

Kings Stables Road incident: victim identified



Police have now identified the man who was found badly injured in Kings Stables Road in the early hours of yesterday morning (Thursday, October 24).

The 20-year-old, who is from Edinburgh, has been identified by his family. He remains in a serious condition in hospital.

Police continue to investigate the circumstances behind his discovery in the roadway, and are appealing to anyone with any information that can assist their inquiries to contact Police Scotland on 101.

Four charged after large quantity of drugs found in Edinburgh houses



Four people have been arrested and charged under the Misuse of Drugs Act after police in Edinburgh recovered large quantities of drugs during two searches in the Capital.

Officers found around 22,500 diazepam tablets within a flat in Murrayburn Gardens on Saturday 5th October and a man aged 42 was charged along with a 41-year-old woman for alleged drug offences.

Both have since appeared in court and the man has been remanded in custody. Over £2,500 in cash was also recovered from the address.

Further enquiry was carried out and a search of a property in Broughton Road was undertaken yesterday (Thursday).

Around 40,000 more diazepam pills were seized from inside and the occupants were arrested and charged.

A 42-year-old man and a 26-year-old woman are scheduled to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court today.

The total value of the recovered diazepam is around £62, 500.

Inspector Stevie Dolan said: "Diazepam is a prescribed drug, which should not be taken by anyone other than those required to consume it for health reasons.

"Recovering these pills means we have ensured that they can't make their way into our communities and be used for reasons other than their prescribed purpose.

"Police Scotland is committed to tackling drug crime and would urge the public to come forward immediately if they wish to report offences of this nature in their local area."

Those with information can contact Police Scotland on 101 or alternatively, the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

VIDEO – Slade arrive in the capital ahead of charity

concert tomorrow!



Dave Hill and Don Powell from seventies super-group Slade have arrived in the capital ahead of Saturday's 'Rewind to the Seventies' concert at the Assembly Hall.

The pair will join Alvin Stardust and The Rubettes on stage with all proceeds going to the National Autistic Society in what promises to be a fantastic night's entertainment for those lucky enough to have a ticket – and if you don't then there may be tickets available on the night....watch the video!

Slade took the music world by storm in the early seventies with an unprecedented 17 straight top 20 hits, six number ones, including three which went straight to the top spot, something no other group, not even the Beatles had achieved at that time. The Jam subsequently equalled this feat in the eighties with Going Underground, Town Called Malice and Beat Surrender.



Their total UK sales exceed 6.5 million and they were awarded a Platinum Disc for the iconic 'Merry Xmas Everybody,' a Gold Disc for 'My oh My,' and Silver Discs for 'Skweeze Me Pleeze Me,' 'My Fried Stan.' 'Everyday' and 'Far Far Away.' Four of their albums were awarded Gold Discs; 'Old New Borrowed Blue,' 'Slade in Flame,' 'Slade Smashes' and 'Crackers,' and two Silver Discs for 'Sladest' and 'Wall of Hits.'

Forty plus years later, Dave and Don have never lost their love of appearing in front of live audiences.

Watch their interview here. (We had such fun with them!) The event was organised by Sue Wilson who also spoke to The Edinburgh Reporter.

Centipede Project carve scary pumpkins for Halloween

The Centipede Project in North Edinburgh held their pumpkin session in the community shop. It was declared a huge success by all involved – as the photos which they have kindly supplied to us show you what they were up to yesterday afternoon.

The group who run the shop Tenants and Residents in Muirhouse (TRIM) have recently been nominated for the Tenants Group of the Year award and they will find out in the middle of next month whether they have won.



Stockbridge Photography Club Photo of the Week



This week's photo comes from Denise Scott, and is an alternative view of the Salisbury Crags!

The Stockbridge Photography Club is a non-profit photography club that aims to operate in a different way from the traditional photography club mould. They have informal monthly

meetings where they discuss their photos over a cup of coffee and learn about the month's theme.

Outside of this, they arrange photowalks and trips to various locations and landmarks in and around Edinburgh, providing their members with something interesting to photograph, whilst always having someone on hand to answer any questions.

Their exhibition is ongoing, and Rosie McKenzie has kindly extended the running time. Why not pop into her gallery on St Stephen Street? Everybody is welcome, and all proceeds go to charity.

More info about the club is on their [website](#).


Submitted by [Stockbridge Photography Club](#)



Mansfield Park at The King's this November



Directed by Colin Blumenau, Tim Luscombe's sharply drawn adaptation of one of Austen's most challenging novels premiered to critical and popular acclaim last year, and the Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds is delighted to be able to bring this spell-binding production to audiences around the country including the King's Theatre in Edinburgh for the second year running, celebrating 200 years since the novel was completed in 1813.

 Unceremoniously uprooted from her humble family home, intelligent young Fanny Price is dropped into the bustling,

aristocratic household of her uncle, Sir Thomas Bertram, where she finds herself buffeted from one crisis to the next in the company of her cousins and their well-to-do friends. Yet throughout this turmoil one thing remains a constant – her love for the generous, worthy and steadfast Edmund Bertram.

But will this love be her salvation? Or will she be forced to marry the charismatic Henry Crawford for connections and wealth alone? Can Fanny triumph over her adoptive family

A Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds Production

MANSFIELD PARK

By Jane Austen

King's Theatre, Edinburgh: Tuesday 5 – Saturday 9 November 2013 [Booking here.](#)

Sir Chris Hoy launches SAMH Partnership with Scottish Athletics



Sir Chris Hoy joined aspiring 2014 Commonwealth Games 800m athlete Guy Learmonth at Redhall Walled Garden earlier today to launch a significant new partnership between the Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH) and **scottish**athletics, which will use the networks and expertise of both organisations to deliver community based services and support across Scotland, helping people every week to discover how physical activity can impact upon and improve their mental health.

The ground breaking partnership will focus on raising awareness of the importance of good mental health to the 28,000 members of jog~~scotland~~, working with jog leaders and ~~scottish~~athletics coaches to ensure community runners and athletes look after their mental health as well as their physical fitness and performance, delivering pilots of SAMH's new 'Mental Health Awareness for coaches working in physical activity and delivering jog leader training courses to SAMH staff and service users.



While at Redhall Walled Garden, Sir Chis and the Commonwealth Games-selected athlete Guy Learmonth also met people who have used this SAMH service to find out how activities such as training in horticulture, conservation and developing maintenance skills have made a positive impact on their mental health

Redhall Walled Garden is a beautiful 18th Century Walled Garden within a 6 acre estate where SAMH offers training in horticulture, conservation, maintenance skills, ITC/admin and life skills for people with mental health problems. The service can support up to 55 service users from within Edinburgh City at any given time.

SAMH already supports 2,500 people every week in over 60 community based services. This partnership will help SAMH to increase its work in using physical activity as part of support and recovery plans for everyone who uses a SAMH service.

Sir Chris, who has been involved in with SAMH and its Get Active Campaign since 2009 said: "The work SAMH does across Scotland supports thousands of people with mental health problems and it's clear to see here at Redhall Walled Garden that increasing physical activity is one of the best steps to take forward better mental health. I'm proud to be able to

support the incredible work the charity does and to meet service users who have benefitted from SAMH's resources."

Bill Watson chief executive of SAMH said: "Physical activity is hugely important for mental health. SAMH has carried out programmes for many years which prove that service users who undertake physical activity enjoy improved mental health. Our resources at Redhall Walled Garden are the perfect example of this in action, and an ideal place to launch our new partnership with **scottishathletics** and hear from Sir Chris Hoy about the importance of keeping active."



Nigel Holl CEO of **scottishathletics** added; "Our partnership with SAMH is very important to us and offers much in the way of assisting both organisations. Through the well-established jog**scotland** programme and our member athletic clubs we have a focus on physical health programmes to help people start and progress with physical activity. The mental health benefits of physical activity are well-documented but we know SAMH can help us improve our support in such a vital area. Equally we believe that we can support the excellent SAMH networks across Scotland through links to jogging groups and athletics clubs, and may help other people benefit. This partnership is about us doing more of what we know works."

Planners to investigate Princes Street store



There has been much Twitter debate about the new American style candy store which appeared recently on Princes Street on the site of the former Clark's shoe shop. The chat is not about the products which are sold there, but the way the new tenants have altered the signage outside.

There does not appear to be any recent application for planning permission or listed building consent for the new signage from our searches of the council's planning portal.

Ugh. Just saw the giant, obnoxious sign for American Candy World on Princes Street. Who OK'd that?! I apologize on behalf of America.

– Andrea Michael (@almichael68) [October 23, 2013](#)

[@brianjaffa](#) A story here? The continuing demise of Princes St! pic.twitter.com/2kHhL22agK – Samantha Currie (@Sam_Currie) [October 22, 2013](#)

The Edinburgh Reporter spoke to Planning Convenor Ian Perry today to find out what the position is, and what the council is doing about it.

[listen to 'Interview with Councillor Perry ' on Audioboo](#)

Police appeal to help identify injured man found in

Kings Stables Road



Police in Edinburgh are appealing for help in identifying a man who was found injured in Kings Stables Road in the early hours of this morning (Thursday, October 24).

The man was found with serious injuries on the roadway, near to the entrance to Princes Street Gardens, opposite the multi-storey NCP car park in Castle Terrace.

Following his discovery he was taken by ambulance to the Western General Hospital, where he is in a serious condition.

Police are carrying out inquiries to establish the circumstances behind the incident, and are appealing for information that can help them identify the injured man.

Officers are making contact with universities and colleges across Edinburgh in recognition that he may be a student who had been out socialising last night, a popular student night in the Capital. Inquiries are also being carried out at licensed premises in the area.

He is described as white, 18 to 30-years-old, 5ft 8ins to 6ft tall, slim build, with a small goatee beard and wearing a long sleeved blue and red top, light grey washed out jeans, and blue high-top canvas boots with SER 55 printed on them.

He has a distinctive dark ink tattoo on the inside of his left forearm, featuring a Pokemon-type character and a series of symbols (possibly Japanese) running the length of the tattoo.

Detective Sergeant Lyle Shaw said: "Our inquiries at the scene are continuing, and at this time we are working to try and identify the man who was found injured in the roadway around 2.15am today.

“Anyone who recognises his description, or who has concerns over a young male relative or friend that they may not have seen or heard from today, should contact police.

“Similarly, we are appealing to anyone who was in the area of King Stables Road or Castle Terrace in the early hours of this morning, who saw someone matching the description of the injured man, to come forward.”

Anyone with information should contact Police Scotland on 101

Man found with head injuries in Kings Stables Road



Detectives are investigating the circumstances surrounding the discovery of a man with head injuries in Kings Stables Road around 2.15am this morning.

Emergency services responded and the man was taken by ambulance to the Western General Hospital where he is currently being treated for his injuries.

Officers have closed Kings Stables Road and Castle Terrace car park as they carry out an investigation, and have advised drivers to seek alternative routes,

A Police Scotland spokesman said: “Police Scotland Edinburgh Division are carrying out inquiries following the discovery of an injured man in the city’s Kings Stables Road early this morning.

“As a result both Kings Stables Road and Castle Terrace Car

Park are currently closed and motorists are advised there will be traffic disruption in that area.

“The injured man has been taken to Western General Hospital. Inquiries are at an early stage.”

An update is expected later today.

So Mr McCartney, have you ever met the Rubettes? Alan Williams speaks to The Edinburgh Reporter



Yesterday, the Reporter spoke to music legend Alvin Stardust ahead of Saturday's 'Rewind to the Seventies' concert at the Assembly Hall, and today we hear from another star of the show, Alan Williams, the lead singer of the Rubettes.

The Rubettes shot into the charts on 4 May 1974 with the unforgettable 'Sugar Baby Love' which not only overtook Edinburgh's Bay City Rollers' 'Shang-a-Lang' but quickly knocked Abba's Eurovision Song Contest winner 'Waterloo' off top spot. The song captured the imagination of the public and became the country's biggest ever debut hit selling an incredible three million records worldwide. As well as being hugely popular in the UK, the band were massive in Europe and France in particular where 'Sugar Baby Love' remains the one of the top selling singles of all time. It stayed at Number One for four weeks fighting off competition from top acts such

as The Osmonds, Stevie Wonder, Wizzard, David Bowie, Status Quo, Cliff Richard and a certain Alvin Stardust, before novelty song 'The Streak' by Ray Stevens took over.

Their iconic status in France was unprecedented as a certain Sir Paul McCartney found out at the time, and their popularity has not diminished to this day. Alan explains: "We actually have had more hits in France than the UK. The French seem to like many of the songs which appeared on B sides of our UK hits, and when 'Sugar Baby Love' was released, it sold two million copies in France which was a record number.

"In 1977 we were supporting Wings and got talking to Paul McCartney back stage. At the time he had just bought an island off the coast of Scotland, and he told us that when he had been interviewed in France, the first question was 'Are you Paul McCartney from the UK?' the second was 'Do you know the Rubettes?' He couldn't believe it, but that's how big we were.

"We probably perform more on the continent than in the UK at the moment, and have a massive concert featuring seven or eight bands in Antwerp in December which we are all really looking forward to."

The Rubettes' next hit 'Tonight' reached number 12 then 'Juke Box Jive' made number three behind Barry White's 'You're the first, the last my everything' and Mud's 'Lonely this Christmas,' although this remains a small bone of contention with the band who believe that they outsold both songs, but since the beneficiary was their old pals Mud, they hold no grudges: Alan recalls: "Juke Box Jive got to number three then we outsold the records above us, but for some reason we went down to number ten then the following week we shot back up the charts. Our record company put in a complaint but since it was Mud and dear old Les (Gray) then I suppose it's OK."

In all, the band had 15 worldwide hits including 'I can do

it,' 'Baby I know' 'Little Darling' and Alan's personal favourite 'Foe Dee o Dee.' In 1994, the iconic Australian movie 'Muriel's Wedding' opened with 'Sugar Baby Love' which introduced the band to a younger audience.

Alan is looking forward to the show although for a period, touring with the band lost some of its appeal, but he insists that the enthusiasm has returned and no-one will be disappointed: "I will be arriving in Edinburgh on Friday along with John the drummer and Nick Clarke and I am sure it will be a fantastic evening. This is our 40th anniversary, but if you had told us told when we started that we would have lasted five years I'd have said that you were mad.

"It's always nice to reproduce the old image so we will be in our white suits, although they may not be the same ones we wore back then with the 23 inch hips, and we will be playing most of our hits including 'Sugar Baby Love' 'Tonight' 'Juke Box Jive' 'I can do it' 'Foe Dee o Dee' 'Baby I know' and many more. We've been playing so long that I tend to forget that some fans who have seen us on TV or heard us on the radio and like our songs haven't seen us live, so Saturday is an opportunity to rectify that.

"Most of us have been on the road for such a long time that it becomes second nature, and everyone goes through a period where they get a bit fed up playing the same old songs night after night, but I think when you get into your sixties, as all of us are, you get, not quite a new lease of life, but something like that and you are amazed at how much energy you put into a performance.

"I've been to Edinburgh before, playing the Usher Hall with the Rubettes and other venues as part of the 70s tour with Showaddywaddy and Sweet and have visited the Castle. I love Scotland, in fact I spent New Year's Eve in Stirling two years ago where there was a Ceilidh band and I ended up with blisters on my feet from the dancing."

On a more serious note, all proceeds from the event will go to the National Autistic Society, and Alan was quick to pay tribute to the hard work done by the organiser Sue Wilson, before also revealing that one lucky member of the audience will be going home with a unique souvenir of the night. He continued: "I first met Sue who has organised the show, five or six years ago in Belgium and we have done a couple of shows for her since then. She does great work and is tireless, whereas we just do what we can. On Saturday, I will be raffling a fender guitar which Alvin, Dave Hill and Don Powell from Slade and us will have signed, so hopefully that will raise some more money for the cause."

The Rubettes have always been a 'live' band and toured extensively thrilling audiences wherever they went and are now firmly established in history as Icons of Rock n'Roll.

The show is on at the Assembly Hall at 1930 on Saturday night.

Five things you need to know today



Community Council Elections – Council meeting today – Scotland's road casualties – Advice for Bonfire Night – Testimonial Dinner

There are community council elections in [three](#) areas of the city today. In the other areas the number of people nominated has not exceeded the number of places and so the nominees will simply be installed as members of the community council. We have a list of all community councils [here](#) if you feel like getting involved! There are no community councils in Southside or Northfield/Willowbrae as there were insufficient nominations to form a community council.

Community councils are groups of people who care about their local area and want to keep it as good as it is or indeed improve it. They usually meet once a month and represent the views of the local community to the City council on matters such as planning and licensing.

The full council meets this morning at the City Chambers and we will be there to fill in the blanks for you. All council papers are online [here](#).

Follow our liveblog [here](#).

Live webcasting of the Council's meetings and committees is set to be extended further, giving the public a chance to view more decisions and debates, if a report to this week's Council is approved.

The proposals recommend installing equipment to allow the webcasting of meetings held in the Dean of Guild Court Room, and could see meetings such as the Transport and Environment Committee and the Planning Committee broadcast live.

The extension of the webcasting service comes following an initial pilot launch in September 2012 which has seen meetings held in the main Council Chamber [webcast and the footage stored online](#).

Transport Scotland has just published the numbers of road casualties in Scotland in 2012. While they are sobering reading they are lower than previously and are the lowest since records began.

- 12,676 reported casualties in total in 2012 – 1% fewer than in 2011 (12,777) and a 34% reduction on 2002 (19,275) and the lowest figure since records began;
- 174 people killed on Scotland's roads in 2012 – 6% fewer than in 2011 (185), 43% fewer than 2002 (304);
- 1,974 reported seriously injured in 2012 – 5% more than in 2011 (1,877), 39% fewer than 2002 (3,229);
- 1,164 child casualties, 12% fewer than in 2011 (1,316) and 58% fewer than 2002 (2,745)

- 2 child fatalities in 2012, 5 less than 2011 and an average of 4 over the last three years.

You can read the whole report [here](#).



Every year careless bonfires take firefighters away from other incidents – putting lives at risk. Choosing to attend only official bonfire events will help keep people, property and vital resources safe.

Bonfire Night is the busiest time of year for the fire service, and during the bonfire period firefighters typically see a 40% increase in emergency calls. Having to tackle bonfires means it could take crews longer to attend serious incidents – with potentially tragic consequences.

Careless bonfires also see public money go up in smoke – in previous years costs have been estimated in millions of pounds of damage.

Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) Lewis Ramsay, Director of Prevention and Protection for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, said: “We want everyone to enjoy the celebrations and I would urge the public to join Scotland’s fight against fire and attend official bonfire events this year. Not only is it the best way to stay safe, but careless bonfires take crews away from serious incidents in our communities – so choosing to attend organised events will protect people, property and ensure our firefighters can get to where they are most needed.

He added: “Every year we work with our partner agencies to raise awareness of the risk and dangers associated with bonfires and fireworks as well as the preventative measures which can be taken to improve community safety – as local people must continue to play their part in making our

communities safer. We have no better ally in the fight against fire than our local communities who can make a difference and work together for a safer Scotland.”

ACO Ramsay continued: “Our pre-planning and response arrangements have been much easier to co-ordinate this year, given the commencement of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. Our approach incorporates best practice from across Scotland and ensures services are delivered locally in a consistent and co-ordinated manner, with a clear focus on public and firefighter safety.”

Superintendent Alan Cunningham, Head of Prevention and Interventions at Police Scotland, said: “We want people to listen to safety advice and attend organised events so families can keep safe and enjoy the Bonfire celebrations. The best way of keeping safe is to attend official bonfire events which will also help reduce the number of unnecessary call outs for Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.”

Minister for Community Safety, Roseanna Cunningham said: “I wholeheartedly endorse the SFRS campaign and recognise the very valuable work of our firefighters at this busy time of year. We can all support them and make our communities safer by attending organised events. This guarantees we enjoy the spectacle in safety and have a fifth of November to remember – for all the right reasons.”

‘Join Scotland’s fight against fire’ gives more information about how to be safe on 5 November, with a range of additional information to raise public awareness of fire safety at home and in the workplace.

The campaign lets the public know how to refer family, friends and neighbours – who may be specifically at-risk – for a free Home Fire Safety Visit, or other services that focus on protecting older people from fire.

For a free Home Fire Safety Visit, all you have to do is call the Home fire Safety Hotline on [0800 0731 999](tel:0800 0731 999). You can also get in touch by calling your local community fire station and more information is available [here](#).

Anyone who decides to hold their own events should always follow SFRS vital bonfire and firework safety advice – available by [clicking here](#).

Edinburgh Capitals are holding a Testimonial Dinner for Martin Cingel in the Riversdale Suite of the Ice Rink prior to the game on Saturday 26th October, and 20 spaces have become available which we are now opening up to our fanbase to come and join us celebrate Martin Cingel's testimonial year.

Martin Cingel began his career as a Capital in 2002, and since then has made a huge contribution to the club, playing in over 450 matches and registering almost 450 points. He has been club captain since 2006.

You will enjoy a two-course dinner and complimentary wine, followed by entertainment from our guest speaker Bruce Fummey, before taking your seat for the game.

Season Ticket Holder Prices are £30 per head, all others £50 per head.

To book your place/s, please email enquiries@edinburgh-capitals.com by Friday 25th Oct @11.30am, as places are limited, this will be on a first come basis. Payment will be collected on the day. Once you have been allocated a place, cancellation charges of full amount will apply.

LIVEBLOG – City of Edinburgh Council Meeting 24 October

2013



The Edinburgh Reporter will be in the City Chambers this morning to observe the happenings at the full council meeting from 10:00am. (We sit up there by the window with the great view!)

Do join us! you can either watch as the meeting progresses or watch later in the day when the meeting has ended. And do let us know what you think!

Men, Women & Thingwies

Mike Smith is our football correspondent with a particular penchant for Heart of Midlothian FC. He occasionally writes about other important matters such as thingwies....

My partner, the delightful M, asked me the other night if I had done anything about the 'thingwi' yet. Now anyone who knows me will tell you that I'm the sort of fella who tends to put off today what I could do six months from now. So I tried to narrow down the list of 'thingwis' M has asked, nay instructed, me to do to about half a dozen but eventually had to give up.

The 'thingwi' in question was whether I had made an appointment with the dentist yet. Somewhat inevitably, I hadn't but I feel sure many readers of this esteemed

publication will agree that trying to fathom out what a woman is thinking or indeed means is something that not even Albert Einstein could manage.

However, I thought I would try and give us poor, downtrodden menfolk a miniscule of a fighting chance by producing a handy guide to some of the differences between men and women.

I'll start with five terms commonly used by women – along with their real meaning...

FINE – Used by many women to end an argument and it usually means the complete opposite of the common definition of the word. When she uses this word it's almost certain the time for the fella to shut up.

NOTHING – Again, like fine, when, after a period of silence, you ask a woman what is wrong, the retort of 'nothing' definitely means something is badly wrong – if you're not worried by this stage, you should be.

GO AHEAD – This is a dare, not permission e.g. 'I might nip in for quick half on the way home from the office, dear'. The reply can sometimes be combined with 'fine' (see above) as in 'Fine, go ahead' Best not to, fellas – anyway, the pub is usually busy at that time of night...

WHATEVER – A woman's way of saying 'stuff you' (or words to that effect. Often used in a similar context to Nothing...

THAT'S OKAY – This can be particularly dangerous. If she uses this in response to some grave error of judgement on your part (see 'go ahead') then she will be thinking long and hard on how and when you will pay for your mistake.

It's perhaps worth noting the above terms may also be referred to when considering that some words mean completely different things to men and women. For example:

1. THINGWI (thing-wee) n. Female..... Any part under a car's

hood. Male.... The strap fastener on a woman's bra.

2. VULNERABLE (vul-ne-ra-bel) adj. Female... Fully opening up one's self emotionally to another. Male.... Playing football without your best defender.

3. COMMUNICATION (ko-myoo-ni-kay-shon) n . Female... The open sharing of thoughts and feelings with one's partner. Male... Leaving a note before taking off on a fishing trip with the boys.

4. COMMITMENT (ko- mit-ment) n. Female.... A desire to get married and raise a family. Male..... Trying not to pick up another woman while out with this one.

5. ENTERTAINMENT (en-ter-tayn-ment) n. Female.... A good movie, concert, play or book. Male.... Anything that can be done while drinking beer.

6. FLATULENCE (flach-u-lens) n. Female... An embarrassing by-product of indigestion. Male..... A source of entertainment, self-expression, male bonding. Something to do in bed other than sex.

7 MAKING LOVE (may-king luv) n. Female..... The greatest expression of intimacy a couple can achieve. Male.. Call it whatever you want, just as long as we do it.

8. REMOTE CONTROL (ri-moht kon-trohl) n. Female... A device for changing from one TV channel to another. Male... A device for scanning through all 375 channels every 5 minutes.

Am I right or am I wrong? (replies from men only, please...)

Council granted order over 'Party Flats'

The City of Edinburgh Council has today been granted the first Management Control Order ever granted in Scotland under the Anti-Social Behaviour legislation.

The order puts the council in the position of landlord of the two flats at 31/2 and 16/4 Grove Street which were used as 'party flats' for stag and hen weekends, causing much distress to neighbours.

This follows a long list of actions on the part of the council to try and contain the situation which have not proved effective. The landlord was told to restrict the numbers of people staying in the flats and an Interim Interdict was granted against the property owner in August 2013 which was ignored. The landlord had continued to advertise the properties for stag and hen parties despite the court order.

The council says it has immediate plans in place along with local police to prevent large groups using these flats this weekend and there will also be a long term strategy produced. The owner now has seven days to hand over all booking records and keys for the properties.

✘ City Centre councillor Karen Doran said:-“I am absolutely delighted that the residents of Grove Street can at last have peace in their homes.

“I met with the residents when I was first elected, and promised them I would do everything I could to assist them. I spent a long Friday evening sitting in my car in Grove Street witnessing what the residents went through every weekend.

“I am so grateful to my colleagues and all the hard work done by Council staff to achieve this wonderful outcome.

“No one should have to be disturbed week in and week out by party flats.”

Fellow City Centre councillor Joanna Mowat said:-“This is great news for the beleaguered residents and shows that persistence can pay off. This process has taken along time and was slow to start but having committed to the process a group of council officers has achieved a great result. We must build on this success and ensure that other nuisance party flats are dealt with in the same way. No one should be allowed to make other people’s lives a misery and this send out a strong message that the City will not tolerate irresponsible landlords.”

The Management Control Order will last for 12 months. This is only used as a last resort in these cases, and it is significant that this is the first such order granted since the legislation came into effect some time ago.

In The Scottish Government’s guidance notes to the legislation the government issue this advice:- “The local authority’s first priority under the Management Control Order should be to take management actions that reduce or eliminate the impact on the community of the antisocial behaviour specified in the notice. But it should also seek to change the situation so that the landlord will manage antisocial behaviour effectively when the property is returned to his control.”

Bankruptcies in Scotland on the decline

Scottish insolvencies for second quarter 2013-14

Accountant in Bankruptcy (AiB) today released official [statistics](#) reporting personal and company insolvencies in Scotland for the second quarter of the financial year 2013-14.

There were 3,411 personal insolvencies for the period, which includes bankruptcy awards and protected trust deeds (PTDs), and this was a 14.7 per cent decrease on the previous quarter. This was also 16.1 per cent lower than the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The longer term trend continues to show a general decline since 2008-09.

In total there were 1,714 awards of bankruptcy in the second quarter which was a 12.6 per cent decrease on the previous quarter. This total was also 7.9 per cent lower than the total awarded in the equivalent quarter of the previous year. The number of PTDs also decreased in the second quarter as there were 1,697 awarded in total which is a decrease of 16.7 per cent on the previous quarter and 23.0 per cent lower than the total recorded in corresponding quarter of the previous year.

The number of bankruptcies awarded, PTDs registered and DAS applications approved totalled 4,581 during the second quarter of 2013-14 which is 11.4 per cent lower than the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

The number of Scottish registered companies becoming insolvent or entering receivership increased for the second successive quarter. AiB received 268 notices in the second quarter of 2013-14. This is a 45.7 per cent increase on the previous quarter although a 2.2 per cent decrease on the same quarter of the previous year.

Figures for the Debt Arrangement Scheme (DAS) show that there were 1,170 debt payment programmes (DPPs) approved under the Scheme in the second quarter of 2013-14. This is a 2.5 per cent decrease on the previous quarter although 5.4 per cent higher than in the same quarter of the previous year. The number of approved DPPs has increased almost four-fold in four years. A total of £7.2 million was repaid through DAS during this quarter.

Alvin Stardust speaks to The Edinburgh Reporter



Three of the biggest acts from the seventies will appear together on stage in Edinburgh on Saturday night with all proceeds going to the National Autistic Society.

Alvin Stardust, Slade and the Rubettes will team up at the Assembly Hall for a once in a lifetime concert as part of the 'Rewind to the Seventies' charity project, and with tickets going fast, music fans are advised to move quickly or risk disappointment.

The three acts have eight number ones and dozens of top ten hits between them, and age has certainly not dampened their enthusiasm, so the audience is in for a treat.

Today, the man once dubbed the 'Godfather of Rock and Roll' by none other than Rolling Stone Ronnie Wood kindly took a break from rehearsals and spoke exclusively to the Edinburgh Reporter about what the fans can expect on Saturday night, his 50plus year career in the business and his plans for the

future.

He said: "I fly up on Saturday morning and am really looking forward to the show. I'm not just saying this but Slade and The Rubettes are two of the best live bands still performing from that era. I'll be doing all of my old hits as well as some 50s rock and roll and some rock anthems such as Queen, but when I'm not on stage I'll be watching from the wings as Slade will be Slade and the Rubettes will be the Rubettes so it should be a cracking show for all ages."

Alvin found fame as Shane Fenton in the early sixties appearing alongside bands such as The Beatles, Joe Brown and the Bruvvers, Del Shannon and Freddie and the Dreamers before he resurrected his career as Alvin Stardust in 1973 with the unforgettable 'My Coo Ca Choo' which entered the charts in November that year and remained there for an incredible 21 weeks reaching number two, only to be kept off the top spot by Slade's 'Merry Xmas Everybody'.

His follow up single Jealous Guy went one better, reaching the top spot in February 1974 replacing Suzi Quatro's Devil Gate Drive only to be overtaken by Paper Lace's 'Billy Don't be a Hero.'

'Red Dress' then peaked at number seven two months later and 'You You You' reached number six in August then 'Tell me Why' and 'Good Love Can Never Die' both made the top 20.

Such was his popularity at the time, Alvin was chosen to be part of the Green Cross Code road safety campaign Children's Heroes with his famous tagline of "You must be out of your tiny minds" directing children to look both ways before they cross the road.

Since then he has participated in A Song for Europe, starred in the UK tour of Godspell, played Uriah Heep in David Copperfield – The Musical and Sir Billy Butlin in The Butlin

Story at the London Palladium. In 2005 he starred as the Child Catcher in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, also at the London Palladium, and has numerous television appearances to his credit whilst continuing to tour as a performer and singer.

Alvin is no stranger to Scotland, and loves the intimate contact with audiences, particularly at smaller venues as he explained: "Unfortunately I won't get a chance to do any tourist stuff this time, but I know Edinburgh well and I'm in Scotland two or three times a year. I played the Festival two years ago, and also played the Brunton Halls in Musselburgh which was a fantastic night. I actually prefer the smaller venues these days, particularly in towns that don't usually get the chance to see rock bands. At the end of the show, I like to speak to the audiences and get photographs with them and it feels more like playing for friends rather than a paying audience.

"I still get people coming up to me and mentioning Shane Fenton and 'Moody Guy' and '5ft2' and I know that they were around in the sixties, then others mention 'My Coo Ca Choo' and 'Jealous Mind' and I know they were from the early seventies, then you get some who want to talk about 'Pretend' and 'I feel like Buddy Holly' so I know they are a bit younger."

Alvin regularly does charity work, and the proceeds from this show will go to the National Autistic Society. He continued: "I've done a few shows for various charities, and this time the proceeds will go to autism. This is a cause close to my heart as I know a few people who have children who are autistic, and they are lovely kids but they can find it really hard at school. I feel strongly that the government should be doing more."

In a career that has lasted well over 50 years, you might imagine that Alvin would look back to the early days with a sense of longing, but nothing could be further from the truth.

"I would say that this is the most enjoyable period of my life. Working keeps me fit, but I am still active. When I turned 70, I went to Mauritius with my wife and daughter where we swam with dolphins and tried scuba diving. We also took a helicopter ride inside a volcano. I've been surfing in Cornwall, and this year is our 21st wedding anniversary. Every seven years we renew our vows and this year we went to New York and took a horse and cart ride through Central Park and took in a few Broadway shows."

With so many hits to his name, which is his favourite? After some thought, Alvin replied: "I think 'I feel like Buddy Holly' is my favourite song as the lyrics contain titles from 45s, and is still regularly on playlists in France and Germany, but I also love 'Pretend' and of course 'My Coo Ca Choo' which reached number one in nine countries but only number two in the UK although it actually outsold the number one as it was in the charts longer, selling one and a quarter million in the UK."

At 71, Alvin could be forgiven for taking it easy, but thankfully for his army of fans he has no plans to slow down as his diary proves: "I have a show coming up in Belgium alongside Slade, Sweet, The Rubettes, David Essex and the Bay City Rollers and the audience will be around 25, 000, and there is a fair chance that we will all end up on stage together. Apart from touring, Radio 2 has just commissioned a show and I have just finished writing a book about my guitar, which has been signed by legends such as Buddy Holly and the Crickets, Bill Haley and the Comets, Chick Berry, Billy Fury, Marty Wilde, the Beatles and the Rolling Stones."

For anyone too young to have seen Alvin in action, get along to the Assembly Hall on Saturday night. Having seen him perform live recently, you won't be disappointed.

Tomorrow, The Edinburgh Reporter speaks to Alan Williams, lead singer of the Rubettes then on Friday, Dave Hill and Don

Powell of Slade;traffic arrangements permitting.

Greens critical of council Christmas parking plans

✖ Edinburgh's Green councillors have hit out at a £47,000 campaign to offer free city centre parking this winter as unfair, ineffective and inconsistent with the current and future needs of the city.

Green transport spokesperson Councillor Nigel Bagshaw said:-“I am astonished that the Council is continuing with this costly initiative which last year's evaluation showed to have hardly any added value. It benefits only a small number of people. Yet it will add to congestion and air pollution in an already crammed city centre

“The money would be far better going on cheaper bus travel, for that large minority of people who do not have a car or who choose not to bring it into the city centre.”

The council is planning to waive parking charges after 5:00pm on many city centre streets around Christmas time.

They already tried this last year when it was hailed a great success by shoppers and traders alike and now they are to continue their Alive after Five campaign again this year.

From 2 December till 28 December parking charges will not be enforced after 5:00pm in George Street and other city centre

streets

Free parking is only one part of the Alive after Five scheme but is clearly a central part. Essential Edinburgh said that most importantly it was important to encourage the traders in the city centre to stay open later.

Streets in the West End, Broughton Street and Leith will also be included in the plans.

The Council state that the cost will be £47,000 in the report produced for next week's [Transport Committee meeting](#).

"It is anticipated that the loss of revenue from the public parking scheme as a result of this campaign will be approximately £47,000, £30,000 for the city centre, £13,500 for the west end and £3,500 for the east end.

A cost sharing exercise has been agreed in principal between the City of Edinburgh Council, Essential Edinburgh and Marketing Edinburgh.

Essential Edinburgh and Marketing Edinburgh will contribute £15,000. A further £15,000 is available from Economic Development. The remaining cost of £17,000 will be contained within the existing Parking budget."

Flybe to begin their winter schedule this weekend

 **FLY INTO 2014 WITH FLYBE'S GREAT WINTER GETAWAY BARGAINS FROM SCOTLAND**

Flybe, Europe's largest independent regional airline, starts flying its 2013/14 Winter schedule this Sunday offering Scottish travellers a choice of up to 810 return flights a week on 25 routes from the country's four leading airports. These include a brand new weekly ski service from Inverness to Geneva and the introduction of an 88-seat Embraer 175 jet on its popular Aberdeen to Manchester service.

The frequency on key business routes recognises that passengers are taking increasing advantage of Flybe's frequent 'shuttle' service to key UK hubs, such as Manchester and Birmingham, to by-pass congested London airports. These hubs offer connections to a wide selection of long haul destinations with Flybe's codeshare partners as well as with the airline's numerous interline partners for bookings made through a travel agent.

Complementing the frequent daily 'shuttle' services available between Scotland and the Midlands is the airline's successful Inverness to Amsterdam route which offers connections with codeshare partner KLM to some 150 destinations worldwide such as Zurich, New York (JFK) and Vancouver. Flybe introduced direct flights to Schiphol, one of Europe's biggest hub airports, two years ago and between April and July this past summer the route enjoyed a 23% increase in passengers compared to the same period in 2012. The six-day a week service has now been scheduled to depart earlier from Inverness (1200) to more conveniently connect with a wider range of onward flights from Amsterdam.

Flybe's Director of Marketing, Simon Lilley commented:- "We remain ever mindful of the need to provide frequent, value for money flights to our customers. Our expanded winter schedule sees us delivering further on Flybe's commitment to provide Scottish travellers with convenient, efficient and low cost travel from their doorsteps, this year to an even wider range

of leisure destinations across the UK and Europe.”

Like Edinburgh's Bouncy Castle Man on Facebook and win a freebie



Are you looking for a bouncy castle for a children's birthday party or other celebration? Well the Bouncy Castle Man has lots of castles that are suitable for indoor use and he also has a very useful list of venues in Edinburgh with contact numbers and addresses etc.



Mr Bouncy Castle Man himself told us:-“We do a monthly free prize draw on our [Facebook](#) page where anyone who likes our page can win a free bouncy castle hire!

Our website is <http://www.thebcm.co.uk>

Submitted by [Ashley Duncan](#)



MSL get their new fleet from

local dealer



More than 20 years after he started his long-distance driving career behind the wheel of a Mercedes-Benz SK Powerliner, Dave Sharp remains a dedicated fan of the three-pointed star.

Now a Director of [MSL Transport](#), of Broxburn, near Edinburgh, Mr Sharp has just added the first New Actros units to his fleet.

The two 2545 GigaSpace tractor units and a pair of 2545 BigSpace rigids were delivered by Western Commercial, along with two 2546 tractors from the current Actros range.

“I’ve always had a soft spot for Mercedes-Benz trucks,” reveals Mr Sharp, whose company operates, like the Dealer, from the town’s East Mains Industrial Estate. “They have proved excellent in terms of reliability and high-quality engineering.”

The latest arrivals have joined a fleet of 12 trucks dominated by Mercedes-Benz. Most are double-shifted – MSL collects and delivers consignments ranging from a single pallet to a full load in the daytime, and trunks to a depot in Telford during the night.

Its New Actros are powered by state-of-the art 330 kW (450 hp) straight-six engines, driving through Mercedes PowerShift 3 automated transmissions.

“It’s a really well-designed truck, and looks great in our colours,” he continues. “Like most operators these days, though, our biggest concern is fuel. Our tractor units don’t run heavy but we pull very high capacity double-deck trailers, which are a big drain on a vehicle’s fuel economy because they are so tall.

“Even so, our New Actros tractors are averaging 8.8 mpg, and with standard trailers they’re recording 9.9 mpg, which is certainly ahead of our average. The rigids meanwhile are averaging about 9.5 mpg, which is very good considering they’re on multi-drop work with constant stopping and starting.”



Mr Sharp has already ordered another pair of New Actros 2545s with range-topping GigaSpace cabs; these will also wear the company’s distinctive red and white livery with high-visibility reflective lettering.

“As well as achieving excellent fuel returns the New Actros are also very popular with our drivers, who really appreciate the large, comfortable and well laid out cabs,” he adds.

“Western Commercial’s service is first class too, while the fact that the dealer is so close to our own premises is a welcome bonus – we have a great relationship with the dealer’s Broxburn team, who are always ready to help should we need them.”

More routes to the sun from Edinburgh Airport



New easyJet sunshine destinations from Edinburgh announced for 2014

Scottish passengers will have even more choice for their summer holidays next year after easyJet announced the return

of flights from Edinburgh to Crete and Turkey from spring 2014.

Scotland's biggest airline will be operating twice weekly services to Bodrum in Turkey from 31 March and Heraklion in Crete from 01 April. It is the first time since 2009 that passengers have been able to fly direct from Edinburgh Airport to Heraklion and the first direct service to Bodrum since 2011.

John Watson, Chief Commercial Officer at Edinburgh Airport, said:- "We're delighted to be offering Scottish passengers even more choice for their 2014 summer getaways with the announcement of these two routes.

"It has been a great year for Edinburgh Airport and easyJet so far, with the airline launching six new European services from Edinburgh in March and the airport experiencing its busiest summer on record. We're pleased we can add these destinations to our growing route network."

Tickets are on sale now and are available from easyjet.com/holidays

Edinburgh Bowling Club raise funds for Sick Kids



Sick Kids say they are 'bowled over' by Edinburgh charity effort

A BIG-hearted bowling group is in a league of its own after announcing a year-long fundraising drive for the Sick Kids Friends Foundation (SKFF) and has kick-started the partnership with a huge cash boost.

The SKFF was delighted to accept a cheque from the Edinburgh Bowling League (EBL) after a big charity push from its member clubs which raised £7777.77 during a one-day event. Additional donations received after the cheque presentation brought the total raised to an incredible £7805.74.

Members of the Edinburgh Bowling League Committee – Robert Donaldson (Parkside Bowling Club), Martin Watt (Summerside Bowling Club) and John Newall (Hillside Bowling Club) – attempted to meet a gruelling schedule.

The teams took part in a Postal Select, where they competed in a series of triples encounters at each of the 38 clubs situated around Edinburgh and Leith, and played almost continuously across 10-and-a-half hours before being treated to a well-deserved rest.

But their goodwill does not stop there – the bowling league nominated SKFF as its charity partner for 2013 and has pledged to continue fundraising until the year is out. Committee member Brian Jempson is even offering his karaoke disco services in return for a donation to the Foundation. All funds raised by the Edinburgh Bowling League will go towards SKFF, which supports the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh (RHSC).

John Newall, Edinburgh Bowling League president, said:- “My young son, Richard, was in the RHSC when he was badly burned and he received great care. I also burnt my hand badly when I was a youngster so I know what fantastic work they have always done there.

“It’s a great cause, and all the money is used in Edinburgh, which is good to know. We’re really proud of the funds that we’ve raised – it’s a great total for our bowling clubs to have put together.

“For our charity day, run in memory of the late Pat Hartman – the wife of our main sponsor, Alan Hartman of Alpha Trophies – we decided to put a sponsor sheet around all of the clubs to guess the score, and were delighted to raise a total of £7805.74. The bowling started 9am at Parkside Bowling Club and finished at my own club, Hillside, at 7.30pm. We’ve also had lots of great contributions from family and workmates, so we want to thank them as well.”

The Edinburgh Bowling League was founded in 1996 when three existing leagues came together. The object of the Edinburgh Bowling League is to provide competitive league bowling to clubs in districts 14 and 15 of The Bowls Scotland Association.

Each year the president chooses the charity recipient of the league’s fundraising, and since its inauguration, £35,000 has been raised for good causes.

Annually, the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh sees more than 100,000 children pass through its doors, and the care and attention the hospital provides is only improved by the generosity of charitable donors.

Rachel McKenzie, head of community fundraising at the Sick Kids Friends Foundation, said: "The Sick Kids Friends Foundation is hugely grateful to the Edinburgh Bowling League for making us their charity partner for 2013.

"Their recent charity day was another fantastic example of their ongoing commitment to fundraising on our behalf, and in doing so, they raised an amazing total. We also want to congratulate everyone – particularly John, Martin and Robert – for helping to complete the challenge, which took a lot of organisation and effort.

"Our aim is to make time spent in hospital and other local healthcare facilities better and less stressful for many young patients and their families. The support of the likes of EBL helps us to continue to fund extra comforts, family-friendly facilities, training and research for staff and state-of-the-art medical equipment."

Police concern for missing man from Durham



Police are becoming increasingly concerned for the welfare of a missing man from Durham.

Peter Hodgson, 76, was reported missing from his home on Hylton Road, Newton Hall at 7.30am this morning. He is believed to be in the company of his dog, a King Charles Cocker Spaniel and driving a red Volvo C30 R-design, registration NJ13 RXH.

Peter is described as being 6ft tall with short white hair, clean shaven, of medium build and was last seen wearing an anorak, a fawn crew neck jumper and either navy blue or fawn trousers with black shoes. He is also thought to be in the possession of a navy blue 'Fred Olsen' umbrella and is described as walking with a slight limp.

Sgt Bridget Orton who is co-ordinating the enquiry commented "We are eager to trace Peter as soon as possible as he is reliant on specific medication which he does not have with him. He also may be confused and his family are very concerned for his welfare. Peter has links to both the Morpeth and Edinburgh areas and we are keen to speak to anyone who may have seen him."

Anyone who knows of Peter's whereabouts is asked to call police on 101.

Police Scotland does not advocate banning condoms in saunas



Police Scotland has today issued a statement to clarify the Force position in relation to a report provided to the Licensing Sub-Committee:

Superintendent Matt Richards said: “Police Scotland does not advocate the banning of condoms. As part of the Council’s review of the licences for some of the Edinburgh saunas, Police Scotland submitted a number of written recommendations for their consideration.

“These focus on ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the users and staff at the premises. These included recommendations that the premises were not used as a place of residence, that no-one under the age of 18 should be permitted on the premises and that the addresses should be properly equipped to offer sauna and massage services.

“At no point do the recommendations make reference to the banning of condoms. Police Scotland absolutely supports proper measures to protect sexual health.

“The issue of prostitution is a complex one and we work with the City of Edinburgh Council and local health services to ensure the safety of those involved in the sex trade.

“The recommendations submitted by Police Scotland are to assist the Committee to consider how they might ensure that

the premises are operated safely and are a direct result of licensing contraventions detected during recent inspections of the saunas. It is a matter for the Council's Regulatory Committee to decide which conditions are applied on a case-by-case basis.

"We will continue to adopt a practical and positive stance towards harm reduction working with our partners in the health service Local Authority and third sector."

Community Council Elections tomorrow

The deadline is fast approaching for local people taking part in this year's Community Council elections as the votes will be cast tomorrow.

There has been such a good response to join the capital's 41 community councils that elections are required for Craigmillar, Liberton & District and Portobello Community Councils. For the first time, an online option has been introduced making it easier for more people to take part. Votes can be [registered securely over a special website](#) from 9 October, until the voting period closes at 8pm tomorrow.

All voters on the electoral roll in the three areas are being given the opportunity to vote over the internet, or they can attend a polling place on Thursday to vote in person.

Councillor Maureen Child, Convener of the Communities and Neighbourhood Committee, said:- "Our aim is to deliver democratic processes that people can take part in and trust. To offer a range of options for voting, including online

voting, we hope to make it easier for people to have a say and that can only be a good thing for local communities. We hope that by offering flexible ways to vote that it will attract even more interest in these elections.

“Community Councils are an ideal way to support communities to thrive, to allow people from all backgrounds to meet and share ideas and to make change happen. They are a fantastic way of making public sector agencies aware of the needs of local areas, and can really help to make changes for the better.”

The first councils were established in Edinburgh in 1980 in Merchiston and Longstone, and more than 500 people are now members across the city.


They each receive a grant to cover running costs and training is available for the members. They are represented on each of the city’s 12 Neighbourhood Partnerships and work alongside elected members, representatives from NHS Lothian, Police Scotland, the voluntary sector and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Capital celebrations for St Andrew’s Day



CELEBRATE SCOTLAND’S NATIONAL DAY IN EDINBURGH’S GRASSMARKET

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR ST ANDREW’S DAY ANNOUNCED

Organisers of the new Edinburgh’s winter season today  announced a packed programme of free events in the capital

city to celebrate St Andrew's Day. Unique Events and Underbelly will present award-winning Scottish performers in a music and dance extravaganza to take place throughout the afternoon and evening of Saturday 30 November in Edinburgh's Grassmarket.

The St Andrew's Day revelries, which are part of Scotland's Winter Festivals, will feature **Breabach** in a unique collaboration with a stellar selection of Scottish artists including **Dougie MacLean**, **Louis Abbott** and **Blazin' Fiddles** in a celebration of the national Bard – Robert Burns. This was originally presented in a sell-out event for Burns Night at Celtic Connections.

In addition to this line-up of great Scottish talent on Scotland's National Day, families can spend the afternoon enjoying a whole range of ceilidh events and workshops – children can join dance workshops, write their own ceilidh tune, or settle in for some Scottish stories of myth and magic thanks to the Scottish Storytelling Centre. The whole family can birl away the afternoon in the outdoor ceilidh with the **Cask Strength Ceilidh Band** and enjoy a special performance from the **Adam Sutherland Band**.

Moving into the evening, the energetic can join a record-breaking giant Strip the Willow or try out the Silent Ceilidh. The programme runs from 2.00pm to 10.00pm in Edinburgh's Grassmarket and all events are free of charge.

☒ The Grassmarket Market will be trading throughout the day from 10.00am to 6.00pm offering a range of quality foodstuffs from locally sourced vegetables, fish and meat to hot food with a distinctly international influence.

Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs said: "Scotland's winter festivals bring people together to celebrate the very best of our culture, creativity and hospitality. Not only do they make a significant

contribution to our economy, but they bring warmth, excitement and sparkle to our cold, dark winter nights, and demonstrate our ability to celebrate our rich culture year-round.

“The packed programme of free events around St Andrew’s Day in Edinburgh’s Grassmarket is the perfect way for the city to kick off the celebrations. From traditional music and dance to storytelling, it will be a taster of some of the exciting things to come over the next few months.”

Pete Irvine, Director of Unique Events, said:- “This extraordinary celebration of Scottish celidh culture brings together some of our greatest traditional musicians to entertain the crowds on Scotland’s National Day. It’s the first time that we have celebrated St Andrew’s Day in this way in Edinburgh, and a great start to the city’s Christmas and Hogmanay programme of events – all part of Scotland’s Winter Festivals.”

Charlie Wood, Director of Underbelly, said:- “We are delighted that the St Andrew’s Day celebrations are part of our, and Unique’s, inaugural Edinburgh’s Christmas programme offering the finest seasonal entertainment for the family.”

“Hosting the St Andrew’s Day celebrations is a fantastic opportunity for our local businesses as well as the Greater Grassmarket Business Improvement District (BID) and we are delighted that we were able to help bring this event to the Grassmarket”, says Greater Grassmarket Project Manager Georgia Artus.

Scotland’s Winter Festivals programme, which begins on St Andrew’s Day on 30 November and includes Christmas and Hogmanay, concludes on Burns Night on 25 January. Funded by the Scottish Government, Scotland’s Winter Festivals showcase the distinctive cultural events taking place across the country in the next few months.

For full details of the Scotland’s Winter Festivals programme

please visit: www.scotland.org/winter

Traders in Edinburgh must be more responsible about waste



New rules will govern the way that businesses get rid of their trade waste and these will be introduced by the council next week to ensure that our city's streets are kept as clean as possible.

Traders will now have to put out their bins within a shorter time window to ensure that their rubbish is not then attacked by seagulls or urban foxes overnight and scattered across pavements.

In a new move the council will now insist that apart from a short collection window all businesses must take their containers back into their premises rather than leaving them on the pavements all the time.

Councillor Hinds said:- "Traders must be made to deal with their waste more responsibly. There will be three pilot areas in the High Street, Rose Street and Leith Walk and adjoining lanes. There will be certain times when the traders can put out their waste and an enforcement team will monitor the situation and hand out fines if necessary,

"We have learned from other cities such as Manchester and the City of Westminster who have run schemes like this. We think this is a real way of getting rubbish off our streets. Streets

look scruffy with the rubbish which is often left out all day. We can fine them but it is a small fine and traders often suffer the fine rather than going to the bother of taking their rubbish in until the collection time.

"We want to work with the traders but we are going to take a harder line with them.

"We can't carry on the way we are. It makes a big difference to our streets when waste containers are removed from outside trade premises, and so traders must be more responsible for their own waste. There has been an increasing number of waste containers being kept on the city's streets which is having an adverse impact on the city's appearance. We will be supporting businesses in the pilot areas to comply with the timed collections and the pilots will allow everyone to assess how effective this approach is."

✖ The council say that Edinburgh World Heritage and Historic Scotland were consulted and were both supportive of the move.

Essential Edinburgh who run the Business Improvement District in the city centre put the trade waste contract for some of the city centre streets out to tender. This means that businesses now employ one trade waste company to remove waste from one street street, and leads to less vehicles requiring access at any time. This might allow waste companies to pick up waste at an appointed time each day more easily.

Councillor Hinds confirmed that there will be no need to employ new enforcement officers as there are enough on the team already to deal with this new initiative.

If waste is presented incorrectly, i.e. spilled all over the road, burst bags, overflowing bins, traders putting waste in domestic bins, or is not clearly identified for collection by trade waste company (i.e. not using branded bags or affixing trade waste company labels) the council can issue a fixed

penalty notice against the business.


This has a fine of £50 attached, which if they pay means they discharge any responsibility and cannot be prosecuted for the same incident under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

In the last year, 22/10/12 – 22/10/13, the Council issued 897 of these fines to businesses across the entire city.

There were two other options considered by the council:- a zero tolerance of any trade waste on the street and a permit system. These have both been discounted by the council.

The council's Transport and Environment Committee will meet next Tuesday.

City Centre parking charges to be waived at Christmas

 The council is to waive parking charges after 5:00pm on many city centre streets around Christmas time.

They already tried this last year when it was hailed a great success by shoppers and traders alike and now they are to continue their Alive after Five campaign again this year.

From 2 December till 28 December parking charges will not be enforced after 5:00pm in George Street and other city centre streets

Free parking is only one part of the Alive after Five scheme but is clearly a central part. Essential Edinburgh said that most importantly it was important to encourage the traders in

the city centre to stay open later.

Streets in the West End, Broughton Street and Leith will also be included in the plans.

The Council will pay for this parking after hours, in that they will not be able to collect parking charges for the hour and a half after 5:00pm. Essential Edinburgh will also subsidise the cost as they did last year.

Councillor Lesley Hinds the Transport Convenor said:-“The Christmas shopping period is the busiest time of the year for retailers and we want to encourage facilities to stay open longer to make the most of this.

“We have agreed with Marketing Edinburgh and Essential Edinburgh to continue with free evening parking this year as part of Alive after Five as it is popular with shoppers at Christmas and those wanting to take advantage of some of the fantastic new attractions that make up this year’s Edinburgh’s Christmas. There are no longer road closures in the city centre due to tram works, which is another great bonus.”

Andy Neal Chief Executive at Essential Edinburgh said:-“We are very pleased with this measure to support the Alive after Five Campaign. Essential Edinburgh has played a pivotal role in encouraging city centre shops to stay open later and so anything which eases and improves access to parking for people looking to come to the city centre to shop or enjoy the fantastic hospitality that is on offer is to be applauded, particularly at a time of the year which is absolutely critical to so many businesses in the city centre.”

Beacons From Bards: Stories on Climate Change

✖ Beacons: Stories for our not so distant future is a short story collection exploring the impact of climate change on our future.

Celebrate this collection with a live event on Saturday 26 October 2013 at 2pm as part of the Scottish International Storytelling Festival at the Scottish Storytelling Centre.

Novelist (and Beacon's editor) Gregory Norminton, darkly comic playwright Julie Wilkinson and friends present fiction and drama, in a programme of reading, performance and discussion. Hear extracts from the fantastic collection of prose, as well as the opportunity to debate the issues and emotions raised.

The project was the brain child of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland board member, Mike Robinson, who said:

"This book is intended to communicate to the heart, gut and imagination, in a way that much scientific literature struggles to do. Some people seem to fear change more than they fear climate change.

"We hope this book of short stories will challenge, engage, amuse and inspire people and that ultimately it might encourage them to consider the sorts of things we can all do to be more sustainable."

21 of Scotland and the UK's leading writers, including Alasdair Gray, Joanne Harris, AL Kennedy and Janice Galloway produced a written piece for the assemblage, with various approaches to the subject matter.

From Joanne Harris' powerful vision of a near future where venturing outside becomes a dangerous habit, to Nick Haye's beautifully illustrated tale of the bond between man and

nature, the authors have created provocative, funny, satirical, and deeply moving stories that bring an immediate reality to the problems at hand.

<http://www.tracscotland.org>

Submitted by [Lindsay Corr](#)

