

Five things you need to know today



It was reported in a few media outlets earlier in the week that locals have asked for a stay of execution on the trees lining the banks of the Water of Leith. We were down at Canonmills Bridge yesterday and it seems there has been a full scale felling of some trees on the east side of the bridge. The trees on the other side are due to be felled from Monday and there is now a petition to try, even at this late stage, to stop that happening.

One resident has been in contact with The Reporter about the protest.

“Locals appalled at the felling of so many beautiful trees during flood defence works along the Water of Leith are mounting a campaign to defend those remaining at Canonmills Bridge.

<http://www.broughtonspurtle.org.uk/news/locals-petition-stop-chop>

<http://www.petitionbuzz.com/petitions/stopthechop>

At the meeting held on Wednesday night at Stockbridge Library, around 60 people filed objections to the loss of the trees on the north bank of the Water of Leith at Canonmills Bridge after witnessing the total devastation of mature trees along the back of Warriston Crescent to the east of the Bridge.

The contractor has pulled the date for tree felling forward from Jan 2012 to this Monday coming (21st) – can a stay of execution be granted in any form to help resolve this

issue. Almost 700 people who have signed the petition can't be ignored."

These are photos of the trees lining the banks on the eastern and western sides of Canonmills Bridge.

[Matt Baker](#) has raised £1m for Children in Need riding a rickshaw from Edinburgh Castle to London. He finished tonight in time for the TV extravaganza on BBC.

Would you like to be on the radio? Then this is your big chance.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF BRIAN TAYLOR'S BIG DEBATE?

We're coming to your town . . . and we'd love to see you there!

WHERE: Institute of Chartered Accountants Scotland, 21 Haymarket Yards, Edinburgh, EH12 5BH

WHEN: Friday 25th November

TIMES: Doors open at the venue at 11.30am the show is on air from 12.15 – 1.00pm.

RESERVATIONS: please complete the booking form attached and return it to brian@bbc.co.uk to book your seat in the audience.

<<BOOKING FORM Edinburgh.doc>>

PANEL

Atholl Duncan Global Director with ICAS, SNP MSP Marco Biagi, and Margo Macdonald MSP with Gavin Brown MSP from Scottish Conservatives.

Brian Taylor's Big Debate is a news and politics radio programme with a panel and audience, broadcasting on BBC Radio Scotland every Friday lunchtime. The show has visited more than 50 cities and towns across Scotland since it began in 2009.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-15190428>

Each week BBC Scotland's Political Editor Brian Taylor chairs a panel of people from the world of politics, business, arts and the community and he needs YOU to ask the questions and take part in the debate.

The audience is at the heart of this programme.

Our audience and panel members have asked questions and aired their opinions on issues ranging from sectarianism, independence, wind farms and roads, to the future of wild beavers in Perth and the trams in Edinburgh!

Questions should be brief and to the point if possible and can be on anything that you feel passionate about. Please email your question to us at Brian@bbc.co.uk by Thursday 24th November. Please be aware we're not able to guarantee that all questions will be used.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN EDINBURGH ON FRIDAY 25TH NOVEMBER!

Email brian@bbc.co.uk to book your place in the audience

Edinburgh's Merchiston Castle School has retained its charitable status after a three year investigation by the Charity Regulator. [The Scotsman](#) explains that the investigation has been criticised as botched and unnecessary, but the body has defended itself stating that the school has widened access to its facilities to meet their requirements.

Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links (FOMBL) have asked us to advertise the fact that they are organising

Leaf Collection Fun Days

Saturday 19 November 10am to 1pm

Sunday 27 November 12pm to 3:30pm

Meet at the Cricket Pavilion: tools provided but wear sensible shoes and gloves

Please e-mail Richard Ellis if you intend to go along to help (rellis.consultancy@virgin.net)