

COMMUNITY NEWS

I am covering Pollok, Newlands, Cathcart, Pollokshaws, Mansewood, Priesthill, Househillwood, Arden, Carnwadric, South Nitshill, Darnley. Call me with your news on 0141 302 6532 or e-mail: linzi.watson@eveningtimes.co.uk



LINZI WATSON

Top lawyer visits Tea project

LEADING lawyer Miriam Gonzalez Durantez visited a Govan drop-in centre. Ms Gonzalez Durantez, who is married to deputy prime minister Nick Clegg, went to the Tea in the Pot project which supports local women. The lawyer, a partner at Dechert, was invited to the city

by members of The Scottish Circle, who campaign on behalf of vulnerable woman across the world. The Tea in the Pot project, based in The Pearce Institute, is supported by Scottish Circle through Oxfam. Scottish Circle chairwoman Farah Khushi, said the "visit was a great boost".

MP in the pink for cancer charity

GLASGOW South West MP Ian Davidson has vowed to sport a pink moustache in support of a breast cancer charity.

Mr Davidson is taking part in Breast Cancer Campaign's biggest fundraiser, Wear It Pink Day, on October 25.

The MP, well known for his distinctive moustache, has promised to don a pink version.

He said: "We need to support Breast Cancer Campaign's fundraising efforts so they can continue to fund research which will one day lead to a cure."

Tour of model ship collection

VISITORS will be given a special chance to tour the city's model ship collection during an event at the Glasgow Museums Resource Centre.

On Wednesday only, the collection – which includes a plating model of the Queen Mary and detailed warships – will be

available to view at the facility in South Nitshill Industrial Estate.

The free tour runs from 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

Book in advance by calling 0141 276 9300. Glasgow Museums Resource Centre is home to a vast collection of objects from around the world.

Questions turned on students

BBC journalist Samira Ahmed interviewed students from Glasgow Clyde College for the BBC current affairs review programme Newswatch.

Ahmed, the programme's presenter, questioned the group of first and second year HND Practical Journalism students about media coverage of the referendum and how young people get their news.

The students, based at the Cardonald campus in Mosspark Road, also got the chance to quiz the experienced journalist as part of a press conference before she questioned them.

Doors Open to Burrell archives

THE doors of the Burrell Collection archives are being thrown open this weekend.

Families are being invited to take guided tours of artefacts not

on display tomorrow and Sunday.

Tours are at 11.30am, 1.30pm and 3.30pm, as part of Glasgow's Doors Open Day events. Visitors should book in advance.

MISTER WRITE Poet Tam loves looking on bright side

I fell 22ft. If I hadn't missed spikes on a 6ft fence by 3ins I would have been dead. It was the worst and best thing to happen to me ...

By HANNAH RODGER

POET Tam Craven is full of laughs. The proud Scot has stuck to his roots, despite having travelled the length and breadth of the country.

He has also lived abroad several times, but has always returned to his home town, where he finds inspiration from the tiniest of details.

But if it had not been for a near-fatal accident he might never have discovered his talent.

The 63-year-old has been writing Scottish poetry and stories for more than 15 years and has self-published 29 books to date, but he was not always so literary.

"When I was 15 I worked as a commis chef at the Campsie Glen Hotel, near my home in Lennoxtown. It was some hotel back then, and it was there I learned the confidence to talk to people," says Tam.

"It was a really important job for me, and after that

I moved on to work as an apprentice bricklayer."

Tam flitted back and forwards between construction work and other jobs, but eventually came to work with the local council, renovating the mausoleum in Lennoxtown, East Dunbartonshire.

It was here he had an experience that would change his life forever.

Tam explains: "The building had been left to go to ruin, and we got so

I love making people laugh. If you make people laugh, you make yourself laugh

high up they had to put scaffolding up.

"I was a kind of foreman and was teaching the young boys how to point stone and things.

"We went on to the scaffold, and there is a thing called a kickboard, a plank of wood turned up on its edge against the side, so if

anything falls it does not move.

"This time they had put it on the wrong side. I stood up and leaned on it because I was trying to demonstrate how to point the stone and I went right over the edge.

"I fell 22ft. If I hadn't missed the spikes on a 6ft fence by about 3in I would have been dead."

He was left with a cracked skull, punctured lung, broken ribs and a damaged knee.

The accident cost him months in hospital and he lost his flat, which he had bought months before and had renovated himself.

Yet he has no regrets about what happened that day.

"It was probably the worst and the best thing that ever happened to me in my life, although I didn't realise it at the time," he says.

After the accident, on a trip to Torquay visiting family, he began to write ... and has not stopped since.

He loves to include humour into his work, and his most prized talent is his ability to make people laugh

when they read his poems.

"I love making people laugh, because if you make people laugh, you make yourself laugh. To me, it's very important."

Many of his poems are influenced by nature, particularly water and the Scottish landscape, but Tam has also written about sadder times in life, including the death of his father George, from cancer, and a friend, James, who died aged 21.

TAM sees these poems as a way of sharing his memories of the people who are special to him.

"I suppose it helps to deal with sadness or disappointment," he says. "When I am writing, I am laughing my head off because I am remembering the characters I knew. It was a pleasure and a joy to have known people like that."

As well as writing and selling his books at a weekly stall in Merchant Square, Candleriggs, Glasgow, Tam also goes to schools to recite his work and inspire the kids

of life and has an accident to thank for giving him a new career



Tam will be launching his first hardback book in Merchant Square this weekend
Pictures: Nick Ponty

to put pen to paper and come up with their own poems.

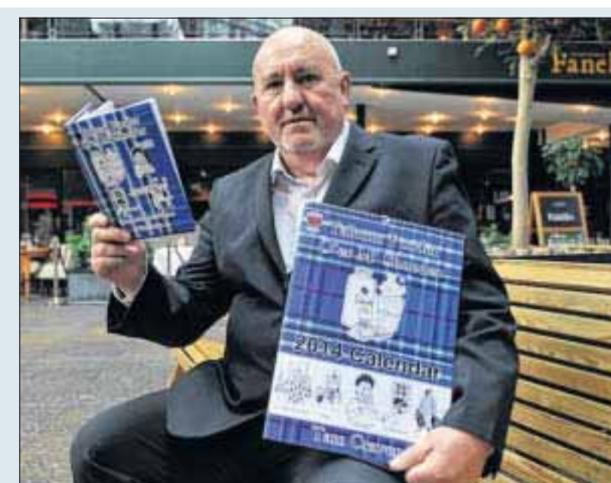
Tam recalls: "Earlier this year I was invited to a primary school near Dunbar, and I read for about 40-50 minutes.

"It was a right laugh and the kids were very encouraging. "I was invited back about three weeks later for a Scottish day and I have never been so impressed in my life. Some of the weans were quoting their own poetry."

Next on the agenda for Tam is to write a full-length private detective novel and he has his sights set on a move to Australia at some point.

His first hardback book, Talcum Powder O'er M' Shooder, will be launched at Merchant Square on Saturday and Sunday and he will be signing copies.

For more information, see: www.insideasnowdrop.com
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Affluenza

by Tam Craven

A went tae see ma doctor
Joost the other day
He looked me up and doon, and says
"Big man yir in an awfy bad way"

"Yiv caught a bad disease
It's called affluenza
You better change yir greedy ways
Afore it goes too far

Yir working 18 hours a day
For the sake of greed greed greed
Ye better stoap chasin' money
Cos yir gonny end up deid

How many suits do you need
How many cars can you drive
We only need one shroud you know
We're only here to survive

So get your life the gither my friend
Stoap chasin' avarice and wealth
And get rid of this affluenza
And start thinkin' of your health"

Greenhouse kids have a lot of bottle

GREEN-FINGERED nursery children have celebrated the opening of a new greenhouse.

Pupils at Westburn Nursery in Cambuslang will use the outdoor facility – which has been made out of recycled plastic bottles – for lessons.

The greenhouse was built with help from builders The Cruden Group, based at Cambuslang Investment Park, which also helped to tidy up the nursery garden.

It is hoped the facility will help the school to achieve a Green Flag Award.

Val Spence, team leader at the nursery, said: "We're really grateful for this much needed support from The Cruden Group, which has enabled us to provide the children with an enriching educational experience outdoors and engage them in learning about the environment."

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£2M grant will help aid translation

ACADEMICS at the University of Glasgow have received £2million from the Arts and Humanities Research Council's Translating Cultures programme to fund new research.

Working in partnership with Creative Scotland and the Scottish Refugee Council, the project will seek to explore the difficult area of translation and interpretation.

International academics from Bulgaria, Arizona and Gaza will come together with those from the University of Glasgow in innovative ways to examine some of the issues that occur during interpretation and translation.