Five things you need to know today



In the news today:-

The End of Movember

World Aids Day

Scottish Green Energy Awards

Pandamonium

Telford College looking for male models

Cabinet Secretary for Health Nicola Sturgeon joined Jim Eadie MSP and his SNP colleagues along with members from other parties at the Scottish Parliament to celebrate the end of Movember today.

Movember is month long campaign to raise funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer and other cancers that affect men.

Mr Eadie, SNP MSP for Edinburgh Southern, says that he has enjoyed having fun to highlight a serious issue.

He said:

"The sprouting of moustaches on dozens of men's faces in the parliament is to highlight a serious issue — and it is fair to say that it has also brought a few smiles to the faces of others.

"Our aim for the past 30 days has been to raise vital funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer.

As men in 2011 we need to address issues regarding our health openly and without stigma.

"I hope we have done our bit to help. The moustache has been a hot topic of conversation.

On World AIDS Day, Mark Lazarowicz MP for Edinburgh North and Leith, called for the UK Government to renew its commitment to the fight against AIDS both here in the UK and internationally.

He said:-"Thirty years after the start of the AIDS epidemic we are at a crossroads. AIDS need no longer be a death sentence because of the increased effectiveness of antiretroviral drugs. Yet the number of new infections continues to grow even though exciting new research shows the role that antiretrovirals can play in preventing transmission as well as treatment. Tragically only one third of those who need the drugs are getting them and major international donors are cutting back on funding.

"I am calling on the UK Government to give a strong lead with its contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria which is facing a major shortfall. Without renewed commitment there is a real danger that the progress made could be reversed but if we seize the chance the end of AIDS could at last be in sight."

Locally here in Edinburgh recently Mark has taken part in two important events stressing the continuing challenges that AIDS presents.

In July he spoke at a seminar organised by Waverley Care, a pioneering organisation offering care and support to people who are HIV positive. Then in October he also spoke at a meeting of the Edinburgh University Stop AIDS campaign.

In Scotland as elsewhere people who are HIV positive are living longer as a result of treatment with antiretroviral drugs. However, there is concern that people are still coming forward to be tested at a late stage when treatment is less effective.

Two Edinburgh renewable energy companies are in the running at tonight's Green Energy Awards being held at the newly renovated National Museum of Scotland. Pelamis Wave Power is shortlisted in the Innovation category, and Aquamarine Power is in the frame for the Business Growth Award.

➤ The excitement at Edinburgh Zoo reached fever pitch this week, thanks to the imminent arrival of its very special new guests — Tian Tian and Yang Guang — the first pandas to live in the UK for 17 years. Panda Liquorice is delighted to announce its support for the pair of bears with the launch of a brand new product. Strawberry Bears are being launched in honour of this historic duo and proceeds will go towards the care of Sweetie and Sunshine during the 10 years they are at Edinburgh Zoo.

Specially developed Panda Liquorice Strawberry Bears are made with all natural ingredients — containing no nasties — as with all products in the Panda natural range. The soft bears, sweetened with real strawberry puree are perfect for kids and adults as a guilt free snack. Strawberry bears join the fruit range of Panda Liquorice — cherry, raspberry and blueberry have been launched over the past two years and each flavour has proved incredibly popular — especially with younger liquorice fans. And they will be on sale at the Zoo or at Morrisons.

Edinburgh's Telford College is running a new Barbering course and is now on the hunt for male models to help students hone their styling and cuttings skills and meet the demands of the latest male grooming boom.

The Hairdressing Team at the award winning college is now offering styling and colouring appointments for men at competitive rates. This gives the client the opportunity to access the industry's most up to date products and techniques within a real salon environment, full supervised by experienced members of the team.

While the department sees scores of females through the doors looking to try out the latest hair dressing trends, they are urging more male models to come forward and also take advantage of the student's expertise.

Rosemary Martin who is a Hairdressing lecturer at Telford College said, "We are now offering a range of services for men. Cuts, colour and facial hair styling all at rock bottom prices. Cuts start at £3, which is a fraction of what you would expect to pay in a city centre salon and we use American Crew products throughout.

"As a result of recommendations, we are starting to build up a regular clientele. However we still need more male models to come forward."

To book an appointment with the Hairdressing department male and female models can call the Hair/Beauty reception on 0131 559 4050.

And we have our <u>Advent Calendar</u> full of ideas that may inspire you for Christmas starting today. A new door will be opened each morning....