

Five things you need to know today



You may think our photo is an April Fool – but it is not – as we [reported last night](#).

Susan Boyle is 50 today. Happy Birthday Susan! Just to remind you all that her career started with her audition on Britain's Got Talent a mere two years ago. How that appearance changed her life – and ours! Here is the song we particularly like....

Last night at The Scotsman Leaders' Debate Alex Salmond came under fire for fighting a Freedom of Information request through the courts for the last two years. [The Herald](#) reports that there have been two visits to the Court of Session to stop access to a document prepared by senior civil servants about the possible introduction of a local income tax, which may be part of the SNP manifesto. On the list of applications to the [FOI Commissioner](#) which are being investigated at the moment there are around a dozen which involve The Scottish Government.

[Shaun Milne](#), Regional Editor STV Local at STV Group, and one half of [Two Fat Laddies](#), we are laying down a challenge for you. Today, Shaun, since we know you already have a bike, you could start out on a month of cycling.....

The challenge is that you cycle a little (or a lot!) each (and every) day in April. You will get more information on [30 Days of Biking](#). They have a [Facebook](#) page and you can follow them on Twitter too by using the hashtag **#30daysofbiking**. **Are you up for the challenge? If so, then The Edinburgh Reporter will cycle round the city with you at lunchtimes (when available...)**

[TV Mole](#) explains that if you are interested in making an independent documentary film then you have until 15 April to get your entry together **for The Edinburgh Pitch. This three day event from 13-15 June 2011** is designed to help 12 independent filmmakers develop, pitch and find finance for their documentaries (52' – 90') over a three day workshop. Films must have international potential and is open to UK and foreign applicants. The pitching day on 14th June is open to observers.

Please read the [Pitch guidelines](#) and apply [here](#).

Deadline for applications is Friday 15 April 2011 (midnight) A decision will be made by 3rd May 2011. You can also get more information from the [Scottish Documentary Institute](#).

We love this idea! [Little White Lies](#) tell us that MyStreet has launched a filmmaking initiative, offering would-be movie moguls the chance to make a short film from 90 seconds to 9 minutes about their street, their locality, a neighbour – and you could win £3,000!!! So come on Edinburgh – how many pins can we get on the map? The film can be uploaded from a mobile or from a proper movie camera....

Here is the trailer