

Five things you need to know today



- First day at the office for new MSPs
- Garden Party at Saughton Park
- Ceilidh at Whale Arts Centre
- Say it Ain't Sew
- Harry Benson exhibition

The MSPs who will represent Edinburgh and Lothian in the new Parliament will have their first day at the office today. This week will undoubtedly involve a lot of learning and new beginnings.

The six constituency MSPs are: Ruth Davidson Edinburgh Central, Ash Denham Edinburgh Eastern, Ben Macpherson Edinburgh Northern and Leith, Gordon MacDonald Edinburgh Pentlands, Daniel Johnson Edinburgh Southern and Alex Cole-Hamilton Edinburgh Western.





Alison Johnstone MSP



They will be joined by Scottish Green MSPs Alison Johnstone and Andy Wightman, Scottish Conservatives Gordon Lindhurst, Miles Briggs and Jeremy Balfour, Scottish Labour's Kezia Dugdale and Neil Findlay.



Say It Ain't Sew is a free weekly sewing and craft class open to all abilities that is held in Cabaret Voltaire every Tuesday from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

To celebrate Voluntary Arts Week we will be making easy mini hats for everyone to wear!

All equipment is supplied and the class is aimed at beginners, though any level of ability can join in!

The class is held in a bar, so it is not recommended for anyone under the age of 18. Get along for some sewing fun!

More information [on their Facebook page here.](#)

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A new exhibition Harry Benson : Seeing America will be staged at Holyrood from 12 August until 3 December.

Harry Benson took some of the most iconic images of the 20th century. Think The Beatles and pillow fight, or the Reagans dancing and you will get the picture.

The Edinburgh Reporter met him at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery and he is one of the nicest people we have ever met or interviewed.



Harry Benson 2016

This new exhibition will bring together many of his well-known images including the photograph of President and Mrs Reagan dancing, which featured on the cover of *Vanity Fair*, images documenting the civil rights movement and tensions in 1960s America, the Watergate journalists Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward and Richard Nixon's resignation speech. It will also feature many well-known American entertainers including Frank Sinatra, James Brown, Jack Nicholson, Dolly Parton, Kevin Spacey and Brad Pitt.

The free exhibition will be on display at the Parliament from Friday 12 August until Saturday 3 December. It will be the first exhibition of Harry Benson's work to go on display in Scotland since 2008.

The former Presiding Officer, the [Rt Hon Tricia Marwick](#), who announced the exhibition whilst she was in New York for Scotland Week in April, said:

"Harry Benson's work is admired across the world and he is undoubtedly one of Scotland's greatest exports.

"This new exhibition is Harry's unique take on America over the last 50 years and will feature some of his most iconic photographs.

"As the debate on the forthcoming US Presidential election intensifies, this exhibition shines a light on some of the defining moments of America's past.

"This exhibition is a "must see" for anyone with an interest in American history, politics and culture."

Harry Benson CBE said: "Growing up in Glasgow, one year at the end of term when I had narrowly passed my qualifying exam to the next level, my teacher, Miss MacKenzie, stopped me as I shuffled out of the classroom and said, "Benson, I don't worry about you one bit." It was the nicest thing anyone had ever said to me. I wish I could have gone back years later to thank her.

"To have my retrospective, my American journey, at Parliament is an incredible privilege. My wife, Gigi, and my daughters, Wendy and Tessa, join me in thanking the Scottish Parliament for this truly remarkable honour."

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