

Five things you need to know today



Portobello Market – Tonight at the Usher Hall – Tonight at The Queen’s Hall – Local MP raises cycling matters at Westminster – Debate at Holyrood on Monday

Today there will be another Portobello Market Day in Brighton Park. The market organisers say:-

“It’s the market before Christmas and we have a few fun things happening. There will be a bauble hunt for the kids with a selection stocking as the prize, face painting and Phil the wicker man. We’re also hoping for a local school to provide carol singers on the day as well. Pea Green Boat are returning this month, together with Portobello Witch so we’ll have 24 traders at this months market.

All our usual traders will be there for your shopping needs, from award winning oils, locally produced fresh meats, great fresh bread, artisan cheeses, hand-made soaps, cards & gifts, seasonal veggies, planted window boxes, chutneys and relishes, garden furniture and a first class BBQ for all you hungry mouths, plus our regular provider of latte, cappuccino etc. A full list of stallholders is available here.” In Brighton Park, Brighton Place, Portobello, Edinburgh, EH15 1LJ, 9.30am – 1.30pm. Please note that there will be no market in January. The next market after that will be on Saturday 2 February 2013.”

The Origin 15th anniversary Christmas concert takes place

tonight at the Usher Hall. You are promised a fabulous Christmas celebration. [More details here.](#)

Dance Base is the centre for learning about dance in Edinburgh situated in a lovely building in the Grassmarket. This weekend you can see the fruits of their learning at their shows staged at The Queen's Hall [where you can book your tickets](#):-

Dance Base's legendary Christmas Shows are an annual chance for dancers from the community and outreach programmes to get on stage and show the audience their moves. Each show is different; Saturday 1 December features dancers from:

Ballet Fusion

Ballet Improvers

Belly Dance Beginners

Belly Dance Improvers

Bollywood

Burlesque Improvers

Classical Ballet Absolute Beginners, Beginners, Improvers and Intermediate

Contemporary Intermediate

Hairspray Performance Group

Highland Dance Beginners & Improvers/Intermediate

Jazz Beginners

Jazz Intermediate

Musical Madness

Stage Jazz Advanced/Professional

Tap Intermediate

Tap Advanced

Mark Lazarowicz is the MP for Edinburgh North and Leith and in Westminster [this week he raised the question](#) of enforcement of Advanced Stop Lines. These are the red boxes with a cycle in

them for cyclists to be positioned ahead of other traffic at traffic junctions, usually where there are traffic lights. Norman Baker the Under-Secretary for Local Transport [responded that he would ensure it gets some consideration.](#)

Young debating talent will take over at Holyrood this Monday!

The sixth annual St Andrew's Day Debate will take place in the Scottish Parliament on Monday 3 December.

Held in partnership with The Scottish Government and the English Speaking Union, this unique event brings together students from schools and universities across Scotland. The student teams pair up to compete in heats in the hope of making it through to the final to be held in the Parliament's Debating Chamber.

Deputy Presiding Officer Elaine Smith MSP who will be chairing the event said:

"Hosting the St Andrew's Day Debate is an apt way for the Scottish Parliament to mark St Andrew's Day. It is therefore fitting that the Debating Chamber will host these budding debators of the future as they take part in the final.

"I would also encourage members of the public to come along, as previous years have shown that the calibre of debate from these young people deserves to have as wide an audience as possible."

The finals will take place in the Parliament's Debating Chamber from 16.30 on Monday 3 December 2012. Members of the public are welcome to attend and winners will be announced at completion of events. There will be five prizes awarded for:

- Best University Speaker of the Day
- Best School Speaker of the Day
- Best Contribution from the Floor

- Runner-up St Andrew's Day Debating Championship
- Winner of St Andrew's Day Debating Championship