Five things you need to know today!

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The Edinburgh Mela

Tonight at the Usher Hall

Broomhouse Cafe vacancies

Fringe Tip of the Day

Looking for bats!

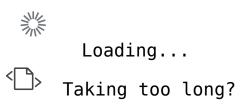
Today the Edinburgh Mela gets underway at Leith Links.

Click <u>here</u> to view the programme for the weekend.

If you don't know what to expect then have a look at this video:

Tonight the Edinburgh International Festival returns to the Usher Hall with a performance of Beethoven's Missa Solemnis. There may still be a ticket or two <u>here</u>.

If not you can listen to it here!



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Today AT THE ACOUSTIC MUSIC CENTRE ' ST BRIDE'S (VENUE 123)

Absolutely Legless (2.30pm and 6pm): Formed by experienced dancers and musicians in 1997, this group has developed a reputation for exciting and innovative performances. They are back on the Fringe for a double bill after appearing at an international festival in Switzerland.

Another Big Night in with the Silver Darlings (8pm): The group, formed after meeting at a children's playgroup in Edinburgh, have performed their unique close harmony to audiences throughout Scotland and Scandinavia.

Elective Affinities (3.45pm): Alice Hauptmann (played by Helena de Crespo) invites you to tea to hear her furious intolerance in social issues.

Funk to Folk (5.30pm): The Angels of Kaos are a group of casual singing enthusiasts from North London who present an eclectic mix of songs from Bach to Bacharach and Stevie Nicks to Stevie Wonder.

Jimmy Hutchison (7pm): Fife-based Jimmy takes you on a guided tour of Scottish traditional song from the Bothy ballads of the North-East to the Borders. He may throw in an occasional story.

Kenny Young and the Eggplants (8.30pm): Award-winning New York-based Kenny Young is back with their gentle insanity. Scots-based author Alexander McCall Smith said: "The most amazing, amusing, wonderful, whicky band in this an any other town." Don't miss it. Mike Whellans (10pm): A previous Fringe sell-out, Bordersbased Mike returns with his rockin' show. The award-winner sings, plays drums, writes songs and has boundless energy and he's been described as the most dynamic one-man blues band around the Forth delta.

If you're like me then these evening events next week will not be for you, but in case there are nature lovers out there who want to go on a bat walk here are the details:

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