

# Five things you need to know today

- ✘ The Met Office tell us that it will be a lovely day!

*A fine dry and quite sunny and warm day. Mist soon thinning though some patches persisting along North sea coasts. Elsewhere it will be mostly fine with warm sunny spells and light Southeast winds. Maximum temperature 20 °C.*

David McLetchie, Scottish Conservative Campaign Manager and candidate for Edinburgh Pentlands, will be campaigning in Balerno today. Commenting on the launch of the Tory manifesto earlier in the week, Francis Stuart, Friends of the Earth Scotland Parliamentary Officer, said:

*“The Tory manifesto is largely a sop to big business, designed to increase air and road traffic, while bulldozing over the rights of ordinary people, and their local representatives, to oppose new and totally unnecessary nuclear developments on their doorstep.*

*“There is pretty much nothing in this manifesto to tackle fuel poverty, improve public transport, or make sure Scotland has the necessary skills and investor confidence to deliver energy efficiency and renewable power.*


*“In sum, if we want an affordable, secure and clean green energy future, the policies set out in the Tories manifesto would take Scotland full steam in the wrong direction.”*

- ✘ The Forest Cafe campaign may be helped by Stephen Fry tweeting about it, according to [The Scotsman](#). Fry has retweeted a message about the plight of the arts centre to his 2.5m followers.

The Edinburgh International Science Festival gets underway today until 22 April at a wide range of venues as we told you yesterday in our [Top ten picks](#).

**The 2011 Edinburgh Medal Recipient is Professor Carl Djerassi, chemist, novelist, playwright and co-inventor of the first oral contraceptive. In advance of his Edinburgh Medal Address, Professor Djerassi is presenting [Science Theatre](#) at the Traverse on Sunday 10 April, a unique opportunity to explore the fusion of science and the arts.**

Theatre can be an accessible and provocative way of telling the stories of science to a wide audience. Science Theatre looks at the ways in which these two disciplines can come together to form an interactive space.

**Professor Djerassi** will be joined by **Nigel Townsend**,  artistic director of the renowned [Y-Touring](#) theatre company whose 'Theatre of Debate' format creates work addressing tough ethical issues and engaging directly with its audience.

Watch clips, hear readings and join this fascinating discussion of the different forms of science and theatre, chaired by **Ben Twist**.

Tickets for this event are free but can be reserved in advance at [www.sciencefestival.co.uk](http://www.sciencefestival.co.uk) or by calling the Box Office on **0131 553 0322**.

The Edinburgh Medal is awarded each year to men and women of Science and Technology whose professional achievements are judged to have made a significant contribution to the understanding and wellbeing of humanity. Carl Djerassi's 2011 Edinburgh Medal Address, [Science, Sex and Theatre: A Potent Brew](#), will take place at Edinburgh's City Chambers on Tuesday 12 April.

And a word or two from the Edinburgh International Film Festival director, James Mullighan, obviously needed after a week of wild speculation about how the festival will be

organised this year. “As we continue the exciting process of building and evolving the EIFF in its 65th year, there has been a swirl of speculation about the refreshed format, the role of our artistic advisors, and progress made in the run up to the Festival. I’d like to take this opportunity to distinguish fact from fiction, and to assure everyone that we are well on track to deliver a fantastic festival experience for all attending in June.” You can read [more of this letter on the EIFF website.](#)