

# Five things you need to know today



Edinburgh in second place – Police issue descriptions of card skimming suspects – Edinburgh International Magic Festival – Lazarowicz slams Government over Universal Credit – Craigmillar Festival this weekend

We are not used to being second here in the first city of Scotland, but this time it is no mean feat that we have only gained second place in a recent survey.

The Centre for Cities' annual **Small Business Outlook**, supported by global insurer Zurich, provides a health check of the performance of SMEs in cities throughout the UK. The 2014 report highlights the cities with the largest number of small businesses investing in 'high-growth' strategies – defined as focusing on competing on quality rather than price; pursuing innovation; investing in training and developing their workforce; offering customised goods and services; and operating in competitive markets.

[Read more here.](#)

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Police Scotland have issued descriptions of the two male suspects they are looking for in connection with card skimming devices found in Frederick Street and George Street on Saturday 21 June 2014.

Both men were in the George Street and Frederick Street areas between around 7.15am and 7.45am

The first man is dark skinned and with dark hair and was wearing a grey jumper and dark blue jeans. He was wearing

white canvas shoes.

The second man is white, bald and wearing a light blue shirt and light grey jacket.

PC Steven Skirving, who is leading the enquiry, said: "Due to the prompt discovery of these devices, I believe people who used the machines at RS McColl and Thomas Cook will not have had their accounts compromised, however I would still urge them to check their accounts and remain vigilant.

"Likewise, I would urge everyone who is using a cash machine to check carefully for hidden recording devices and to ensure they shield their hand when entering a PIN number.

"If they do see something suspicious, they should not use the machine and are asked to call Police Scotland on 101 immediately."

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### **Eight days of outstanding performances from the world's best magicians**

The fifth Edinburgh International Magic Festival will once again bring the most innovative and talented performers from all over the world to Edinburgh from 27 June – 4 July 2014.

This year magic collides with theatre, science, comedy, history, sideshow, technology and psychology as performers from the widest fields of interest come together in Edinburgh to give festival goers the most magical experience possible.

In the Year of Homecoming Scotland, local magicians feature prominently in the main programme. Glasgow magician **Michael Neto**, who represented Scotland at FISM World Championships of Magic in 2012, brings his new theatre and magic production, in collaboration with **Sonic Boom Theatre Company**, to MagicFest. Harthill's **Colin Cloud** is a master of deduction; he explores the snap judgements we all make about other people and life's

scenarios in his new show Forensic Mind Reader. Actor and magician **Scott Smith** from Edinburgh makes his MagicFest debut in the main programme. After a sell show at the Fringe last year, Scott performs at new venue MagicFest venue Adam House Theatre. London Magic Circle Competition finalist **Billy Reid** from Glasgow is one of the UK's most devilishly brilliant close-up magicians and an expert sleight of hand artists.

Kevin McMahon, Edinburgh International Magic Festival Director, said: "Five years ago we waded into the busy Edinburgh festival market aiming to get live magic in front of public and to find acts that didn't just amaze but also excited and inspired. Now over 5000 people come to MagicFest each summer. In the last few years there's been a groundswell in the Scottish magic community of performers willing and able to create innovative shows and I'm delighted to programme so many quality Scottish acts this year."

Each year a wide array of international artists also feature in the programme. This year the award winning line-up includes **Lukas** from South Korea who brings a sense of poetic artistry and visual manipulation techniques to Scotland for the first time, USA's **Rob Zabrecky** a Magic Castle illusionist and character actor who has been twice voted 'Stage Magician of the Year' by the Academy of Magical Arts and **Xavier Tapias** from Spain, whose amazing animatronics act evokes the story of Pinocchio as he magically builds a boy from household rubbish.

Magician and psychologist **Professor Richard Wiseman** makes his MagicFest debut. An international bestselling author, Richard's YouTube channel has over 1 million subscribers and 200 million views. Join him as he takes you backstage to discover the secret science of sorcery. MagicFest are delighted to welcome German artist **Johan Lorbeer** to Edinburgh for the first time. He is famous for his public "Still-Life" performances, which feature Lorbeer in an apparently impossible position, standing in mid-air 'leaning' against a

wall with one hand.

In addition to bringing magic acts from around the world to Edinburgh, MagicFest produce unique events and develop new show concepts. Last year's sell show **The Secret Room** at Lauriston Castle is back with three of Scotland's finest magicians who animate the castle's intriguing past with stories, performances and illusions. **Magic Dinner** at The Royal Scots Club also returns with an evening of fine dining and immersive magical entertainment. **Magic School** wizardry workshops offer 7-10 year olds the choice of either a 2.5 hour workshop or 5-day course with fun show for parents. **Street Magic Masterclass** gives 11-15 year olds the chance to learn some mind-blowing techniques and the secrets behind sleight-of-hand. Brand new show **Tower of Illusion** at Camera Obscura takes you on a magical journey where you must work together to defy illusion, solve riddles, challenge mystery and confront the unknown in a unique treasure hunt.

Since conception in 2010, MagicFest now produces one of the UK's largest magic events, has consulted for the National Theatre of Scotland, broken a Guinness World Record and put together a series of shows and workshops as part of the celebration of Shakespeare's birthday at the Globe Theatre in London. The Edinburgh International Magic Festival is leading the charge in the newly developing market of Magic Festivals appearing around the world, and aims to be the world leader in programming and producing innovative, cutting edge magic.

MagicFest works with various organisations that have supported the festival development and collaborated on some exciting projects and events. Among them are Point Hotel Edinburgh (now Double Tree by Hilton), IDEAS, [MagicDirecet.com](http://MagicDirecet.com), Lothian Buses, Jenners and Tree of Knowledge.

Kevin added: "In addition to our longstanding principal sponsors, we're very excited to announce a new partnership with Krispy Kreme this year. I think it's a wonderful match up

and I'm looking forward to a very sweet relationship. Watch out for some in store magic at Hermiston Gait this summer!"

Open up to magic at the fifth Edinburgh International Magic Festival from 27 June till 4 July.

**Edinburgh International Magic Festival Dates:** 27 June – 4 July 2013

Tickets available online at [www.magicfest.co.uk](http://www.magicfest.co.uk) by calling Hub Tickets on 0131 473 2000 or in person at Hub Tickets (The Hub, Castlehill EH1 2NE)

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At Work and Pensions Questions in the House of Commons, Mark Lazarowicz MP challenged the Government on the continued delay in the accident-prone roll-out of the Government's new Universal Credit, which is to replace six existing working-age benefits.

You can find Mark's exchange with the Work and Pensions Secretary if you [click here](#).

Commenting afterwards, Mark said:- "The aim of Universal Credit is to simplify the benefit system but its introduction has been hit by continual hold-ups with IT design-faults leading to Government in-fighting.

"Whilst lecturing on the need for cuts to benefits for vulnerable claimants, the Government has wasted £34 million on a botched IT system for Universal Credit.

"The end-date has been put back again and again: in 2011 the Government's target was that by April 2014 a million people

would be already enrolled under the new system but the actual figure was only 6,000.

“It must get its act together: rather than simplifying the system, the introduction of Universal Credit has been a sorry story of confusion and mismanagement.”

Universal Credit is to replace:

- Jobseeker's Allowance
- Housing Benefit
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support

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