Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!

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Library closed in Craigmillar today

Lauriston Castle tours

Charity Swap Shop Party

Scottish Labour Party conference in Edinburgh

Vote for Edinburgh business in British competition

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East Neighbourhood Centre and Craigmillar Library are closed today for essential building maintenance work. Councillor Maureen Child explained to The Edinburgh Reporter: "They plan to install two heat curtains in the entrance area of the building, and will need to replace the main power distribution board to accommodate it. This will mean an improved experience of the building for everyone, with a warmer and more inviting reception space. To minimise disruption as much as possible, the building will be closed to the public on Saturday 7 February and will reopen as usual at 8:30 am on Monday 9 February."

Lauriston Castle usually opens its doors for guided tours on demand, but for a number of dates there will be no tours.

The dates are : Sat 7 Feb; Sat 7 March; Sat 21 March; Sat 4 April; Thu 9 April; Sat 18 April; Thu 23 April; Sat 2 May; Thu 7 May; Sat 16 May; Thu 21 May; Sat 30 May.

Check on the website for further details and in case of

change.

The gardens are open though and they are lovely.

"The Castle is set within an historic garden laid out by William Henry Playfair in the 1840s. Overlooking the Firth of Forth and Cramond Island, the views from the garden are magnificent. The recent award winning Japanese Friendship garden, gifted by the prefecture of Kyoto, is a tranquil place to contemplate."

Scottish Labour is holding a one day conference on 7 March 2015 in Edinburgh at the EICC. The new leadership team of Jim Murphy MP and Kezia Dugdale MSP think it is time for a fresh start and they want to bring together their members, politicians, trade unionists and societies and businesses from all over Scotland.

They propose a rewrite of their constitution to ensure that Scottish Labour changes to reflect the changes in Scotland. They will also seek agreement on policy for the 2016 Scottish manifesto.

More information on the Scottish Labour website.

★ Another date for your diary. There will be a charity swap shop party on 7 February at the Pilates Attic in Thistle Street Lane.

Charity Swap Shop Party!

This is a great idea....

Bring along your unwanted clothes, coats, shoes, jewellery, bags, hats, and other accessories, books, CD's, unwanted christmas gifts and anything else!

They should be in good enough condition that someone else would want them. The more the merrier, we want all shapes, sizes and styles!

More details here.

CAPR-Style, a manufacture of adaptive clothing for people with disabilities and special needs, has been chosen as Scotland's Most Innovative Small Business in the GREAT Business 'Faces of British Business' competition. CAPR-Style is now competing for the national prize and to be named the Most Innovative Small Business of Great Britain.

Founded in 2013 CAPR-Style design, manufacture, and distribute adaptive clothing for those with additional support needs. The clothing designs include innovative features that aid the wearer allowing greater independence or can ease the difficulty that clothing can create for carers. The only company of its kind they offer a wardrobe of adaptive clothing for both children and adults.

Founder and mother Claudia Romero began the business to create clothing for her severely disabled son and those like him and the company has grown from there. The team of 4 are based in Edinburgh and have developed close links with schools and groups in the area. Working alongside families they continue to develop new ranges to accommodate solutions to common difficulties and create bespoke pieces to cater to individual needs.

The Business is GREAT Britain campaign launched the competition in 2014, in association with <u>BT Business</u>, to find the most innovative and exciting UK businesses. With public voting making up 50 per cent of the final decision, every vote counts. Voting will close on 23 February and the winner will be announced on 3 March.

Claudia Romero, Executive Manager, CAPR-Style said:

"We are thrilled to be awarded as a regional winner in the GREAT Faces of British Business competition. It is great to see the difference in needs for those with disabilities and their families being recognised and we hope that we will be able to reach and help more people."

Business Minister Matthew Hancock said: 'CAPR-Style is a brilliant example of a successful small firm run by enterprising and hardworking people.'

Recently awarded the Bronze Product Award by Mumpreneur UK for their Arran Style Padded Knee trousers, CAPR-Style are gaining a reputation for its innovation and ingenuity. Now named Most Innovative small business in Scotland, CAPR-Style is now in the running to win the national competition and the top prize of £30,000 worth of government support. The winners will be decided by a combination of judging and public vote. They need your vote as a GREAT business at greatbusinesscompetition.com.

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