

SCOTLAND TODAY

Burglar took cops on tour of targets

A BURGLAR took police on a guided tour of places he had targeted.

A court heard Duncan Welsh, 23, embarked on a thieving spree to fund his addiction to valium.

When he was caught red-handed after breaking into a shop in Blackpool, he showed police the other premises he had targeted in the resort.

Welsh, of Caledonia Street, Port Glasgow, admitted 24 burglaries, mostly shops.

Duncan Birrell, prosecuting, told Preston Crown Court: "Welsh said he had problems with alcohol and was addicted to valium. He needed £50 a day for it and was taking 40 tablets a day. "He asked police to take him round Blackpool, where he could point out properties he had burgled."

Welsh was sentenced to nine months in jail, suspended for two years.

■ mnlkjhl kjlkwj

MOUNTAIN rescue teams are to receive £300,000 in Scottish Government funding this year.

The cash was announced by community safety minister and climbing enthusiast Fergus Ewing, a former member of the Lomond mountain rescue team.

"As a former member of the mountain rescue service I am well aware of the vital role Scotland's mountain rescue teams play in aiding those who end up in difficulty," he said.

■ New plea in woman's death

DETECTIVES have renewed a plea for information following the suspicious death of a young woman.

Vikki McGrand, 20, was found dead in her flat in Wellington Street, Ayr, on Sunday night.

A post-mortem has been carried out and further tests are taking place.

Police said they were treating her death as suspicious.



■ mnlkjhlkjlkwj

The "dark and turbulent" Highland clearances should be remembered for their legacy on countries across the world, a government minister said today.

A monument, called Exiles, is due to be unveiled in Canada

tomorrow forming a link with its partner statue, Emigrants, in Sutherland. Environment minister Michael Russell will unveil the new statue - the first of its kind outside Scotland. He said: "The

■ mnlkjhl kjlkwj

Demand for Scottish food has increased in a "seismic" shift over the last year, a minister said today.

One leading supermarket saw sales of Scottish produce increase by 20% in Scotland and 14% in the rest of the UK, said rural affairs secretary Richard Lochhead.

He told of the shift in a speech launching the Scottish Food Fortnight industry showcase at

■ mnlkjhl kjlkwj

Inverclyde football players and athletes are affected by an overtime pay row involving park wardens.

The wardens are refusing to do overtime, known as park watch, because some of them will lose up to £100 a week under a new deal.

NEW LIFE FOR

GRAVEYARDS

PAUL TAYLOR spent a year looking at Glasgow's Necropolis - and has decided it's time the dead were brought up to date.

The 25-year-old architect wants to shake up Britain's "poor" attitude to death by creating a 21st century super-cemetery.

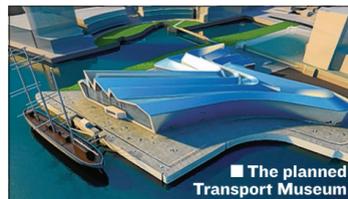
Paul's plan for a Glasgow Death Compendium, which won last year's Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland drawing award, would turn traditional ideas on their head.

"I think we hide our cemeteries because we don't want to confront death - death is both a very personal and a very public thing," Paul said.

The GDC would sit on a site 10 times the size of the Scottish

A GLASGOW architect wants to update Scotland's attitude to the dead and has designed a one-stop death shop where the living and the dead come together.

TRISTAN STEWART-ROBERTSON takes a look at his super-cemetery



■ The planned Transport Museum

Parliament and would be a one-stop shop of cemetery, memorial, crematorium, chapel, and multi-faith worship.

The perfect site would lead down to the water itself, the Clyde and Kelvin rivers forming two sides, connecting visitors to the historic lifelines of the city.

The first spanner in the works is that Paul's perfect site has been taken, and is now being transformed into the new

riverside Transport Museum. But Paul is determined the idea of modern cemeteries still needs to change.

"Cemeteries are artificial - you want it to be formal but not structured. I was creating artificial landscape," he explained.

"It was like a one-stop shop of death, but without the formal aisles of a shopping centre.

"In the Necropolis you have amazing panoramic views of the city, where with mine you got amazingly close to the water, which you don't get to do normally."

Paul remembers his grandmother's body laid out in the livingroom after she died and the intimacy of saying goodbye in that confined space.

"I like the feeling of the old

cemeteries because it feels like a room and is more enclosed," said Paul, who recently finished his Masters in Architecture at the Glasgow School of Architecture and now works in London.

"I think because it's death, it's always going to be intimate - the stone is about a person - it's always going to have a certain intimacy about it.

"I always thought the best cemeteries were places you can just go to unwind, not just to pay your respects.

"I started to look at quite a lot of European examples because Britain is quite poor in how they remember the dead."

And Paul isn't the first Glaswegian to try to shift our approach to cemeteries.

Planner John Claudius Loudon, born in Cambuslang,

suggested in his 1843 work "On the Laying Out, Planting and managing of Cemeteries" to build cemeteries on the outskirts of towns. When full, they would be turned into public parks.

AND last year, 165 years later, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment backed Loudon's idea.

They called for cemeteries to be used more as public green spaces, such as the Necropolis is now.

Professor Tony Walter, from the Centre of Death and Society at the University of Bath, says: "Loudon was smart because he realised new urban masses would want green space to roam

through. But he was too smart, because the masses wanted proper parks.

"People didn't want to stroll in cemeteries. That's why they have become wastelands."

Professor Patrick O'Donnell, of the psychology department at the University of Glasgow, said: "Public memorials were very important in early periods. But society has become more privatised and maybe people keep more personal memories, so the grieving process has become more privatised.

"You accept that someone is dead but a relationship with them on an emotional level still continues. Place has always been important to that process."

Locations for cemeteries are increasingly on the outskirts of communities, often to public objections, such as last year's

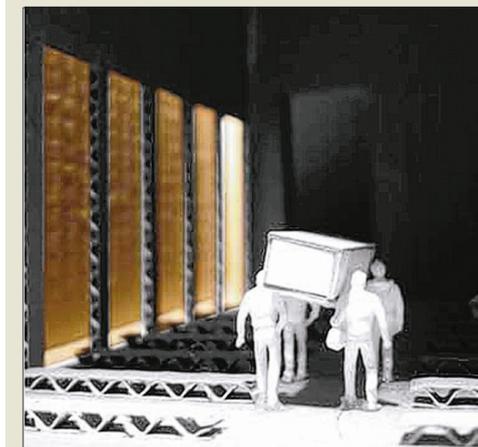
opposition by the village of Carmunnock to plans for a new 31-acre Muslim cemetery.

Professor Tony Walter, from the Centre of Death and Society at the University of Bath, said fundamental changes would need to be made to British burials as space runs out.

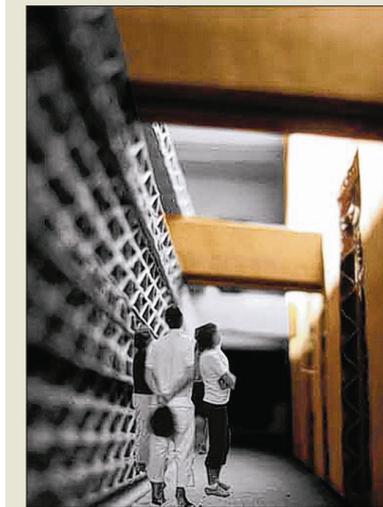
Most Continental cemeteries bury the dead just two or three feet down, but in the UK and North America, graves plunge down six feet. That's "bonkers", said Prof Walter.

In some countries the problem of space has been relieved by "burying" the dead in stacks of marble drawers above ground where whole families can be placed together.

But whatever the solution it seems Glasgow isn't quite ready for Paul's super-cemetery just yet.



■ Paul's plan for a Glasgow super-cemetery looked at relieving space problems and trying to bring the living and dead together



Brave Olivia bids to set up Malawi limb clinic

By VIVIENNE NICOLL

A MENINGITIS survivor who had to have her hands and feet amputated is flying to Malawi to help set up a prosthetics clinic.

Former Evening Times Scotswoman of the Year Olivia Giles will work in partnership with a team from Glasgow City Council.

The 43-year-old former commercial lawyer developed meningitis six years ago and had the lifesaving surgery and within hours.

She now works tirelessly as an ambassador for disabled people and founded the charity 500 Miles to provide artificial limbs.

Earlier this year she asked Glasgow Lord Provost Bob Winter to help transport shoes to poverty-stricken Malawi.

Olivia was introduced to former council chief Brian Kelly and international officer Gillian Walsh - who offered to help build the clinic in the capital city Lilongwe.

Yesterday a council team flew out to start work ahead of Olivia's arrival.

She said: "The Lord Provost team's record speak for itself and what they have achieved in a few short months would

year. Olivia said: "Getting to Blantyre is impossible for most disabled people but building a new clinic in the capital will help.

"It won't happen overnight but in five years' time it'll be a fully-functioning workshop.

"It'll still depend on support from Scotland but people will get their dignity and independence back and that's what keeps me going."

To donate cash send a cheque payable to the Lord Provost's Malawi Fund to the City Chambers, George Square, G2 1DU.

Almost 1% of Malawi's 12 million citizens need prosthetic and orthotic services. The only prosthetics workshop in the African country is in Blantyre, which produces 200 false limbs every



■ Olivia Giles is set for Malawi

vivienne.nicoll@

Sports clubs back council staff

By CAROLINE WILSON

HUNDREDS of sports clubs caught up in a council parks dispute have given their backing to workers.

Inverclyde football players and athletes are affected by an overtime pay row involving park wardens.

The wardens are refusing to do overtime, known as park watch, because some of them will lose up to £100 a week under a new deal.

The council has now adver-

tised for 20 new park attendants to cover the work.

But the dispute has led to the closure of facilities like Ravenscraig Stadium in Greenock and the cancellation of matches.

Some clubs have been forced to play games away - because of the lack of home facilities - leading to spiralling expenses.

Representatives from around 50 clubs held a mass meeting earlier this week and are to stage a protest demonstration at Gourcock Park on Sunday.

Robert Love is the chairman of Gourcock Youth Athletic Club which runs three junior football teams.

He said: "We run a 7-a-side tournament for around 300 children aged 6-12. That has had to be cancelled.

"We also have three junior teams that have had to reverse all their fixtures.

"It is costing us a fortune in expenses.

"We have a good relationship with the park wardens and fully support their action.

"They have been treated appallingly."

The council say "interim arrangements" are now in place to enable the parks to re-open.

But the clubs claim Community Wardens have been drafted in, and are refusing to use the parks until the dispute is resolved.

The demonstration backing the workers will take place in Gourcock Park on Sunday at 12.30pm.

caroline.wilson@
eveningtimes.co.uk

Shelling out to save snail

ONE of the world's smallest and rarest snails is to receive Scottish Government protection.

Environment Minister Mike Russell declared Garron Point, near Stonehaven, a special area of conservation to protect the narrow-mouthed whorl snail, measuring less than a millimetre in width.

Scare as Faslane power cut

A POWER failure triggered a security alert at Faslane naval base on the Clyde.

The entire base was affected, with the security cameras and fence alarms out of action for around an hour.

Naval officials are investigating why the back-up generators failed to kick in immediately after the power cut last Saturday at 5.50am.

Officials insist security at the submarine base was not compromised and full security was restored within an hour.

A Faslane spokeswoman confirmed the incident but said staff were trained to cope with such situations.

She said: "There was a failure with the power which supplies the base.

"The base has back-up generators but because the failure happened in a period of darkness it took some time before they kicked in.

"We are prepared for situations like this. "We operate many levels of security."



■ Security cameras at Faslane were hit

TOP Glasgow band Attic Lights are to headline a student freshers' festival in the heart of Glasgow.

Around 10,000 music fans are expected to flock to George Square for the Scotcampus event on October 3 and 4.

Prospective students and those already studying can get advice while enjoying some of the best live music around.

Springburn band Attic Lights, who recently signed a five-album deal with Island Records, will be joined by Isosceles, The Down and Outs, The

Grace Emlys, Popup, Hi 5 Alive, The Briganties The Debutts, The Manikes, Carrie MacDonald and Thieves in Suits.

Students can benefit from giveaways including a car, music lessons and beauty treatments.

Free haircuts, life coaching sessions, goody bags, health and lifestyle advice and complementary food and drink will also be offered.

Graeme Barratt, festival founder, said: "The event gives students the best advice - from food and clubs to lifestyle."