

NEWS

IN BRIEF

Man gets life for Bo'ness murder

A man has been given a life sentence for the murder of James Johnstone in his home in Bo'ness. The 39-year-old was attacked in April 2021. Emergency services attended but James was pronounced dead at the scene.

Jonathan Bell, 37, was convicted of his murder at the High Court in Edinburgh in June. He was sentenced on Monday and will spend at least 18 years behind bars. Detective Chief Inspector David MacGregor said: "This was a brutal murder."

Man charged over 27 vandalised cars

A 34-year-old man has been charged with vandalising 27 vehicles in West Lothian. The incidents, reported at various locations in Livingston, Armadale, Mid Calder, Whitburn, Broxburn and Bathgate, took place between 9 May and last Friday. The man

was expected to appear at Livingston Sheriff Court yesterday. Sergeant Craig Wilson, of Livingston police station, said: "We'd like to thank the community for their assistance with our extensive inquiries into this series of vandalisms."

Bed blocking falls slightly in June

The number of delayed discharge patients in Scottish hospitals fell very slightly in June, although the average length of waits increased.

Public Health Scotland figures for delayed discharge – or bed blocking – showed 1,738 people were

delayed. This is down by 10 patients from May's figure of 1,748 – but the average delay was 27 days, up by four days from May. There were 51,905 days spent in hospital by people whose discharge was delayed in June – up 3 per cent on June 2022.

'Encouraged' by latest A&E figures

Health Secretary Michael Matheson says he is "encouraged" by the latest waiting times at Scotland's A&E departments, as the number of patients experiencing the longest waits fell. Public Health Scotland data shows that, of the 137,183

Scots who went to A&E in June, 2.3 per cent of them – 3,028 patients – waited 12 hours or more, the lowest since February 2022. Overall in June, 72.6 per cent of patients were seen and admitted, transferred or discharged within the target time of four hours.



Part of Edinburgh Soroptimists' panel entitled Women Get the Vote

Soroptimists reap what they sew on visit to tapestry

Soroptimists from Edinburgh have travelled to Galashiels to see the Great Tapestry of Scotland, which they had a hand in creating. The artwork consists of more than 100 panels. One was embroidered by Edinburgh Soroptimists, whose

stitchers Edith, Winifred and Clephane, along with the late Isabel and Jane, created panel 123 – Women Get the Vote. The panel shows Elsie Inglis, Grace Cadell and others who were at the forefront in gaining the vote for women.

Lights, camera and cinema under the stars

Ten films – from family-friendly titles to artists' films – will be screened outdoors on the weekend of August 19 and 20, as part of the Edinburgh International Film Festival (EIFF).

Cinema Under the Stars takes place in Edinburgh University's Old College Quad. All screenings are ticketed but people are asked to "pay what you can" – £2, £4 or £6 a film.

EIFF programme director Kate Taylor said: "With Cinema under the Stars we welcome Edinburgh audiences to a weekend of gorgeous, imaginative and uplifting films."

"We're particularly excited to present previews of new feature films Scrapper, surely the most charming UK film of the year, and Let The Canary Sing, a film infused with infectious New York punk pop energy."

"Additionally we've got Oscar-winners, we've got cats and we've got Tony Leung and Maggie Cheung as lover assassins. Time to bust out the picnic blanket for a magical weekend."



Puss in Boots The Last Wish is among the films showing

Restaurant named 'takeaway of the year' sets opening date for new venue

An Edinburgh restaurant that took one of the top honours at the Asian Curry Awards has announced the opening date of its latest branch in the Capital.

Having picked up a Takeaway of the Year award in November, Chennai's Marina, which has branches at Dalry Road and Jock's Lodge, is to open on Clerk Street in Newington.

It posted on Facebook: "Most awaited days come to end. We are opening our new branch on Monday 31st August."

Chennai's Marina was

named Outstanding Indian Takeaway of the Year at the Scottish Curry Awards 2023 in May.

Director Sannah Aron said then: "It was quite exciting to win as we are on a roll now, after we were named regional winner last year and now national winner. It feels great. We didn't expect it."

"When I started this business two years ago the main thing I wanted to do was provide food that is as authentic as possible."

"It's proper south Indian food, which I felt was really hard to get in Edinburgh."

There was a lack of choice here. Our foods are very rich.

"Every state in India has different tastes. So I use spices and ingredients from south India and Sri Lanka, where some of my family are from, to make it more authentic. So that comes across in our food and I think it sets us apart from other takeaways."

"I came to Edinburgh as a student and now I'm doing my profession and providing authentic south Indian and Sri Lankan food for the people of Edinburgh to enjoy, it's great. And to win this award is great motivation."

Edinburgh hooks top ten place in best UK cities for fish and chips

Britain's best cities for fish and chips have been revealed – and Edinburgh has claimed a place (or should that be "plaice") on the list.

Bristol has been named the fish and chips capital of the UK by Betway. The English city earned a score of 60.6 out of 80 against a number of factors including menu options, vegan alternatives and social media attention, beating Nottingham and London, in second and third, respectively.

Betway described Bristol as "the perfect place to enjoy a chippy with a picturesque

view". Edinburgh came fourth with 55.6. Completing the top 10 was Glasgow, in 10th place, with an overall score of 45/80.

The report also discovered that Auld Reekie has 95 fish and chip shops nestled throughout the city, whereas Glasgow has a whopping 149, which is the fifth highest in the study.

When comparing the top-rated fish and chip shop in each city, the report found that Edinburgh ranks in eighth place for its number of menu items, as its highest-rated chippy (Salvatore's) has

72 options to choose from, 24 of which are vegetarian-friendly.

The top 10 cities for fish and chips, according to research from Betway, are:

- 1: Bristol (score of 60.6)
- 2: Nottingham (score of 59.8)
- 3: London (score of 58.3)
- 4: Edinburgh (score of 55.6)
- 5: Leicester (score of 55)
- 6: Brighton (score of 54.3)
- 7: York (score of 49.2)
- 8: Liverpool (score of 47.9)
- 9: Birmingham (score of 46.8)
- 10: Glasgow (score of 45).