that the jet was descending at the rate of 1000m (3300ft) per minute shortly after take-off.



## Police arrest driver as 17 dead after packed bus crashes





#### ● CHINA

NINETEEN people have been killed and dozens injured in Hong Kong's worst traffic accident since 2003.

A double-decker bus, which is thought to have been speeding, lost control and crashed in a local suburb, according to city authorities.

Passengers who were on board the bus have been quoted by local media as saying the double-decker was full and travelling very fast.

Local police have launched an

investigation and have arrested the driver on suspicion of dangerous driving.

The crash left 15 men and four women dead and sent more than 60 others to hospital.

Photos and videos, published by local media and posted on social media, showed the bus lying on its side while emergency workers treated injured passengers.

TV channels broadcast footage of rescuers cutting open the roof of the bus, operated by the Kowloon Motor

Bus Company. Viewers also saw images of the bodies of passengers, laid out on the ground, covered in white sheets.

Multiple passengers, interviewed by the TVB and Cable TV news channels, said the bus was speeding.

None of the passengers that were interviewed were identified by name.

The South China Morning Post newspaper reported that the crash was the Asian financial centre's deadliest traffic accident since a 2003 bus crash killed 21 people.

## Airstrikes on Iranian bases in Syria mark escalation in military action



An Israeli F-16 jet was downed in the operation targeting Iranian sites in Syria

#### ● ISRAEL

BY SIMON PETERSON

AN Israeli minister has said that the country will not tolerate an Iranian military foothold on its doorstep after devastating Israeli air attacks on key Iranian sites in Syria.

The wave of airstrikes came after Israel intercepted an Iranian drone infiltrating its airspace, and an Israeli F-16 was downed upon its return from Syria on Saturday.

It was Israel's most serious engagement in neighbouring Syria since fighting there began in 2011 and the strongest air assault on the country in decades.

Intelligence Minister, Yisrael Katz, said it will take the Iranians time to "digest, understand and ask how Israel knew how to hit those sites".

The Israeli military said it hit four Iranian positions and eight Syrian sites, causing significant damage and destroying the Syrian military's main command and control bunker.

Israeli jets came under heavy Syrian anti-aircraft fire and the pilots of one of the F-16s had to eject as the plane crashed in northern Israel. One pilot was seriously wounded and the other lightly.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the airstrikes killed at least six Syrian troops and allied militiamen.

Though Israel has largely stayed out of the Syrian conflict, it has struck weapons convoys destined for Hezbollah dozens of times since 2012 and previously shot down several drones that tried to infiltrate its territory from Syria.

The capture of an Iranian drone and the direct targeting of Iranian sites, however, marks a dramatic escalation.

Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has held several consultations with Russian president Vladimir Putin, who backs Assad's government and maintains a large military presence in Syria.

The US backed Israel and expressed deep concern over recent violence.

Heather Nauert, a State Department spokeswoman, said the US "strongly supports Israel's sovereign right to defend itself".

She added: "The US continues to push back on the totality of Iran's malign activities in the region and calls for an end to Iranian behaviour that threatens peace and stability."

# The world in brief

## ●SOUTH AFRICA

### Executive talks to decide fate of president

THE African National Congress (ANC) has scheduled an emergency meeting of its national executive committee to resolve the future of under-pressure president, Jacob Zuma.

Incumbent president, Zuma, and deputy president, Cyril Ramaphosa, have been locked in talks for five days and the latest announcement may signal the end for the president.

The national executive committee meeting, scheduled for t could result in Zuma being ordered to resign.

The president has spent almost a decade in power, much of which has been marred by financial uncertainty and allegations of corruption.

Ramaphosa, an anti-apartheid campaigner and businessman, defeated the president in December elections for the ANC's leadership but the emergency meeting indicates that the transition process is not going as smoothly as was hoped.

Addressing crowds outside of Cape Town's St George's Cathedral, Ramaphosa announced that he wanted the situation to be resolved with "care and purpose".

"We'd like to thank the congregation for their total support as we manage this transition, as we move ahead," he told reporters.

The ANC took charge of South African politics in 1994 after the apartheid regime collapsed, but this latest episode is threatening party stability.



Gui Minhai appeared on state television

## ●SWEDEN

### China suspects scheme

SWEDEN are facing allegations of attempting a complex plot to "save" a Chinese bookseller.

Gui Minhai, a Honk Kong businessman with Swedish citizenship, was reportedly duped by a scheme designed to release him from Chinese detention.

Since 2015, Minhai has routinely been in custody and was prohibited from travelling abroad after allegations of "illegally providing national secrets and intelligence to overseas groups", according to Chinese newspaper, The Global Times.

On 20 January, while en route to Beijing to see a Swedish doctor, Minhai, a suspected ALS patient,

was arrested in the presence of two accompanying Swedish diplomats.

On Friday, he appeared on state television. He said: "Looking back, I might have become Sweden's chess piece. My wonderful life has been ruined and I would never trust the Swedish ever again."

The Global Times accused Sweden of attempting to "demonstrate its diplomatic heroism by 'saving the bookseller'".

The confession "changes nothing", Katarina Byrenius, of the Swedish foreign ministry said.

"We continue to demand that our citizen be given the opportunity to meet with Swedish diplomatic staff and medical staff."

## ●PAKISTAN

### Tributes pour in for celebrated human rights campaigner



Lawyer Asma Jahangir helped set up Pakistan's first legal aid centre

A FORMER Nobel Peace Prize nominee and human rights activist, Asma Jahangir, has died at the age of 66.

The Pakistani campaigner, who originally trained as a lawyer, died in hospital in Lahore on Sunday morning after a cardiac arrest, according to local media reports.

Jahangir made a name for herself championing women's rights, promoting democracy and standing up for minority groups.

Pakistani Prime Minister, Shadid Khaqan Abbasi, has praised her "immense contributions towards upholding rule of law, democracy and safeguarding human rights".

The activist became the co-founder of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan in 1987 and helped set up the country's first ever legal aid centre.

Before then, she had played a crucial role in the establishment of the Pakistani Women's Action Forum - a women's rights organisation which does lobbying and advocacy on behalf of women across the country.

Malala Yousafzai, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, said she was "heartbroken" to hear the news.

She tweeted: "We lost Asma Jahangir - a saviour of democracy and human rights."

"The best tribute to her is to continue her fight for human rights and democracy."

Jahangir's work was recognised with a Unesco/Bilbao prize for human rights campaigning in 2010 and a Nobel Peace Prize nomination in 2005.

## ●UNITED STATES

### Tourist chopper in canyon crash

THREE people have been killed after a tour helicopter crashed in the Grand Canyon.

Four others were injured when the aircraft crashed at around 5.20pm local time (12.20am GMT) on Saturday.

A Federal Aviation Administration spokesman said aerial tour company, Papillion's Eurocopter EC130 crashed in unknown circumstances in Arizona and sustained heavy damage.

An investigation is under way.

# Period taboo threatens both health and dignity

**P**ERIODS are something of a watershed moment in a girl's life. Something many look forward to, while others dread. Whatever flavour the anticipation, it's a definitive moment that marks the end of childhood, at least biologically, in a way that boys will never experience.

Like with many hotly anticipated things, the novelty soon wears off. The reality of bleeding once a month for most (fewer times or more for others) inculcates girls into the world of whispers, stigma and shame about their bodies. Whoever you are, however long you've had a period, or however long since, everyone has a negative story linked to that most natural and remarkable of bodily processes. And despite it being the very bedrock of life itself, those stories are invariably painful and stored in perfect clarity.

This week I saw two headlines that hammered home how far we have to go to take the shame out of menstruation. In Arizona, an all-male panel of lawmakers is deciding whether female inmates can have more than 12 pads a month. As anyone who's had a period will know, that's a ration that will leave women wearing pads for too long, or running out too quickly.



Either way, women's dignity and health suffer. These women face punishment for bleeding on their uniforms. Punishment that can prevent them from using the prison store to buy more of the pads they need. A frankly absurd state of affairs in 2018.

Closer to home, a Women for Independence poll reports that one in five Scottish women can't afford basic sanitary items, foregoing them for food and household essentials. Instead, they resort to using rags, old clothes, socks and newspaper to manage their bleeding. Many can't afford to change their sanitary items often enough, affecting their health: causing thrush, urinary tract infections and risking deadly toxic shock syndrome.

That's without considering the impact of these measures on well-being and mental health, and how women and girls can be prevented from participating fully in school, work, or education, passing up social events, increasing their sense of isolation and affecting their self-esteem.

This is Dickensian. How can this be the case in a prosperous country? How can women and girls still be losing out to our basic biology? We can put Juno into space to photograph Jupiter – but there are still girls missing out on school because of their periods. Something has gone very wrong here.

So unpleasant is the sight of blood, apparently, that for decades women have been forced to watch women skydiving or floating around in white dresses (as if!) whilst a pad absorbs a beaker of mysterious blue liquid. From this, we're expected to assess how well it might catch bits of womb lining so that we might go about our, by contrast, very ordinary days without incident. All this squeamishness around menstruation coinciding with the golden age of slasher flicks. Read: blood spurting from a hacked-up body – fine; blood trickling out of a vagina – obscene.

However progressive we like to imagine ourselves, periods are still taboo. They're still shrouded in myths. The secrecy and stigma around our reproductive systems contribute to the lack of progress we see here. I know there will be plenty reading this who find such frank



Condoms are freely available; not so sanitary items

discussions uncomfortable – but these are conversations we need to have, not just girl to girl, woman to woman, but publicly, without euphemism.

Talking about these news stories with other women was a stark reminder of how difficult periods can be without the added complexities of life. I received hundreds of deeply personal anecdotes that show how often they limit us, controlling what we can do, however privileged we might be in other regards.

I heard about Brazilian inmates using stale bread-crumbs as improvised tampons. I heard from a surgeon who was told by a male she would never make it because she had to leave to change her tampon during an eight-hour procedure. I heard from girls who started before anyone had given them the "talk", so they thought they were dying. I heard about a girl bleeding through a white gi during her first karate exam. Bleeding on ponies, in pools or through uniforms. Skipping school because of pain or inability to afford pads. Girls being forced to explain they were on their period in front of their classmates. There was a woman reported to HR for "smelling". Girls pelted with tampons and pads.

A woman told me how as a teen

she'd bled into her underwear, hidden it in her room until she could figure out what to do, and was held against the wall by her throat when her dad found them. There were women and girls who bled through clothes, into their shoes, onto shop floors, carpets, bus seats, school seats and boardroom chairs. Trans men whose periods trigger and intensify their gender dysphoria. Stories of bleeding onto someone else's bed sheets, being rejected by sexual partners, and being so poor you make do with wads of toilet paper. There were Catholic mothers so concerned about virginity they forbade tampons. And this is all without touching on the pain that can be so bad it causes vomiting, migraines and fainting.

When confronted with the reality of menstruation, how it limits even those who have no problems paying for sanitary items, the lengths women go to so they can manage and conceal their periods, it's baffling to think we're still so far behind in attitudes and provisions. You can walk into any health clinic or pharmacist and walk away with free condoms. How can it be that half of us go through this, and provisions are considered a luxury rather than basic healthcare?

Thankfully, we have people like Victoria Heaney, who created #FreePeriodScotland after her mother contracted deadly toxic shock syndrome due to using tampons for too long as a skint single parent. She's working to break down stigma and ensure menstrual justice for everyone. And we have our First Minister, who has promised free sanitary items will be available in all schools by the autumn. This is a vital step in tackling the very real but rarely discussed issue of period poverty. But this needs to extend beyond school.

No-one should have to choose between their dignity and health or paying their bills. No-one should have to feel ashamed about what their bodies do or about not being able to hide it. We've a long way to go, but you can help make a difference now. The next time you're shopping, pop some towels or tampons into the collection box. That packet can mean as much to someone as a much-needed meal.



We put Juno into space to take pictures of Jupiter – but girls still miss school due to periods

Vonny Leclerc

TOMORROW:  
CAT BOYD



# Why Byron?

**On either side of Robert Burns were two major Scottish poets writing predominantly in English: James Thomson and George Gordon, Lord Byron. Their work is worth revisiting, writes Alan Riach**

**J**AMES Thomson (1700-48) was one of the most influential Scottish poets ever, effectively inventing the genre of landscape poetry and invigorating that of landscape painting in his epic sequence *The Seasons* (1726-30, revised 1744). Born in Ednam, Roxburghshire, he was taken as a baby to Southdean, near Carter Bar on the border, and went to Edinburgh University. He moved to London, where he became well-known as a dramatist, most famously writing the lyrics of *Rule Britannia* for Thomas Arne's music in the anti-Jacobite play he co-authored with David Mallet, *The Masque of Alfred* (1740). But as the poet of *The Seasons*, his influence grew. Written in London, it processes boyhood memories but universalises the landscape it describes. It derives from Scotland, unmistakably in "Winter":

*Then comes the father of the tempest  
forth,  
Wrapt in black glooms. First, joyless  
rains obscure  
Drive through the mingling skies  
with vapour foul,  
Dash on the mountain's brow, and  
shake the woods  
That grumbling wave below. The  
unsightly plain  
Lies a brown deluge; as the  
low-bent clouds  
Pour flood on flood, yet unexhausted  
still  
Combine, and, deepening into night,  
shut up  
The day's fair face.*



This is exciting poetry: nature is a new subject. The poem's influence was extensive. Thomson started more than he knew. He describes Scotland explicitly in "Autumn", naming the river Tweed and praising the "patriot-hero" Wallace. Thomson's Wallace, however, is named with other heroes including Sir Francis Drake, opposing tyranny in a universal struggle. Any particularly Scottish character or landscape, like the poem as a whole, is sublimated into a general context. Joseph Haydn used a translation for the text of his three-hour oratorio.

The Anglocentric aspect of Thomson's work was characteristic of much Scottish writing of the time. James Beattie (1735-1803), professor of moral philosophy and an anti-slavery campaigner, was the author of the popular poem *The Minstrel* (1771-72) and, anonymously, of

a little book entitled *Scoticisms, Arranged in Alphabetical Order, Designed to Correct Improperities of Speech and Writing* (1779), itemising the idiomatic Scots aspects of writing that should be extracted from works addressing an English-language readership. Dr Johnson met him in London and liked him well enough.

In a world where British naval power was growing, Allan Cunningham (1784-1842), biographer of Burns, friend of Hogg, Scott and the English poet John Clare, wrote "A Wet Sheet and a Flowing Sea", a classic anthology poem of sailing ships:

*There's tempest in yon horned moon,  
And lightning in yon cloud;  
And hark the music, mariners,  
The wind is piping loud;  
The wind is piping loud, my boys,  
The lightning flashing free –  
While the hollow oak our palace is,  
Our heritage the sea.*

Such bravado in English however is matched by his lament from exile, written in Scots, "The Sun Rises Bright in France":

*The sun rises bright in France,  
And fair sets he;  
But he has tint the blithe blink he had  
In my ain country.*

It would be wrong to see literature in English, Scots and Gaelic as totally independent traditions in the 18th century: there were overlapping priorities, connections and continuities in their work, even when



their readers came from different constituencies.

For example, the vigour and vitality of humour and appetite, the unquenchable thirst for life in Burns at his best, or in Alasdair Mac Mhaighstir Alasdair or Duncan Ban MacIntyre, equally characterize the works of George Gordon, Lord Byron (1788-1824). Byron's praise of Burns applies as well to Byron: "What an antithetical mind! – tenderness, roughness, delicacy, coarseness – sentiment, sensuality – soaring and groveling, dirt and deity – all mixed up in that one compound of inspired clay!"

In *Don Juan*, Byron wrote: "I am half a Scot by birth, and bred / A whole one..."



A boy from Aberdeen, he was sent to the English public school at Harrow and then Cambridge. With effortless ease, he took flamboyance to excess. Nobody was more highly spirited. In Don Juan, Byron's satiric edge runs sharp through thousands of stanzas, bridging a classic Enlightenment laconicism, a sense of being cool, over to the high passionate gestures of isolated Romantic individualism, in the role of the outcast sinner. He maintains a fierce critical disdain towards the religious subservience of approaching Victorianism. Byron sustained a huge contempt of bourgeois values, simpering moralism and the idea that usefulness could only be measured by money. As a poet, he worked hard

but his laughter still shreds work ethic and piety.

If the ploughman Burns lived in a world where Holy Fairs and houghmagandie, public boxing, drinking sprees, music and dancing, were familiar enough in the yearly round, aristocratic Byron also exulted in such activities, and like Burns, Byron knew how earthy values crossed social strata. But by Byron's time, polite society was even more thoroughly committed to grinding down public festivities in fairs, sports and open air gatherings. Byron was a shock for polite, well-educated readers. He horrified his public. However, his wide and deep popularity was not founded merely on literary fashion and sensationalism, but on a broad

understanding of what he represented: ideas about defiance of oppression and the courage of self-determination. In Canto 12 of Don Juan, he says: "I'm going to be immoral, now / I mean to show things really as they are, / Not as they ought to be..."

Like Scott, Byron welcomed material improvements and new technology. He was privileged and comfortable enough to be able to dissent from the conventions of his class, but no-one could predict the intensity, energy and accuracy of his dissension, the lasting strength of the forms it took, in coruscating verse allied with the earthed values he recognised in Scott and Burns. The spirit of the ballad describing Macpherson's rant below the gallows

### "Lachin y Gair" by George Gordon, Lord Byron

Away, ye gay landscapes, ye gardens of roses!  
In you let the minions of luxury rove;  
Restore me the rocks where the snow-flake reposes,  
Though still they are sacred to freedom and love:  
Yet Caledonia, below'd are thy mountains,  
Round their white summits though elements war,  
Though cataracts foam 'stead of smooth-flowing fountains,  
I sigh for the valley of dark Loch na Garr.

Ah! there my young footsteps in infancy wander'd;  
My cap was the bonnet, my cloak was my plaid;  
On chieftains long perish'd my memory ponder'd,  
As daily I strode thro' the pine cover'd glade;  
I sought not my home till the day's dying glory  
Gave place to the rays of the bright Polar star;  
For fancy was cheer'd by traditional story,  
Disclos'd by the natives of dark Loch na Garr!

Shades of the dead! Have I not heard your voices  
Rise on the night-rolling breath of the gale?  
Surely the soul of the hero rejoices,  
And rides on the wind, o'er his own Highland vale.  
Round Loch na Garr while the stormy mist gathers,  
Winter presides in his cold icy car:  
Clouds there encircle the forms of my fathers;  
They dwell in the tempests of dark Loch na Garr.

Ill-starred, though brave, did no visions foreboding  
Tell you that fate had forsaken our cause?  
Ah! were you destined to die at Culloden,  
Victory crowned not your fall with applause:  
Still were you happy in death's earthy slumber  
You sleep with your clan in the caves of Braemar;  
The pibroch resounds, to the piper's loud number,  
Your deeds to the echoes of dark Loch na Garr.

Years have roll'd on, Loch na Garr, since I left you,  
Years must elapse ere I tread you again:  
Nature of verdure and flow'rs has bereft you,  
Yet still are you dearer than Albion's plain.  
England! thy beauties are tame and domestic  
To one who has roamed o'er the mountains afar:  
Oh! for the crags that are wild and majestic!  
The steep frowning glories of dark Loch na Garr.

**Byron of Rochdale in Albanian Dress, 1813, by Thomas Phillips; Far left: James Thomson, c1746, after John Patoun**  
Courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery

tree, his song, dance and defiance of his murderers and of death itself, was something Byron knew innately. In Canto 9 of Don Juan we read:

*Death laughs. Go ponder o'er the skeleton  
With which men image out the unknown thing  
That hides the past world, like to a set sun  
Which still elsewhere may rouse a brighter spring.  
Death laughs at all you weep for...*

From 1813 to 1824, Byron was the best-selling living poet. The reading public was expanding, in Scotland and internationally, eager for newspapers, critical review journals, novels, long narrative poems published in books.

The single most piercingly beautiful Scottish song in Byron's oeuvre is "Dark Lochnagar" but the rollercoaster satire of Don Juan, the arch, poised and posturing narrative poems such as "The Siege of Corinth" (1816), "The Prisoner of Chillon" (1816) and "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage" (1812-1818), all contributed to a European sense of the Byronic personality, opposed to convention, hypocrisy, "cant" and servile self-abnegation. Flawed but heroic, Byron like Burns thrives on his youth, and like Burns, died in his 30s.

*Next week: Susan Mansfield on a major new exhibition of Scottish art opening soon in Montrose, bringing portraits, landscapes, poems and biographies of modern Scotland into focus*



# THE RETURN



## PROFILE

### WHAT'S THE STORY?

IT may be set in France in the 16th century but rising star of Scottish playwriting, Ellie Stewart, believes audiences will respond to her new work on its forthcoming national tour.

"I'm excited about telling a European story at the moment in Scotland for lots of reasons – cultural, political and personal," she said. "The more we can all do to stop our horizons narrowing the better. I find it alarming what is happening with Brexit."

Called *The Return*, her play is inspired by the true story of Martin

Guerre who disappeared from his village in the Pyrenees but returned seven years later to his wife and young son. He was at first accepted then accused of being an imposter, tried and executed.

Stewart decided to write a play based on the story after her own return to the Pyrenees which she had first visited when she was just 20 years old. At that time (1990) she was a student at the University of St Andrews but had the chance to study in Toulouse for a year as part of the Erasmus scheme which encourages young people to travel and study abroad.

"I feel very lucky to have been part of that," she told *The National*. "There is a question mark over it now although I think the academics are trying to keep it separate from the political stuff that is going on."

### WHY IS BREXIT SO BAD?

STEWART fears leaving the EU will only make the UK more insular.

"My daughters at school are getting an international outlook because they have children from other countries such as Poland in their class. When I was growing up in Livingston you didn't really hear all those languages but that could change now too. I feel it is going to be more of an effort to keep a broad outlook."

It's possible that Martin Guerre went off to fight in the war between France and Spain and Stewart sees similarities between his return and the plight of today's refugees.

"Just like him coming back, people are arriving in this country

without any papers or documents," she said. "Some are managing to establish lives, then they are being sent away again. I felt there was a parallel with this guy who was an outsider but came in and played a role in the village and helped raise the boy."

She added: "The son has become a more important character as the piece has developed – it's that idea of the impact on the next generation."

"I also explore the whole notion of truth – that is an important word at the moment. I do feel quite strongly that there are myriad points of view, not just in this play but in society. However, many of these points of view are not being heard as everything is becoming very black and white."

### WHAT SPARKED HER FASCINATION?

STEWART first became interested in the story after seeing the 1982





**Clockwise from main:**  
**Greg Sinclair**  
**Emilie Patry,**  
**Thoren Ferguson,**  
**Ellie Stewart and a**  
**scene from the 1982**  
**film *The Return***  
**of *Martin Guerre***

film with Gerard Depardieu and Nathalie Baye.

"When I watched the film again recently, I was struck by the fact that the wife did not get to say much. I found it intriguing and wondered how much she knew and how that impacted on the family.

"Then there was my personal experience of going back to the Pyrenees and finding that the visit sparked lots of memories – it was that experience of going back to a place and finding it changed and then, more importantly, realising that you have changed in that time."

Stewart is delighted the play is touring the Highlands and the Central Belt.

"It's exciting that Eden Court is producing it. There is a great team working on it."

Directed by Philip Howard, former artistic director of Dundee Rep and the Traverse Theatre, the play is produced by the creative team behind the hugely successful Eden

Court production *Not About Heroes*. It stars Emilie Patry, Thoren Ferguson and Greg Sinclair, who plays his cello score live.

#### **HOW DID SHE GET TO THIS POINT?**

NOW living in Bathgate, Stewart was a teacher then began writing during her first maternity leave when she joined the local writing group.

Poet Magi Gibson was writer-in-residence in West Lothian at the time and Stewart, who found the group very encouraging, remembers vividly the moment she decided to try writing plays.

"This may sound funny but I remember Magi told me that I had written an 'interesting' poem then asked if I had ever thought about writing drama. I don't think she was being flippant though – it was more that my characters were coming through."

Stewart decided to develop her

skills with Playwrights' Studio Scotland and over the years made more space for her writing.

"It was gradual – my oldest girl is now 15 but I cut back on teaching and studied for an MLitt at Glasgow University."

With two other women she met through the Traverse Theatre, she founded the West Lothian-based Thrawn Craws writers' collective, and also writes for Village Pub Theatre.

Stewart's play *Hope and Joy* – about a woman who lays an egg – won the Tron Theatre's Progressive Playwright Award in 2016 and she hopes it will go on tour next year.

She also continues to write poetry and is currently writer-in-residence with Firefly Arts in West Lothian.

*The Return* begins its tour at Eden Court Theatre, Inverness, on February 15. More details can be found at [www.eden-court.co.uk](http://www.eden-court.co.uk)

## Saturdays star supports Bafta outfit blackout



ROCHELLE Humes has backed an outfit blackout by stars attending the Bafta Awards in support of Time's Up.

The former Saturdays singer, 28, is hosting the British academy's film awards red carpet which is expected to be full of black following a campaign in the wake of the industry's sexual assault scandal.

The move, which was reportedly first considered in a letter backed by some of Britain's biggest stars including Emma Thompson and Keira Knightley, is billed as standing side-to-side with those in the US who performed a similar gesture at the Golden Globes in January.

Humes said: "I think it's nice the UK can get behind it as well because we all feel strongly about the message."

"These sorts of events, the red carpets, and fashion are heavily reported on and that's the way the media cover these events the next day so to use it on the big platform is a good thing to do."

She added: "I think it's really nice to see everyone sticking together and speaking out and supporting one another in something that isn't right and isn't OK."

Asked if she thought harassment was prevalent in the music industry where she first

made her name, Humes said: "I don't think it's industry-specific, I think this is in several different industries ... Whether you're in music or in film or whether you're in accounts, it's not OK."

Last month US news site Deadline posted a copy of the letter which was circulated around Bafta attendees.

It called for stars to "continue the incredible movement this side of the Atlantic" and says wearing black is a "strong, unifying and simple statement" which supports people who have experienced sexual harassment and abuse or been held back due to an imbalance of power.

"We hope that those of us who are privileged enough to have a platform, can use it to raise awareness of the experiences of women beyond our industry, whose experiences are often silenced and marginalised," the letter reads.

It promised "exciting plans" and also invited attendees to bring a women's rights campaigner with them to the awards – another gesture performed by a number of stars at the Golden Globes.

Humes praised the Baftas for bringing in Joanna Lumley as host, adding: "I think it's nice to see a woman hosting, I just think it's going to be a really fun night."

**SUDOKU:** Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Medium

		4		7				
		7	9			4		
4		1		2	3	6		
	7						8	
2								5
8						1		
5	3		2	9				4
	8			1	9			
		2		7				

Evil

	7		8					2	
8		9							1
	1	3	6						
	6		3		2	1			
		4		1		2			
		2	4		6		3		
					9	3	1		
5						9			4
	9				8		5		

**MATHS SQUARE:** Use the numbers 1 to 9 (only once) to complete. Each row and column is an equation. Multiplication & division are performed before addition & subtraction.

	/		X		10
-		-		X	
	X		-		1
-		-		-	
	-		+		4
-1		-6		3	

**YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTIONS:** Medium and Evil

2	9	6	8	7	3	4	5	1
7	1	3	5	4	9	8	2	6
5	4	8	2	1	6	9	7	3
6	2	4	3	8	1	5	9	7
3	5	1	9	2	7	6	8	4
9	8	7	6	5	4	1	3	2
4	3	5	7	6	8	2	1	9
8	6	9	1	3	2	7	4	5
1	7	2	4	9	5	3	6	8

9	4	6	7	1	3	2	5	8
3	2	1	9	8	5	4	7	6
8	7	5	4	6	2	1	3	9
6	3	9	2	5	4	8	1	7
4	1	7	8	3	6	9	2	5
5	8	2	1	9	7	6	4	3
2	5	4	6	7	9	3	8	1
7	9	8	3	2	1	5	6	4
1	6	3	5	4	8	7	9	2

**YESTERDAY'S MATHS SQUARE SOLUTION**

6	+	9	X	2	24
/		X		X	
3	X	1	+	8	11
-		-		+	
5	+	4	+	7	16
-3		5		23	

1			2	3	4		5			6
	7					8				
9			10							
11				12						13
					14					
15	16									17
18					19					20
21										

**QUICK CROSSWORD**

**Across**

- 1. Despondency (12)
- 7. Vault (5)
- 8. Educate (5)
- 9. Undivided (3)
- 10. Prerogative (9)
- 11. Limited (6)
- 12. Incapacitate (6)
- 15. Custom (9)
- 17. Evil (3)
- 18. Correct (5)
- 19. Deduce (5)
- 21. 300th anniversary (12)

**Down**

- 1. Overthrow (12)
- 2. Diffident (3)
- 3. Involve (6)
- 4. Feeding (9)
- 5. Mortification (5)
- 6. Go-between (12)
- 7. Unsoiled (5)
- 10. Loyal to country (9)
- 13. Spindle (5)
- 14. Hanger-on (6)
- 16. Reason (5)
- 20. Charge (3)

**SATURDAY'S QUICK SOLUTION:**

**Across:** 4 Useless; 8 Unable; 9 Bristle; 10 Strive; 11 Drench; 12 Detonate; 18 Cataract; 20 Debase; 21 Strict; 22 Quality; 23 Intent; 24 Century. **Down:** 1 Outside; 2 Narrate; 3 Cloven; 5 Strident; 6 Lessen; 7 Splice; 13 Ancestor; 14 Mariner; 15 Statute; 16 Repute; 17 Hamlet; 19 Attend.

**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD**

		1		2		3		4		5		6				
7																8
9																
10										11						
13				14						15						
16		17				18		19				20				
22								23		24						
25																
				26												
																27

**ACROSS**

- 1 Put back mothball! (5)
- 4 Bean showing sign of life (5)
- 9 Hi! Where's your wee message? (4,3,4,4)
- 10 Perhaps we'd see a briny crop? (7)
- 11 Wear out car part (7)
- 12 Surge onward, sometime (3)
- 13 Could you be inclined to retch over worker? (7)
- 15 Get done with gun, end up in jail (7)
- 16 See radical leaving student - it's heart related (7)
- 19 Could Alistair prove content of Venn diagram? (7)
- 21 Past one's prime, even during Golden Age? (3)
- 22 Leonard rant targets light source (7)
- 23 Mailed out 1000 following Catch-22 (7)
- 25 Why Terry leaves gender issue to trained carer? (10,5)
- 26 Emergency call about the old man - tragic! (2,3)
- 27 Saturday left us with a late result (5)

**DOWN**

- 1 Desmond is unable to provide a counterpoint (7)
- 2 Sounds just like an old group of stalls? (5)
- 3 Complete run may be more spherical (7)
- 4 Act tender, in a quiet fashion (7)
- 5 Scots give authority to most in Ecclefechan! (9)
- 6 Cut over cross with ease, then get carry out (7)
- 7 Ruffians show you chess laws involving rook, bishop and king (13)
- 8 Rendezvous with the radicals in Campsie Glen (7,6)
- 14 He's sorting series for beneficiaries (9)
- 17 Why energy drops in south-east, then goes back on (7)
- 18 Cope with claim! (7)
- 19 Bit, and bob! (7)
- 20 Why earl and MP turn out to be eel-like (9)
- 24 Ship fits bin? (5)

**SATURDAY'S SOLUTION:**

**Across:** 1 Disagreeable 9 Heartache 10 North 11 Suitor 12 Imminent 13 Blanks 14 Greeting 17 Ovenbird 19 Zenana 21 Nobodies 23 Brooch 25 Ennui 26 Inorganic 27 Spellbinders

**Down:** 2 Inanimate 3 Artwork 4 Rich 5 Evermore 6 Bonfire 7 Erie 8 Photographic 9 Hash brownies 15 In a corner 16 Arterial 18 Bedside 20 Enraged 22 Binds 24 Yogi

See tomorrow's paper for today's solutions





РЕЛИЗ ГРУППЫ "What's News" VK.COM/WSNWS

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## Widen the indy debate beyond the SNP bubble

Top-down approach was a weakness of the 2014 Yes campaign

### Clarifications and corrections

It is our policy to correct errors as soon as we can and all corrections and clarifications will usually appear on this page.

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**A**s a Yes Leave voter can I commend Pete Wishart MP for his considered and timely article on tactics and strategy concerning the independence movement and the EU (We need a new case for indy and a gradual plan for full membership of the EU, The National, February 9).

If the SNP leadership had shown the same sensitivity to Yes Leave voters in 2016 as Mr Wishart does now, then perhaps the haemorrhage of 21 SNP seats at the last General Election could have been minimised. I can testify as to the validity of his analysis as during the 2017 local elections I encountered many disillusioned long-term SNP supporters on the doorsteps who were quite vocal in telling me they were thinking about not voting SNP at the forthcoming General Election due to the party's rigidly pro-EU policy.

I feel less engagement at the analysis of Mr Wishart on the question of how to promote the independence case, as he accepts the flawed logic of focusing on what he calls the "roadmap" to independence when in reality that should be quite secondary to the primary aim of promoting a vision of independence, and what it means to ordinary Scots. It is the destination which needs to be sold, not the mechanism we use to get there.

I applaud the call by Mr Wishart for an inclusive debate on independence if it means including those outwith the SNP leadership bubble, and indeed outwith the party itself to take in non-aligned Yes supporters like myself. Between

2012 and 2014 the SNP took a far too top-down and boxed-in approach to independence, and that became one of the serious weaknesses of the Yes campaign. A key example of this was the flawed pro-Nato policy which did not reassure the American establishment one iota, but did limit the SNP's vision of what a non-aligned foreign policy could have been like outwith the Nato straightjacket.

**Cllr Andy Doig (Independent Renfrewshire Council)**

I'M writing with concern about the poll on the website on Friday asking who should be the next SNP deputy leader. Two of the most popular and most left-wing candidates, Mhairi Black and Tommy Sheppard, were not given as choices.

On a poll conducted on the Bella Caledonia Facebook group, Tommy Sheppard currently has 449 votes whilst Mhairi Black currently has 177 votes. The rest lag way behind with less than 70 votes. In fact three of those included on your poll (Joanna Cherry, Philippa Whitford and Pete Wishart) have less than 40 votes and James Dornan currently isn't showing on it. I appreciate that the Facebook poll has its limits but it at least shows that Sheppard and Black are very popular and many on the SNP and wider independence movement want either one of them to be deputy leader. Why weren't they included on The National's website poll?

I hope this is just an oversight, but there will be very influential figures within the SNP leadership



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Is Tommy Sheppard the people's choice for SNP deputy leader?

and also within the capitalist class who will not want to see Black or Sheppard standing. The National editorial should resist any such pressures and should release a new poll including Black and Sheppard, who I predict will be much more popular than the four on yesterday's poll.

**Ross Walker**  
Co-Editor of Revolution

REALLY good piece from Ivan McKee MSP (Independence was always the goal – and it's never been closer, The National, February 10). It is concisely written, tells it like it is but is also positive and realistically optimistic.

Unfortunately it will only be read by readers of The National. It deserves a wider readership.

Could it be printed as a leaflet and sent to every home?

**Anne Smith**  
Address supplied



## Real banks are pushed out by the 'zombies'

KEN Gow made an interesting point in The National about a Scottish National Savings bank (Letters, February 9).

Unfortunately there is a problem with this very sensible idea. The current fractional-reserve banking system, and the neo-liberal banking control system operated under the Bank of England in London, would prevent such a genuine bank from being able to operate in Scotland.

Indeed the excellent Airdrie Savings Bank, which came through the banking crises in 2007/8 without difficulty and which did not require a penny of public subsidy, was forced to close in April just last year because of the pressure on this "real" bank caused by the heavily taxpayer-subsidised "zombie" banks in the UK.

Real banks can't operate where interest rates are held artificially low because the big banks can create their own "phony" money from thin air and do not require depositors.

A real bank in community ownership would be a great asset to Scotland; but in order to establish this we need banking reform. I will be coming to Banchory on February 25 to speak on this subject (see Noticeboard).

**Andy Anderson  
Saltcoats**


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ON reading the article "MSP's treated with 'contempt' by Tory minister over Brexit impact reports" (The National, February 9), in regards to being given little notice and limited time to read the UK Government's Brexit assessments, I was reminded of how I felt reading Nigel Tranter's version of events, when the Scottish nobility had to sign the infamous "Ragman Rolls" in his Robert The Bruce Trilogy.

Although this was an imagined version of events recounting how the Scottish nobility were made to shuffle, in a long queue, behind Edward's seat to sign for their lands in Scotland, it perfectly summed up the utter contempt the ruling powers in England always had for the Scots.

The only difference is Tranter's tale was imagined. The Westminster Government's shameful treatment of Scotland's current leaders is not.

**Paul Malloy  
Greenock**

  
A temporary halt in North Sea oil and gas exports creates a noticeable problem for the UK's trade figures

YOUR article "Forties pipeline closure widens UK trade deficit" (The National, February 10) caught my eye. The article explained how the Office for National Statistics has said that the resulting temporary halt in oil exports, coupled with an increase in the cost of oil imports, had the largest impact on the UK's trade in goods figures gap in the last quarter of 2017.

So, if I read that right, a temporary halt in North Sea oil and gas exports of only a few weeks had the "largest impact on the UK's trade in goods figures" (which had worsened by £3.3 billion) over an entire trading quarter.

Interesting how North Sea oil and gas would be insignificant when discussing independence, but a temporary halt in exports creates a noticeable problem for the UK's trade figures. Oh really?

**Geoff Tompson  
Helensburgh**

## OUR ROADSHOW

OUR editor Callum Baird and the Wee Ginger Dug are hitting the road again:

- Tonight: **Arbroath** Bowling Club, 7pm
- February 28: The Harbour Lights in **Peterhead**, 7pm (free tickets from [bit.ly/PeterheadRS](http://bit.ly/PeterheadRS))
- March 6: Regal Community Theatre, **Bathgate**, 7pm
- March 14: Ravelston House Hotel in **Musselburgh**, 7pm
- March 29: Dumbuck House Hotel in **Dumbarton**, 7pm (with Martin Docherty-Hughes MP)
- April 20: **Lochgilthead**.

Watch this space for times, venues and further dates. If we haven't made it to your area yet and you'd like us to visit, please contact us via [roadshow@thenational.scot](mailto:roadshow@thenational.scot).



## WEBSITE COMMENTS

### Why are the media promoting Rees-Mogg?

**Nicola Sturgeon: If Northern Ireland stays in single market then it's a 'practical necessity' for Scotland**

I wonder why so much time is devoted to Rees-Mogg's utterings, by the MSM, especially the BBC? It's the same with Farage. Why did he get so much air time when he was only an MEP? The BBC and MSM are following the Tory government's wishes and promoting Brexit even though it will devastate these islands' economies.

**Kareen Rennie**

If Northern Ireland is allowed to stay in the single market then stopping Scotland will mean independence for us even quicker. Some illiterates will still vote No but many "common sencers" will see the truth, that Westminster are clinging on to Scotland for dear life. We are in control, we just don't realise it.  
**Gordon**

**How Jordan Peterson and his 12 Rules For Life get it all wrong**

Jordan Peterson is indeed a force to be reckoned with. Cathy Newman discovered this when she fired a slay of non-sequitur arguments against him and failed miserably as the professor politely corrected her. As for the lobster stuff, which he only uses as an example, at least he is on to something that is indeed scientific. When you yourself talk of "transcending binaries" as an evolutionary mechanism then you are speaking from ideology and not science. In fact evolutionary biology, as generally understood,

is not goal-directed. The "angry young white men" whom Peterson is resonating with have found a voice through his writings and a means of becoming better people. This is good news.

**Iain Duncan**

Yet another journalist completely misrepresenting what Peterson opposed about the Canadian law. He has made it clear a number of times that his opposition was to a specific part of the Bill which he viewed as compelled speech, not that he opposes trans rights.

If anyone bothered to do some proper research, maybe viewed more than just handy snippets to confirm your bias, they would see this. To suggest he hints at organising ourselves based on lobster behaviour due to a small anecdote to give his point clarity is just irresponsible journalism.

**Gordon Galloway**

**Scotland the Brand: Graham's CEO on why we must back our products**

Really glad to hear Mr Graham speaking up for Scotland. If only all the political parties in Holyrood would speak up to for Scotland too, along with the media. They could still believe in the Union as well as talking up Scotland and our brand.

**Andrew Murray**

Could it be the reason the only producer (as far as I'm aware) to criticise the removal of the saltire is Grahams? I think the smaller producers are scared to complain in fear of losing their contracts with the supermarkets!  
**John King**

## Notice board

● YES Edinburgh North and Leith will hold their next meeting on Wednesday from 7-9pm at Leith Dockers Club, 17 Academy Street.

● Craig Dalzell will visit Edinburgh Yes Hub, 31 Lasswade Road, on Friday to rebut the GERS figures. Tickets (£5) can be booked by emailing [yescafe.edinsouth@gmail.com](mailto:yescafe.edinsouth@gmail.com).

● Donald Smith and Elspeth Turner launch Tweed Dales: Journeys and Evocations at the Scottish Storytelling Centre on Thursday, February 15 at 6.30pm, telling the folklore stories and history of the landscapes of the Borders.

● Imagine Indy Lochee will take place at Lochee Parish Church Hall on Saturday, February 17 from 12.30-3pm. Family event with free cafe, the Yes Bikers, Dundee City Pipe Band and much more. Come and talk about the Independence Hope Tree – and find out about the Lochee Pound!

● Edinburgh CND is holding an open meeting on nuclear convoys on Wednesday, February 21 at 7pm at the Peace and Justice Centre, 5 Upper Bow, Edinburgh. A chance to hear from David Mackenzie of Nukewatch about its report Unready Scotland.

● Edinburgh Women for Independence-Independence for Women will be hosting a talk about Citizen's Basic Income on Saturday, February 17 from 2-4pm at the Serenity Cafe, 8 Jackson's Entry. Speaker Annie Miller has been involved in the debate about Basic Income for more than 30 years. All women welcome.

● Andy Anderson will talk about why Scotland needs its own currency on Tuesday, February 20 at Beacon Arts Centre, Greenock, from 7-9pm. Free tickets from [bit.ly/CurrencyGreenock](http://bit.ly/CurrencyGreenock). He'll also be at the Yes Centre in Banchory on February 25.

For full events listings see the new National Calendar at [www.thenational.scot/calendar](http://www.thenational.scot/calendar)

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### Retailers will always cater to the majority of customers

I RECEIVED an interesting reply from Sainsbury's when I complained about them branding Scottish produce with a Union flag.

To summarise their reply: their market research showed that Scots customers prefer to see the Saltire on Scottish produce. However, English customers prefer to see the Union flag on produce. Because of this, the Union flag is used for all produce.

I suspect, although Sainsbury's did not say so, that the St George's flag has connotations of far-right politics.

Interestingly, from the wording of the reply, the Union flag is seen as sufficiently English to satisfy English customers. The Union Jack is interchangeable with Englishness in a similar way to which the British monarchy anthem God Save the Queen represents English sporting teams. Other current examples are the references on radio and television to Prince William as future King of England and a TV programme about the art collection of Charles I referring to that UK monarch as the king of England. On a programme on Saturday night about Queen Victoria, the same error was made in referring to her as Queen of England.

Specifically in terms of Sainsbury's, the obvious conclusion is that Scottish customers are less important than English ones – hardly surprising in numerical terms and yet another instance of "being in bed with an elephant" – everything the elephant does will affect you!

Sainsbury's tell me that they will add my comments to their customer research! As they have chosen to ignore Scottish customers' preferences until now, I am not holding my breath. I will be shopping at Aldi and other shops which do not disrespect the Scottish brand.

Joan Savage  
Callander

IN answer to Lovina Roe's long letter (Letters, February 10), the whole point of an independent Scotland in the EU is that it would



indeed be more listened to than it is at Westminster.

We need only look at tiny Malta, recent President of the Council of the EU, and thus given the power to chair negotiations between other European states and take a lead on policy. We can look at other small countries such as Estonia, Latvia and Finland, not to forget Ireland, all thriving with access to the single market, to economic aid when needed and also to the security and power which comes with being part of a big economic and political bloc.

Ireland is a good example of the advantage of being in the EU not in the UK. From 2011-2013 it was given financial assistance by the EU and

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is "now set for the fastest Eurozone growth rate for the fourth year in a row" according to The Irish Times of May 8 2017, with their GDP settling at five per cent for 2017.

As well as being a good trading partner with rich natural resources, Scotland has a strategic geographic position. I think it would be welcomed as a member of the EU, and non-EU countries would also welcome it as an English-speaking entry point to the single market.  
Susan Grant  
Tain

LOVINA Roe's case falls at the first hurdle. The Catalan referendum was not sanctioned by the Spanish



## Picture of the day

SPRING is on the way, with crocuses starting to bloom in The Meadows in Edinburgh  
Photograph: Gordon Terris

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Government, which held the constitutional power on the issue. That meant that the EU had no choice but to formally ignore it. The Scottish independence referendum was negotiated with the UK Government, rendering it legitimate, and it was agreed by both parties that the result would be honoured, which guaranteed acceptance of the result by the EU.

The notion that the EU would provide any impedance to the membership of the country with most of Europe's oil and gas, and most of its fishing waters and a strategic control of the north Atlantic is absurd. In real terms all we would have to do would be to



There is nothing in the UK constitution to prevent the Scottish Parliament holding a referendum

negotiate such as our independent representation in it.

**Dave McEwan Hill**  
Sandbank, Argyll

"If we held an 'illegal' referendum ... a Westminster government could jail Nicola Sturgeon, Mr Wishart and other elected politicians with full support from the EU."

This is nonsense. Unlike in Spain, there is nothing in the UK unwritten constitution, or indeed in the Scotland Act, to prevent the Scottish Parliament authorising and holding a referendum. The only challenge to it would be civil, not criminal.

**Peter Piper**  
via [thenational.scot](mailto:thenational.scot)

## The long letter...

# If there is no indyref before Brexit, then all hope will be lost

**P**ETE Wishart MP says that we need a new vision (The National, February 9). No, what we need is a backbone to stand up to Westminster and Whitehall; we have the vision and the mandate already. I would urge both the SNP leadership and members, and the Yes movement, to stop and think about what we are up against and how we might overcome the odds. The words of the First Marquis of Montrose, James Graham, sums up our situation very succinctly:

*"...He either fears his fate too much  
Or his deserts are small  
That puts it not unto the touch  
To win or lose it all..."*

This, Mr Wishart, is what we should do about a second indyref and about our inexorable march to Brexit on England's say-so: a) seize the day and hold another independence referendum before March, 2019 with or without the Westminster government's consent; and b) hold a new Scottish EU referendum after independence, with all the options on offer – full membership, EEA, EFTA, no membership at all – after consultation with the EU. We have nothing to lose but our self-respect if we do not seize the day. We neither asked for Brexit nor voted for it; we were told that if we voted No, it was a guarantee we would remain in the EU, and it was the incentive to our EU residents to vote No in order to remain here, so we have a direct link between that No vote and Brexit, both used as a cosh to beat us into submission, and we have every right under international law and natural justice to seek our independence in these circumstances.

If Mrs May refuses consent to indyref2, then there is nowhere to go but out of the UK at that point. My only caveat would be to put it to Westminster and Whitehall that, if wholesale root-and-branch reform of the UK is undertaken – in which all four parts have full fiscal autonomy, have an equal voice in all decisions made, both domestic and foreign, in defence and in the oil and gas, etc – and a compromise reached with the EU on Brexit, or some form of mitigation, then we might be able to rethink our leaving.



**New vision call: Pete Wishart**

If the reaction is negative (with one week given to answer yes or no) as I would expect it to be – but you never know – then we inform Westminster and Whitehall that we will be taking steps to hold another indyref and, if successful, to move immediately to removing our MPs from Westminster and starting the dissolution process of the Treaty of Union, 1707. To that end, we should inform the UN and the EU of our intentions and invite impartial overseers to ensure the process is carried out properly, with the Scottish Electoral Commission's rules as the guide.

If we do not move on a second indyref before the UK leaves the EU and we are dragged out and into a dystopian, Tory-led/Labour-led/coalition government at Westminster, post-Brexit the SNP will lose support entirely – not because either it or supporters no longer want independence, at least as a last resort, but because all hope will be gone. The General Election should have been a wake-up call: we allowed the British/English nationalist alliance – with a mantra, "stopindyref2/ noindyref2", as the only policy on offer – to call the tune. Yes, it is a frightening prospect that those in Scotland who regard our country as a colony and/or as part of a Greater England may vote No in huge numbers again, but it is a risk we must take. If we do not do so, Mr Wishart, we are finished anyway. The leadership, including the new deputy leader, must take the initiative now and lead us out of the UK, if that is what it takes, or go down fighting if we lose again, because the SNP cannot hold Scotland indefinitely – no party could – and that might well prove true in 2021.

**Lorna Campbell**  
Address supplied

# TONIGHT'S TV PICK

## Who Wants to Be a Bitcoin Millionaire? – Panorama, BBC 1, 8.30pm

IN some quarters, Bitcoin is being hailed as the future of money. Unlike "real" cash, it's not backed by a government or properly regulated, but it is exchanged and held digitally by users. That initially made it an attractive proposition to some criminals, but now Bitcoin is going mainstream and is being openly marketed as an investment opportunity. This edition of Panorama learns more about what Bitcoin actually is, travelling to Iceland and Silicon Valley to learn more about where the currency is made and who has already become rich through it.

## Collateral, BBC 2, 9pm

JOHN Simm is essentially going head to head with himself this evening, as he stars in both STV's new drama series Trauma and this star-studded four-part crime thriller from writer David Hare. Carey Mulligan also stars as DI Kip Glaspie, who investigates when Syrian refugee, Abdullah Asif (Sam Otto), is shot dead while delivering a pizza. Kip is intrigued to discover that



John Simm as David Mars

his manager Laurie (Hayley Squires) sent Abdullah instead of her regular driver Mikey Gowans (Brian Vernel) to deliver the pizza to Karen (Billie Piper), the ex-wife of local MP David Mars (Simm). But the story gets even more complicated when Kip senses Abdullah's family are hiding something and Mikey tries to warn someone about the investigation.

## Julius Caesar Revealed, BBC1, 10.45pm

MARY Beard sets out on a quest to uncover the real Julius Caesar. She looks at how he became the autocratic ruler of Rome, the tactics of his military campaigns, his use of spin and PR, and the reasons behind his assassination on the Ides of March in 44 BC. The scholar also examines his surprising legacy right up to the present day.

## The World's Most Luxurious Airline, Channel 4, 9pm

THIS documentary reveals what first-class passengers expect when dining and dining in the skies – with Michelin-style food, limitless champagne, and a deluxe first-class suite. With exclusive access to Singapore Airlines, the film reveals the lengths the airline goes to building a first-class suite for the super wealthy, spending \$850 million over the course of four years.

## BBC ONE



Pointless, 5.15pm

**6.00 Breakfast (S)** **9.15 Live Winter Olympics 2018** Clare Balding presents coverage of the latest events on day three of the 23rd staging of the Games, which takes place in PyeongChang, South Korea, including the women's biathlon (S) **1.00 BBC News At One; Weather (S)** **1.30 Reporting Scotland; Weather (S)** **1.45 Doctors** Part one of two. Ruhma reports Heston missing (S) (AD) **2.15 The Coroner** Crime drama about a solicitor taking over the job of coroner in her childhood home town. A teenager is found dead at the foot of a tower. Starring Claire Goose (R) (S) (AD) **3.00 Escape To The Country** Alistair Appleton helps a couple find a property in the North Yorkshire countryside on their £400,000 budget, and he also traverses Stean Gorge on a series of high-wire cables (S) (AD) **3.45 Get Away For Winter** New series. Cameras follow friends and families as they work out how to fund and find a rental property abroad, beginning with a couple hoping to move to the Algarve (S) (AD) **4.30 Antiques Road Trip** Philip Serrell and Catherine Southon head to Birmingham and Stratford-upon-Avon (R) (S) **5.15 Pointless** Quiz show, hosted by Alexander Armstrong (S)

**6.00 BBC News At Six; Weather (S)** **6.30 Reporting Scotland; Weather (S)** **7.00 The One Show** Hosted by Matt Baker and Alex Jones (S) **7.30 The Forest** The Galloway Hills Rally draws crowds of visitors to the park. Last in the series (S); BBC News; Regional News (S)

**8.00 EastEnders** Max is confused by a delay in the funeral arrangements (S) (AD) **8.30 Who Wants To Be A Bitcoin Millionaire? – Panorama** Spencer Kelly investigates the virtual currency, spending time with the Bitcoin millionaires of Silicon Valley and meeting others who have been scammed out of their life savings (S) **9.00 Breadline Kids** Looking at the lives of families in Dumfries, Glenrothes, Glasgow and Aberdeen who are struggling to make ends meet (S)

**10.00 BBC News At Ten (S)** **10.30 Reporting Scotland; Weather (S)** **10.45 Julius Caesar Revealed** Mary Beard explores the life, reign and legacy of the Roman emperor, revealing how his influence is still shaping language, politics and people's everyday lives (S) (AD) **11.45 Have I Got Old News For You** Ed Balls hosts an edition of the satirical quiz from May 2017, with Henning Wehn and Janet Street-Porter joining captains Ian Hislop and Paul Merton to poke fun at the week's news (R) (S) **12.15 Live Winter Olympics 2018** Radzi Chinyanganya presents coverage of the latest events, including snowboarding and curling (S) **4.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018** Continued coverage of day four from PyeongChang, South Korea (S)

## BBC TWO



Two Doors Down, 10.00pm

**6.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018** Eilidh Barbour presents coverage of the latest events on day three in PyeongChang, South Korea, including alpine skiing (S) **9.15 Animal Park Easter Special** Ben Fogle and Kate Humble meet the osteopath helping to treat the arthritis of a rescued circus elephant (R) (S) **10.00 Homes Under The Hammer** Martin Roberts, Lucy Alexander and Dion Dublin view a house in Kent, a former bar in Llanelli, south Wales and a terrace in Croydon (R) (S) **11.00 Wanted Down Under** The Ramoths head to Perth for a trial week, where Lauren has her work cut out in persuading husband Lee that a move to Australia is the right thing for them and their children (R) (S) **11.45 Heir Hunters** A possible writing error on a census puts a Midlands team on the wrong track (S) **12.15 Bargain Hunt** Caroline Hawley and Ben Cooper help two brothers and a mother and daughter team search for items at the Royal Cornwall Showground in Wadebridge. Eric Knowles hosts (R) (S) (AD) **1.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018** Clare Balding and Hazel Irvine present continued coverage of the latest events on day three, including ski jumping and freestyle skiing (S)

**6.00 Eggheads** Quiz, hosted by Jeremy Vine (R) (S) **6.30 Great American Railroad Journeys** Michael Portillo travels from Santa Clara to Santa Cruz (S) (AD) **7.00 Winter Olympics – Today At The Games** Highlights from the third day in PyeongChang, South Korea (S)

**8.00 Only Connect** The Wanderers take on the Vikings in the third round (S) **8.30 University Challenge** The third of the quarter-final matches (S) **9.00 Collateral** New series. Crime thriller, starring Carey Mulligan (S) (AD)

**10.00 Two Doors Down** Cathy is distraught when she and Colin return from holiday to find their house has been burgled, especially as the culprit has taken her emergency stores of tranquillisers (S) (AD) **10.30 Newsnight (S)** **11.10 Weather (S)** **11.15 Odyssey** Odelle is confronted by Frank Majors after she flees from Omar's guards (R) (S) (AD) **11.55 Odyssey** Odelle wonders if she can trust Colonel Glen. Meanwhile, Peter discovers Societal Mining is investigating Joe (R) (S) (AD) **12.40 Sign Zone: Countryfile (R) (S) (SL)** **1.35 Sign Zone: Food: Truth Or Scare (R) (S) (SL)** **2.20 Sign Zone: Hugh's Wild West (R) (S) (AD) (SL)** **3.20 Weather For The Week Ahead (S)** **3.25 BBC News (S)**

## STV



The Martin Lewis Money ... 8.00pm

**6.00 Good Morning Britain** The Fizz join Jeremy Kyle and Kate Garraway to talk about their new single Up For The Fight, Cheryl's ice dancing skills and what they think of the UK's entry for Eurovision 2018 (S) **8.30 Lorraine** Entertainment and fashion news (S) **9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show** Guests air their differences (R) (S) **10.30 This Morning** Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby present celebrity chat and lifestyle features, including a look at the stories making the newspaper headlines and a recipe in the kitchen. Including Local Weather (S) **12.30 Loose Women** With James Martin and Alan Fletcher (S) **1.30 News (S); Weather 1.55 STV News (S); Weather 2.00 James Martin's American Adventure** New series. The chef goes on a culinary road trip around the United States (S) (AD) **3.00 Tenable** Five radio presenters take part (S) **3.59 STV Weather Central (S)** **4.00 Tipping Point** Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz show in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot (S) **5.00 The Chase** Bradley Walsh presents as Liz, Colin, Amelia and Wil work as a team to take on a ruthless quiz genius and secure a cash prize (S)

**6.00 STV News At Six (S); Weather 6.30 News (S); Weather 7.00 Emmerdale** Harriet confronts Laurel and demands to know the truth (S) (AD) **7.30 Coronation Street** Craig's obsession with Bethany affects his work, Eva's ruse to sidestep Adam backfires, and Nicola moves into number 11 (S) (AD)

**8.00 The Martin Lewis Money Show** A special edition focusing on student loans (S) **8.30 Coronation Street** Adam is stunned when Eva says she does not want him to go to America with her (S) (AD) **9.00 Trauma** New series. A man's 15-year-old son dies in hospital after being stabbed, and the grieving father blames the surgeon who tried to save him. Adrian Lester and John Simm star (S) (AD)

**10.00 News At Ten (S); Weather 10.30 Scotland Tonight** The day's headlines from a Scottish perspective (S); Weather **11.05 James Bulger: A Mother's Story** Trevor McDonald visits Liverpool to re-examine a crime that, 25 years on, continues to raise troubling questions. Including an interview with James's mother Denise Fergus (R) (S) (AD) **12.05 Next Of Kin** Mona and Danny are stranded within the terror cell. Last in the series (R) (S) (AD) **12.50 Teleshopping 1.50 After Midnight** News and conversation. Plus, classic clips from the archive **3.20 Alphabetical Quiz**, hosted by Jeff Stelling (R) (S) (SL) **4.10 ITV Nightscreen** Text-based information service (S) **5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show** Guests air their differences (R) (S) (SL)

## STV2

**6.00 This Is STV2 9.00 STV News & Weather 9.05 Live At Five 10.00 STV News & Weather 10.05 Film: Convoy (1940) 12.30 Scotland's City Safari 1.00 STV News At One 1.30 Gordon Ramsay's Ultimate Home Cooking 2.00 STV News & Weather 2.05 Film: The Man Between (1953) 4.00 STV News & Weather 4.05 The People's History Show 4.30 Fair City 5.00 STV News & Weather 5.05 Live At Five 6.00 STV News At Six 6.30 Fair City 7.00 STV News Tonight 7.30 Peter & Roughie's Football Show 8.30 Gordon Ramsay's Ultimate Cookery Course 9.00 STV News & Weather 9.05 Murder At 9 10.00 STV News At Ten 10.30 Peter & Roughie's Football Show 11.30 The People's History Teleshopping 1.00 STV News & Weather**

## ITV Border Scotland

As STV except: **1.55 ITV News Border (S)** **3.59 ITV Border Weather (S)** **6.00 ITV News Lookaround (S)** **10.30 ITV News Border (S)** **10.45 James Bulger: A Mother's Story (R) (S) (AD)** **11.45 Car Crash Britain: Caught On Camera (R) (S)** **12.35 Jackpot247 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show (R) (S) (SL)** **3.55 ITV Nightscreen**

**UTV** As STV except: **1.55 UTV Live (S)** **3.59 UTV Weather (S)** **6.00 UTV Live (S)** **10.30 UTV Live (S)** **10.45 View From Stormont (S)** **11.45 Car Crash Britain: Caught On Camera (R) (S)** **12.35 Teleshopping 2.35 ITV Nightscreen 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show (R) (S) (SL)** **3.55 ITV Nightscreen**

**10.00 First Dates Hotel** A youth worker whose luggage has gone missing wears a borrowed waiter's uniform on his date with a dancer (S) (AD) **11.05 Derry Girls** Erin manages to secure herself the editorship of the school magazine – and soon uncovers an explosive story. Orla becomes obsessed by step aerobics. Last in the series (R) (S) (AD) **11.40 Hunted** While two singers live stream their gig, unaware hunters are nearby, another fugitive is left vulnerable. Last in the series (R) (S) (AD) **12.40 World Of Weird (R) (S) (AD)** **1.35 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) (S)** **2.25 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners (R) (S)** **3.20 Four Rooms With Sarah Beeny (R) (S) (AD)** **4.10 The Question Jury (R) (S)** **5.05 Coast Vs Country (R) (S)**

## CHANNEL 4



Undercover In Premier ... 8.00pm

**6.00 Countdown (R) (S)** **6.45 3rd Rock From The Sun (R) (S) (AD)** **7.10 3rd Rock From The Sun (R) (S) (AD)** **7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S) (AD)** **8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S) (AD)** **8.30 Frasier (R) (S) (AD)** **9.00 Frasier (R) (S) (AD)** **9.35 Frasier (R) (S) (AD)** **10.05 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** The chef helps a Mexican restaurant in southern California (R) (S) **11.00 Undercover Boss USA** The chairman of a Native American entertainment empire goes undercover (R) (S) **12.00 Channel 4 News Summary (S)** **12.05 Couples Come Dine With Me** Three dinner parties in east Lancashire (R) (S) **1.05 Posh Pawnbrokers** Dan and Shelwa are fawned by a 3D printer (R) (S) **2.10 Countdown** With Alexis Conran in Dictionary Corner (S) **3.00 A Place In The Sun: Winter Sun** Jasmine Harman shows a couple five properties in Barbados (R) (S) **4.00 A New Life In The Sun** New series. A British couple open a campsite in France (S) **5.00 Four In A Bed** The competition kicks off at the Hero in Burnham Overy Staithe, Norfolk (S) **5.30 Extreme Cake Makers** Michelle creates a holographic trampoline birthday cake (S)

**6.00 The Simpsons** Moe's bar towel turns out to have a life of its own (R) (S) (AD) **6.30 Hollyoaks** The Maaliks receive some shocking news (S) (AD) **7.00 Channel 4 News (S)**

**8.00 Undercover In Premier Inn: Channel 4 Dispatches** A report on working conditions at a central London Premier Inn (S) **8.30 Food Unwrapped** New series. Secrets from the world of food production are revealed (S) (AD) **9.00 The World's Most Luxurious Airline** Revealing the lengths to which Singapore Airlines has gone to create a first-class suite for the super wealthy, spending \$850m over the course of four years. (S) (AD)



# Business optimism now at 43-month high

BY GREG RUSSELL

**B**USINESS optimism in Scotland's private sector reached a 43-month high in January, according to the Bank of Scotland's latest Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).

It showed economic activity expanded slightly, along with broader expansions in employment and new orders.

The headline Bank of Scotland PMI – a single-figure measure of the monthly change in manufacturing and services output – registered 50.3 in January, up from 49.4 in December.

Scottish private sector firms reduced activity fractionally, but the pace of contraction weakened and was marginal.

Order book volumes expanded

across the private sector in January, new business rose markedly in manufacturing, supported by new customer wins and renewed export growth.

In the service sector, successful tendering contributed to higher order intakes. Higher staffing levels enabled private sector firms to clear outstanding business, reducing backlogs of work.

Firms took advantage of stronger demand and raised output prices in January and selling charges rose by their sharpest extent in five months. That said, input cost inflation outstripped that of output prices to a marked degree, thereby signalling a squeeze to private sector profit margins.

Fraser Sime, regional director, Bank of Scotland Commercial Banking, said: "Both new business

inflows and employment increased in the Scottish private sector, fuelling stronger business confidence. The degree of optimism in the future rose to a 43-month high in January. With improved demand conditions, firms raised prices for an 18th straight month. That said, input cost inflation remained far greater than that of selling prices, indicating tighter profit margins."

Economy Secretary Keith Brown added: "This survey signals a positive start to 2018 for Scotland's private sector.

"However, it cannot be stressed enough that Brexit remains the single biggest threat to our economy. Our latest analysis shows a hard-Brexit could cost Scotland's economy £12.7 billion a year by 2030, so we continue to use all of the powers at our disposal to grow our economy."



Keith Brown said Scotland must grow its economy

## Scots software firm on corruption trail

Panama, Colombia and Peru among criminal targets

BY GREG RUSSELL

**A**SCOTTISH software company is helping law enforcement agencies tackle corruption and fraud in some of the world's criminal hotspots.

Altia-ABM, which is based in Glasgow, is one of the UK's leading providers of specialist software used in criminal and financial investigations. The firm has been working in Central and South America in partnership with the National Crime Agency (NCA) and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

Both agencies have a long-standing relationship with the company and the contract stemmed from that.

Serious and organised crime worldwide can have a detrimental effect on the UK and Altia-ABM staff trained local officers on the ground in Panama, Colombia and Peru.

Ian Watson, the company's CEO, said: "Law enforcement agencies spend an ever-increasing amount of time combating crime at source because they know these activities have a devastating impact here.

"Our software is used by every police force in the UK and several government agencies for investigating criminal activity, following financial transactions, and compiling portfolios of evidence

which can be used directly in court.

"We were delighted to be asked to help with these important projects and we are now translating our products into Spanish, for ease of use."

The NCA's international liaison officer in Panama was looking for new ideas, technology and systems to help the country's police conduct more effective criminal investigations.

Their agency recommended Altia-ABM Investigation Toolkit and Financial Analysis Toolbar, which are both now being used by Panamanian police, along with support and training from Altia-ABM staff.

In Colombia, the Fiscalía General de la Nación – equivalent of the Crown Prosecution Service – and the police service are now using both products with support from the NCA and training by Altia-ABM.

The CPS recommended using the toolkit and analysis toolbar in Peru, and these too have started to yield results.

Watson added: "Investigation Toolkit enables bank statements in any format to be converted immediately into Excel spreadsheets and the data rapidly analysed for evidence gathering.

"Using Investigation Toolkit is



Ian Watson, chief executive of Glasgow-based firm software Altia-ABM

between eight and ten times faster than manually converting bank statements into a spreadsheet.

"Financial Analysis Toolbar is comprised of a collection of tools so that investigators can see all money flows, transactions and new bank accounts opened by an individual over months or years, if necessary.

"The toolbar then enables instant creation of charts, graphs, or summaries of transactions which can be shared with colleagues and used as the basis of a portfolio of evidence.

"In some cases, an investigation which would typically take three and a half days can be accomplished in 30 minutes."

Altia-ABM was established in 2002 in Glasgow and has established a worldwide customer base, including every British police force, HMRC, the Department of Work and Pensions, the NCA and Trading Standards.

The company also deals with local authorities, the Gambling Commission, forensic accountants and insolvency practitioners.

Its rapid growth has enabled it to expand into Canada, Australia, South Africa, the USA, Hong Kong, New Zealand and South America.



Our software is used by every police force in the UK

Business



# Scotland Means Business

**SME FOCUS**  
**FALKLAND KITCHEN FARM**  
**ORGANIC FARM**

## 'It is traditional farming and this is reflected in the taste and quality'

BY EMER O'TOOLE

Bryde Marshall and her fiancé Nathanael Dixon opened Falkland Kitchen Farm at the foot of Fife's rolling Lomond Hills in 2014. The five-acre farm quickly became popular in Fife with their produce farmed by hand and grown without pesticides and herbicides. Nathanael is back from a prestigious year-long scholarship with Le Cordon Bleu in London in September and it is hoped the farm can expand its cooking workshops when he returns.

**Name:** Bryde Marshall  
**Age:** 27  
**Position:** Managing director

**WHAT IS YOUR BUSINESS CALLED?**  
 FALKLAND Kitchen Farm.

**WHERE IS IT BASED?**  
 FALKLAND in Fife but we supply our produce to restaurants and shops all over Scotland, including Perth, Dundee and St Andrew's.

**WHY DID YOU SET UP THE BUSINESS?**  
 I MET my fiancé Nathanael at university. We both studied environmental affairs at St Andrew's University. When we graduated in 2012 we heard about the Falkland Estate's New Farmer Scheme and started to volunteer on organic farms.

We opened our own farm in 2014 with only a single polytunnel and two spades. It started off just me on the farm full time while Nathanael was working nearby and then it got to a point where we were both working on the field.

**WHAT SERVICES DOES THE FARM OFFER?**  
 THE food we use depends what is in season at the moment. We only work with seasonal vegetables. We do a unique veg box scheme which only runs from the end of March to December and 100 per cent of the things in the box we have grown ourselves or come from farms under a mile away.

We have been cooking at events to demonstrate to customers how to get the best out of our produce and I hope that this is something we will do more of this when Nathanael gets back from his scholarship at Cordon Bleu.



**HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM COMPETING BUSINESSES?**  
 WE put a lot of effort into selecting different varieties of produce. We try to follow produce that is at risk of extinction. We grow more than 70 varieties of fruit, vegetables and herbs.

The farm has a really big emphasis on diversity and hope to serve some rare varieties of fruit and veg.

A lot of other farms run their veg box schemes all year round and source produce from farms miles away as well as their own. We only use our own fruit and veg and if it has to be sourced elsewhere it is only from farms under a mile away.

We also try to be open minded in our approach to soil health – our soil is never turned and is aerated by broad fork so it is done by hand. This means there is more enzymes in the soil.

Our approach is very much raising seeds, planting and harvesting. It is traditional farming and we think that is reflected in the taste and quality.

**WHAT IS YOUR TARGET MARKET?**

A VARIETY of people from families to young professionals who like to eat organically. We try to keep everything reasonably priced. We also send our produce to shops in St Andrew's, Perth and Fife and restaurants including The North Port in Perth and 172 At The Caird in Dundee.

**WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT RUNNING THE BUSINESS?**

IT is always great to get compliments from customers who are so pleased with meals they have bought from our stalls.

Another highlight was when we attended an environment conference at Dundee University where everyone involved was so interested in what we do.

Running the business is full of

lots of small victories and it's a real privilege to have that kind of impact.

**WHERE DO YOU HOPE THE BUSINESS WILL BE IN 10 YEARS?**

WE hope to play a bigger role in terms of education in growing and cooking such as at the Local Food Works farmers market here in Fife. We hope to do host more meals and tours on the field where people can get a fuller picture of what we do. In terms of cooking our whole ideology is farming food that goes straight to the plate with no additives so it would be good to expand on that area. Nathanael is back in September so right now the farm is run by part-time employees. We have done a lot of farmers markets and want to do more food events when he returns like catering for weddings and environmental conferences.



**Bryde Marshall and Nathanael Dixon run Falkland Kitchen Farm**

# Seventh a hellish feeling for ambitious Musgrave

Norway's flag flutters proud yet again but Scot pushes them all the way

## WINTER OLYMPICS

BY PIPPA FIELD

**Y**OU could forgive Scot Andrew Musgrave if he was sick of the sight of the Norwegian flag.

Over the years it has been flown proudly at Olympic cross-country medal ceremonies – over a hundred podium finishes underling just why it's called Nordic skiing.

But maybe, just maybe, the sight of the British flag fluttering in the wind too may be about to become a previously unimaginable reality – indeed it almost happened yesterday.

Twelfth at the halfway stage of

the men's 30km skiathlon in PyeongChang, early birds following in the UK might have nonchalantly took note but thought little more.

Seventh with just under 10km to go – time to sip that tea with a little more interest. One lap to go – hang on, Musgrave is in the silver medal position, put down the bacon sarnie.

All around the Alpensia Cross Country Skiing Centre, spectators were watching on as he dared to do the unthinkable as he made his way out of the stadium for the last time.

Unfortunately for hardy fans braving minus 16 degree temperatures, by the time he came back in to the arena, normal order had been resumed.

His exertions had caught up with

him, as he finished seventh, just under 26 seconds back.

Three Norwegians, led by Simen Hegstad Krueger, crossed the line first to lock out the podium and deny Musgrave - for now.

"It's a decent result but I'm not at the Olympics to come seventh. I'm here to fight for a win," said Musgrave.

"That's why I do this. I think all the guys at the top, if you don't believe you can win, then you're not going to spend the thousands hours out training, suffering every week through interval sessions and pushing our pain limits every session. You don't do that if you don't believe you can win.

"I'm a little disappointed, I felt re-

## Alcott tips Scots skiers to reach new heights

### WINTER OLYMPICS

CHEMMY Alcott, one of Britain's greatest-ever skiers, has tipped two of Scotland's finest to make a real mark at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, writes Susan Egelstaff.

Alex Tilley from Aberdeenshire has recorded a number of impressive results on the World Cup circuit over the last year while Perthshire's Charlie Guest has bounced back from a horrific training injury in 2014 which saw her break her back to make the Olympic team.

Alcott, who was five-time British champion and a four-time Olympian,

is particularly excited about 24-year-old Tilley, who begins her Olympic campaign today in the giant slalom while she also goes in the slalom later in the week.

"There's quite a bit expected from Alex because she's in such good form," the Englishwoman (right), who retired in 2014, said.

"She's such a good skier – she's so strong and has been so fast in sections this year. She hasn't got a full run together yet but you can see the potential. I look at her and think that she's a way better skier than I was – technically, she's so solid and I'm

really excited by her."

Guest meanwhile has less pressure upon her shoulders but Alcott predicts this lack of expectation could play into the Perthshire skier's hands. "It's amazing for Charlie to be at the Olympics at all – to have recovered from that injury and make the team is incredible," the 35-year-old said. "I think she could be a bit of a dark horse because she's going into the Games with no expectations and that is when you can really bring out your best performance. She can just go out and enjoy it and focus on being at her best."



SPORTS



ally good. I felt awesome with about a lap and a half to go and I felt that I would be in the fight for the victory.

"Until about 2km to go, I was still thinking I could be in the fight for silver and bronze but the second to last hill, I just realised my legs were a little bit heavy and I didn't have quite enough in the tank.

"If you told me 10 years ago I would be seventh in the Olympics, I wouldn't have thought I would be disappointed with it. But that is what makes an athlete – you want more."

He may have already been the best-performing British Olympian, after reaching the quarter-finals of the sprint four years ago, but the goalposts have moved when it comes to

**Andrew Musgrave was in a silver medal position at one stage of the men's 30km skiathlon in PyeongChang yesterday but had to settle for seventh spot in the end**

Musgrave's expectation levels. He was never outside of the top 12 at every one of the intermediate checks.

Last March he was fourth at the World Championships, while in December a maiden World Cup podium was secured with bronze in the 15km freestyle in Toblach.

And it is the latter event on Friday which is Musgrave's main target at these Games, his Norwegian coach Hans Kristian Stadheim describing yesterday's race as a 'bonus'.

Musgrave – who signed off his post-race debrief with the waiting media with "see you on the podium" – clearly agrees. "That race does give me a bit of confidence," he said.

"The 15km should be my best event.

I was in the fight for the medals here until the last couple of kilometres, come Friday I should be in the fight for the victory.

"Hopefully I go fast on Friday and get a medal and that will give cross-country skiing a good bit of coverage in the UK."

All four members of the British squad train regularly in Norway.

"It's their national sport and you can't compare what we've got with them. It's just so different," he said.

*Watch Andrew Musgrave on Friday at 6am on Eurosport 1. Don't miss a moment of the Olympic Winter Games on Eurosport and Eurosport Player. Go to [www.Eurosport.co.uk](http://www.Eurosport.co.uk)*

## WINTER OLYMPICS

## Matching golds ideal Valentine's present



**Golden goals: Elise Christie**

THEY'RE dubbed the "Posh and Becks" of short-track – only they hope to have matching gold medals, rather than his-and-her gold thrones.

Elise Christie and Shaolin Liu have four world titles between them, though the Scot never gets tired of telling her Hungarian partner that she owns three of them.

He, in contrast, likes to remind her that he won his first.

Liu finished just outside the medals in the first of his events here, while Christie progressed to tomorrow's 500m quarter-finals in an Olympic record time.

"It's always pretty hard watching Elise," he said.

"I was in the stands shouting.

"I know she couldn't hear anything but I just couldn't stop myself.

"She's giving me a lot of power when she's doing good so I'm cheering out for her.

"I think it's a really good thing to be in the same sport and giving advice to each other.

"I remember in 2016 before that season started she said we're going to both be world champions together.

"I won my world title that year but she won her three 12 months later, that really annoyed her.

"I've always said the better I do, the better she does.

"We're trying to help each other and handle the pressure together. We're seeing each other when we can in the village but we're both very focussed on what we have to do here.

"We can celebrate Valentine's Day when we have finished, hopefully both with Olympic gold medals."

*Watch Elise Christie go for gold on Tuesday on Eurosport 1. Don't miss a moment of the Olympic Winter Games on Eurosport and Eurosport Player. Go to [www.Eurosport.co.uk](http://www.Eurosport.co.uk)*



**Skeleton champ Lizzy Yarnold**

## Yarnold: Turning point in doping

## WINTER OLYMPICS

REIGNING Olympic skeleton champion Lizzy Yarnold believes sport has reached crux time in the fight against doping.

Yarnold, who begins her 2018 Winter Olympics campaign on Friday, won her gold medal at the Sochi 2014 Games which have been tarnished by the state-sponsored doping of Russian athletes.

The matter overshadowed the build-up to the 2018 Games in Pyeongchang, which opened last Friday, the day the Court of Arbitration for Sport dismissed a request from 45 athletes to be invited to the Winter Olympics.

"I think the world of sport is in a real turning point at the moment with the fight against doping," Yarnold said.

"We need to continue to stand by clean athletes and protect clean athletes. It doesn't stop now. This fight is only just beginning."

CAS backed the International Olympic Committee's decision to robustly examine each Russian athlete on their individual merits before issuing invites.

Russia's Olympic Committee is currently suspended by the IOC and 168 Russians, known as the Olympic Athletes of Russia (OAR), will compete under the Olympic flag and the Olympic anthem will be played at

any medal ceremonies they are in.

Yarnold added: "The IOC have made the right decision. Allowing clean OAR athletes to compete is fair and I think the right thing to do as well."

Earlier, IOC medical director Dr Richard Budgett said the athletes representing OAR were a "high-risk group" and have been a particular pre-Games focus of the anti-doping task force.

"The OAR were a major focus for the pre-Games task force," Dr Budgett told yesterday's daily IOC media briefing.

"We have to have great vigilance. They have been tested more than any other group of athletes."

# Rangers survive scare and snow to cruise past Ayr

BY NEIL CAMERON

**A**T half-time this Scottish Cup tie hung in the balance and a shock was far from an impossibility.

Indeed, with the score at 1-1, Ayr United having taken the lead, and the snow turning Somerset Park's pitch white, Rangers manager Graeme Murty would have gladly taken a 2-1 win there and then.

As one home supporter was heard to mutter at the interval: "We'll never have a better chance of beating this lot."

In the end, Rangers ran amok in the second-half, showing the character Murty had demanded pre-match to avoid his team becoming the story of this round.

Ian McCall's Ayr United of League One were well beaten but by no means disgraced, despite losing six goals.

They scored themselves, showed some good stuff at times and at least tried to play a positive brand of football until running out of puff as the goals flew in at, for them, the wrong end.

Rangers were thoroughly professional and now have a home quarter-final against Falkirk which they will be strong favourites to win.

The first-half was a great watch. From the off it was clear, if far from surprising, that Ayr were not going to be intimidated by their visitors. Lawrence Shankland and Craig Moore formed a two-man frontline. It was not a cautious formation.

But as so often happens, talent was too good for toil.

Declan John has been a fine addition at left-back for Rangers. He does love a run forward and on 10 minutes his adventure took him up the field, past two Ayr players and his shot flew just wide.

However, within a minute, Rangers conceded a goal which by the time you read this will have been viewed many times on social media.

David Bates passed the ball back to his goalkeeper Wes Foderingham who in his attempt to take a touch allowed the ball to bounce past him towards his own line. He tried to get back and salvage the situation, but Alan Forrest reacted quicker and got there first. Cue bedlam and some red faces in blue shirts.



**Alfredo Morelos, who scored twice, celebrates after netting for Rangers at a snowy Somerset Park**

A free-kick straight in front of Ayr's D, after Andy Geggan went into Josh Windass from behind, presented Rangers with a good chance on 20 minutes. Sean Goss, who scored from a set-piece last weekend, fancied himself but the wall stood up to his shooting not once but twice.

The resultant corner was defended a couple of times before Russell Martin went close with a header.

If that was better by Rangers, their defending hadn't improved much. Forrest sent a high cross into the box, Foderingham came to collect and under pressure from Shankland failed in his task. The ball broke to Declan McDaid who took it on the bounce but his shot was well over.

Rangers then began to play a bit of football, with Josh Windass heading against the crossbar.

And then on 29 minutes, Rangers contrived to produce another 'did that just really happen?' moment.

Greg Docherty forced his way into the right hand side of Ayr's box, he did the right thing by putting the ball across the six-yard box with a bit of pace because it beat everyone except Alfredo Morelos at the back post, who was unmarked and two yards from the goal-line, and yet the striker defied the laws of physics by sending the ball high into the delighted home support who rather vocally questioned whether the Rangers man was indeed worth £8million.

Morelos needn't worry too much.

I'm fairly sure YouTube is banned in China. Or is that Facebook?

Anyway, within a minute, the Colombian made amends when he converted a far more difficult chance.

The impressive Goss cracked a shot from the best part of 30 yards, the ball hit the corner of the woodwork, fell loose and with the outside of his right boot, Morelos found the top corner of the net.

He then, as is the fashion, invited those Ayr fans who taken so much joy in his misfortune to shush.

It was all square at half-time, but Ayr ended the first period playing some good stuff of their own.

In saying that, Jason Cummings came close to a goal when he put his foot through the ball from close range, courtesy of Jamie Murphy's cross from a corner, but Ayr keeper Jack Ruddy put his body in the way.

The players came back out of their dressing rooms to find the weather had changed somewhat. The snow had made a spectacular visit.

It was Ayr who were to threaten first. The half was five minutes old when Shankland fed the ball to Moore inside the Rangers box, he in turn sent a lobbed pass into McDaid's path and, with no defender near him, he only had Foderingham to beat but the goalkeeper was off his line quickly and made a block.

Despite that bright start, Ayr found getting out of their half a task and within an eight minute spell, Rangers scored three times.

It began on 64 minutes when Murphy's short corner found Goss, his cross was aimed at Jason Cummings who, with his back to goal, flicked the ball home.

John then made his umpteenth charge from the back, he hit the byline and cut the ball back for Windass who made no mistake from eight yards, and the celebrations which greeted the goal suggested all was forgiven for his shush at Thistle.

And then on 72 minutes the excellent Murphy's low cross left Morelos with a tap-in.

But Rangers weren't finished. Substitute Eduardo Herrera's header got the fifth and then Murphy ran past several shattered players before delivering a superb finish for his first Rangers goal.

It was harsh on Ayr, not that Murty will care.

## Brora's cup

BY SUSAN EGELSTAFF

THEIR fifth round Scottish Cup clash with Kilmarnock may have ended in defeat but Brora Rangers excited the competition with their heads held high.

A 4-0 win for the Premiership team may sound decisive but it took a considerable time for them to stamp their authority on the game. Brora, who currently lie in seventh place in the Highland League but had taken the scalps of League One sides East Fife and Stranraer in previous rounds, offered considerable resistance but ultimately, their cup run came to an end at Rugby park on Saturday.

However, for Brora midfielder Zander Sutherland, he could not have been more proud of the club and its supporters, almost 500 of whom travelled the 250-odd miles to Kilmarnock for the game and who, during this Scottish Cup run, have racked up thousands of miles to support their team.

"It's a proud moment for the club, myself and my family – a great occasion," he said. "They're a great crowd – they follow us through thick and thin."



## run finally comes to an end

"We've had our good moments and bad moments and they've travelled to Stranraer, East Fife (this season) – we've done over 2,000 miles. It costs them a lot of money and the passion they've got for football in Brora is unbelievable. I'm from Helmsdale so I know pretty much everybody in the stand."

Brora frustrated Kilmarnock for much of the first half, with the Premiership unable to create any more than a few half chances but just a few minutes before half-time, the killer blow came when Aaron Tshibola found the back of the net. It changed the game entirely and Kilmarnock then added second-half strikes from Kris Boyd, Eamonn Brophy and Stephen O'Donnell.

Losing that goal so close to half-time was, admitted Sutherland, the worst possible scenario. "It was unfortunate it ended up 4-0 because in the first half I thought we played really well, we came out of the traps and caused them a bit of problems," he said.

"Unfortunately they scored a late goal otherwise it could have been a different second half.

Our game plan from the start was to come out and try to frustrate

Kilmarnock. They're a fantastic side, the form side in Scottish football with Steve Clarke coming in.

"Their team talk would have been completely different had they gone in 0-0 at half time against a Highland League team. To concede that goal so late in the first half was disappointing but credit to them – they're a fantastic side."

Kilmarnock meanwhile, are now only two games away from a cup final and with the Ayrshire team the form team in Scotland at the moment, midfielder Gary Dicker believes there is no reason why they cannot be at Hampden in May. "Definitely we could do something in the cup," he said.

"Look at the results - they speak for themselves, even the ones against the top teams.

"I don't think many people gave us a chance here before but we have now won six on the bounce at home when we couldn't win a game here at one point. I think we only won four here at home last season, so that is a massive turnaround.

"Who knows if we can win it.

There is no reason why not.

"You have got to believe that you

can win something.

"That was one of the reasons I came up here – you have a chance of getting to Europe or winning a cup. Our aim is to stay in the league, though - anything else is a bonus."

With a vital league match against Dundee tomorrow though, that is all Dicker is focused on for now. "This league is crazy," he said. "One team wins and you feel you are being sucked back in, so we are not looking too far ahead. We have a few games in hand and we need to pick up points."

And for Dicker personally, who is recently back from an injury lay-off, he is delighted to be back playing, with the good run of results an added bonus. "I am delighted to be back playing because I was a long time out injured and the team was struggling," he said.

"When the gaffer came in, I caught a few games and you could see the difference. It makes you desperate to be involved because the club is on the up and it is a good place to be at the moment. 'I missed four or five months and it does take time but I'm feeling better."

**Kris Boyd celebrates scoring Kilmarnock's second goal against Brora Rangers**

## Forrest fire burns brightly for Rodgers



**The treble was James Forrest's first hat-trick for Celtic**

BRENDAN Rodgers hailed James Forrest after the winger scored his first Hoops hat-trick in the 3-2 home William Hill Scottish Cup win over Partick Thistle.

In a whirlwind start to the lunchtime encounter, the 26-year-old notched twice in the opening 10 minutes before Jags striker Kris Doolan reduced the hosts' lead.

Forrest's third in the 53rd minute was his 16th goal of the season before Jags substitute Conor Sammon, on for Doolan, fired in a late second for the spirited visitors, although it was not enough to prevent the holders going into Sunday's quarter-final draw, where they face Morton at home.

Rodgers, who will now prepare Celtic to play against Russian side Zenit St Petersburg in the first leg of their Europa League clash on Thursday at Celtic Park, said of Scotland international Forrest: "He was brilliant, absolutely brilliant.

"His game has come on this year again, into being a really effective player because he has got that ability.

"He is technically very good, one of the best receivers of the ball I have ever worked with, in how he takes the ball on the side of the field or in the middle.

"He has a wonderful touch and how he can move it with his second touch and now he is adding goals to his game.

"He has that hunger to score goals and all three of them were outstanding today.

"He was the class player on the pitch and thoroughly deserves the match ball."

The Northern Irishman admits his side will have to improve if they are to retain the trophy.

He said: "We got through which was important. Certainly if we want to win the cup again we will need to defend better and play better from behind. We got into a great lead at 2-0 up but made a poor mistake which gave them a bit of oxygen and impetus. We started the second-half well in the second-half and got the goal."

After scoring his first hat-trick for the club, Forrest said: "I am absolutely delighted and getting into the next round as well, it was a good day all round."

# Greig surprised as anyone to get No 10 nod

BY STEWART FISHER

IT was the most unexpected appearance at No.10 since that night Noel Gallagher turned up at one of Tony Blair's Downing Street drinks parties. Aside from 10 or 15 minutes at Clermont Auverne earlier in the season, Greig Laidlaw hadn't played fly half for years, the scrum-half's last start for his country in this role coming against Tonga in 2012, the last match of Andy Robinson's reign as Scotland head coach.

So let's just say he was rather surprised when Gregor Townsend casually mentioned to him yesterday morning that he should get ready for just such an eventuality in the latter stages of the Six Nations meeting with France. If he was even more astonished when, having just kicked Scotland level for the first time since the third minute at 26-26, he saw Ali Price entering the fray for Finn Russell, he took it all in his stride. In addition to a perfect goal-kicking day which harvested 22 points, the 32-year-old's game management skills were much to the fore as Scotland finished stronger than the leg weary French to close out a vital 32-26 victory.

"Gregor gave me the head's up this morning," said Laidlaw.

"It was a bit of surprise, I was wondering if there were injuries. But it was easy enough to slip back in, the forwards were starting to carry well by that point and once you are on the front foot as a 9 or a 10 it becomes that much easier.

"I didn't have to do too much, just distribute and that is credit to the pack. I think Dents [David Denton] coming on off the bench, he carried very well and I don't think the French were enjoying that, having to go backwards.

"I certainly don't expect to start there any time soon," he added.

"But once we start breaking games up I feel it is a strength of mine to read defences and keep teams in a game, and when I'm playing with someone like Ali who has good energy and good zip to his pass, I think we can help the team."

This was Laidlaw's first Scotland start since the meeting with France last year, having missed time with an ankle injury, the Lions tour and then a broken fibula.

The intervening period has seen him lose the captaincy to John Barclay, but Laidlaw said whether or not he wears the captain's armband is irrelevant.

"It has felt like a while to be honest," he said. "I'm not a great watcher so it's brilliant to be back out there in front of our own people at Murrayfield.

"No matter whether I am named captain or not captain, I am a leader as a half back and as a 9. I certainly know I have benefited in the past when I was captain from having strong leaders around me.

"It is invaluable to have that so I will be there to sit in beside Barcs, help him, and push the standards."

Laidlaw had words of support for his usual half back partner Finn Russell - "He missed touch a couple of times," said Laidlaw, "but he is a classy operator, he just needs time in the saddle" - and said Scotland had learned their lessons from the opening day rout in Wales.

"We found that balance today, early in the game when it was sticky we were saying 'don't panic, stay in the game, get the ball down the field and force France to do something special from 75 metres'," Laidlaw insisted. "That was the learning curve from last week and we were delighted."

# Try, try again attitude rewarded with pens

BY KEVIN FERRIE

A Brucean victory at the venue that is bidding even more eagerly to establish itself as Scotland's sporting home revived hope of Six Nations glory this season as the home team became the first owners of the Auld Alliance Trophy at BT Murrayfield yesterday.

It was the type of win that could provide a turning point in this team's evolution if lessons are properly absorbed, brought about as it was by ultimately achieving a sensible balance to their play, having trailed at the end of the sort of harem scarem first half that entertains, but provides little prospect of achieving consistently positive outcomes.

The 32-26 win contained five tries as opposed to none in the second, reminding us that the Bannockburn champion's fabled philosophy "if at first you don't succeed try, try again," was attributable to a mindset formed long before the word 'try' was a method of scoring points in sports encounters.

Once again, just as in Cardiff, the Scots had handed their opponents the initiative, this time conceding after just two and a half minutes of play.

France having had most of the possession in that period, the situation briefly looked promising for the hosts with Teddy Thomas looking to be in recovery mode as a move broke down.

However, as his winger gathered the ball, centre Geoffrey Doumayrou immediately realised there was a mismatch and urged him to challenge the covering Finn Russell. The stand off was duly brushed aside before Thomas broke Pete Horne's tackle then skipped past Stuart Hogg.

Maxime Machenaud converted and when he added a 10th minute penalty Scotland had once again given potentially nervous opponents a confidence boost.

The up-side, however, was that it encouraged France to embrace the sort of game the home side wanted to play, carrying the potential to tire their big men, but the deficit had to be kept manageable until that happened.

Stuart Hogg's first significant involvement helped address that, his kick earning the close range lineout from which, after solid groundwork by the forwards, the ball was ultimately shifted wide to the opposite flank where Russell's perfectly delivered pass put Sean Maitland in.

This time they had produced the necessary response to falling behind and did so again after a French counter-attack ended with another Thomas try, the winger this time lofting a kick over Hogg, before the ball squirted horribly away from the covering Greig Laidlaw in the in-goal area.

Hogg once again helped his side get back within range, stretching the



Greig Laidlaw kicks the penalty that puts Scotland 29-26 ahead in yesterday's win at Murrayfield. Scotland went on to beat France 32-26

## Townsend: It's one game and we need to improve

PLEASED as he clearly was with the victory that had breathed new life into his side's Six Nations Championship campaign, Gregor Townsend was all too aware last night that an even bigger challenge awaits in a fortnight's time as his team meets the defending champions.

The Scottish coach also knows that his England counterpart, Eddie Jones, has been somewhat sneering in his assessment of the

style of play that earned his side plaudits during the autumn and he acknowledged that it would be wrong to over-react to the hard fought 32-26 win over a French team that has been struggling in recent seasons.

"It's one game," he said, when asked if Scotland are now back in title contention.

"Nobody was asking me if we could win the Championship last week (but) it's good that we play for a trophy every week.

"We are playing arguably the best team in the world over the last two years, given the number of games they've won, but we need to put them under pressure and we will see what happens."

The Scots yesterday became the first to claim the new Auld Alliance Trophy, put up for their matches against France to mark the centenary year of the World War I Armistice. However, the prize for winning the



Gregor Townsend

oldest fixture in international rugby, the Calcutta Cup, is a rather grander target, while the silverware that matters most will be handed out only after they have also travelled to Dublin to contest the Centenary Quaich.

"It was important to show we had a forward pack who can go up against the best packs in the world," Townsend said. "We have to improve. That was OK but we know we must keep improving."



defence before, a few moments later, Huw Jones picked the perfect angle to burst clean through and register his eighth try in 13 Test appearances.

Even in that first half, with man-of-the-match Laidlaw restored at scrum-half, there was evidence of Scotland playing with urgency, as is their repeatedly stated intent, but being more selective in seeking to set things up before trying to score and while a 14-20 interval deficit was still dangerous, it gave them, in a second half which turned into more of a traditional Test match, the chance to prove they can win when not allowed to play as they want to.

Importantly they won the first of the kickable penalty opportunities that repeatedly punctuated a period during which they took increasing control, despite twice more falling six points behind in the tit-for-tat, the second of those during a rousing rendition of Le Marseillaise from the surprisingly large French following as Baptiste Serin, who had replaced

Machenaud as both scrum-half and goal-kicker, registered the last of his side's points.

Even by then it felt as if the French side was beginning to pay a price for the way the game had been played, albeit so did Scotland's play-maker in more ways than one as the decision was made to bring on Ali Price, his Glasgow Warriors half-back partner making way rather than the irreplaceable Laidlaw, who simply slipped back into the slot he once occupied regularly for Scotland at stand off.

He had knocked over two more penalties before doing so and two more thereafter rewarded more patient and controlled play, the French pack's tiredness most apparent in the losses of breakdown discipline that let the former captain edge his side in front for the first time with 11 minutes remaining, then consolidate that advantage five minutes later.

Having dealt with the re-start after

the second of those, which took his individual haul to 22 points, it looked as if the hard work had been done until a penalty was conceded close to halfway, setting up a resolve challenging situation for the home side.

Superb defensive work at the resultant lineout in their own 22, first preventing the French pack from getting any sort of drive going, then forcing the turnover as the maul was held up, then proved decisive, that formerly elusive way to win having been identified.

Former Scotland scrum-half Andy Nicol told the BBC: "Six Nations rugby is about winning. You do not get points for style, for scoring great tries and playing with flair. It is about winning rugby games and Scotland had to do that today."

Former France flanker Olivier Magne said: "I am very disappointed. We can play 40 minutes at a good level but the second half was too difficult for us."

## Rennie and Cockerill sing from same sheet

BY MARTIN MCMILLAN

DAVE Rennie accepts his Glasgow side will need to play better if they are to beat the Cheetahs next week.

The Warriors were held to a 15-15 draw in the Guinness PRO14 by the Dragons on Friday night as they were made to pay for their missing Scottish contingent.

Rennie is without the services of several key players due to the NatWest 6 Nations, but his side remain top of Conference A

despite just a second match this season where they have failed to claim the win.

However, he is aware of another tough task next weekend. The Warriors beat the Cheetahs 29-26 in South Africa earlier in the season but it will be a different test at Scotstoun on Friday.

He told the Glasgow website: "We're going to have to be a lot better.

"They're a very good side and obviously they're not affected by the Six Nations and aren't

losing any internationals.

"We've played them before, they're a big side with an excellent pack and set piece. They drive well and have then have lightning quick guys outside so we can't afford to make errors against them."

Meanwhile, Richard Cockerill's gripe was similar to his Glasgow counterpart despite his Edinburgh side picking up a bonus-point win over Leinster on Friday night.

The Myreside club were not at their best but scraped

through 29-24 thanks to a last-minute Mark Bennett try to keep up the pressure on the top three in the Guinness PRO14.

The gap to Ulster remains three points after they thrashed Southern Kings, but Cockerill is pleased with the character shown by his side and their position in Conference B.

He said: "We are trying to create something where they [the fans] can identify with the team on the field, which wants to play for the city and the shirt."

## Jones: Brown is the Shilton of rugby



Mike Brown (above) has been defended by Eddie Jones

BY SCOTT LEWIS

EDDIE Jones has described Mike Brown as the Peter Shilton of rugby after mounting an angry defence of England's full-back.

Brown was magnificent in treacherous conditions as Wales were edged 12-6 in a tense NatWest 6 Nations showdown at Twickenham, commanding the air and making more ground than anyone else.

The adversity was tailor-made for Brown's fighting instincts and Jones rounded on perceived criticism of his first choice in the number 15 jersey amid calls for Anthony Watson or Elliot Daly to be properly tested in the position.

"You guys (the media) tell me Mike Brown can't play Test rugby... you guys are unbelievable!" Jones said.

"You're always criticising him, now he has a good game you're all on the bandwagon. You guys are better selectors than we are, that's what you think you are."

Jones later gave a more measured response when asked about Brown, even comparing him to England's most capped footballer, who made 125 international appearances across two decades.

"It would definitely be Mike Brown who is my man of the match," Jones told BBC Radio 5 Live's Sportsweek programme.

"He's been the most criticised player in English rugby and again he's showed why we have been winning games. He's like the Peter Shilton of rugby full-backs.

"He's done that in 24 Tests for us. He's our full-back, he carries the high ball, he plays with courage and he plays the way that England want to play."



## CLOSE BUT...

Musgrave expresses regret at having to settle for seventh place, P34



## FAMILY FEEL

Differing emotions for James and Alan Forrest over the weekend, P36

# Scots add touch of French fancy

Barclay lifts Auld Alliance trophy after 32-26 win



## McInnes happy to be at home in cup

DEREK McInnes was "really pleased" with a home draw in the quarter-finals of the William Hill Scottish Cup after his Aberdeen were paired with Kilmarnock. Holders Celtic were drawn

against Morton while Rangers, who beat Ayr United 6-1 yesterday, will host Falkirk. Hearts go to Motherwell. The ties take place on the weekend of March 3. Aberdeen beat Dundee United

4-2 in their fifth-round tie at Pittodrie yesterday thanks to goals from Adam Rooney, Gary Mackay-Steven, twice, and Kenny McLean. Sam Stanton and Paul McMullan scored for United.



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