

Police investigate assault and robbery near Craigleith Retail Park.



Police in Edinburgh are appealing for witnesses following an assault and robbery in the Drylaw area this morning (Tuesday).

The incident happened around 6.40am near the Craigleith Retail Park.

A 30-year-old man was walking along the cycle path behind the Sainsbury's petrol station when two people approached him.

At this time, the victim was pushed from behind before a male struck him to the face and demanded he hand over his possessions.

The suspects then made off towards Ravelston with the man's wallet and police were contacted.

Officers are now urging anyone who can assist with their enquiries to come forward.

The first suspect is described as male, white, around 30-years-old, between 5ft 9ins and 6ft tall and wearing a dark hooded top with light-coloured diagonal stripes and a badge, dark grey cotton bottoms and a black beanie hat. He spoke with an Eastern European accent.

There is no description of the second suspect.

Detective Constable Graham McIlwraith said: "The male didn't suffer any serious injury but is obviously upset at the theft of his wallet.

"Despite the early time of this robbery, the area was likely

to have been fairly busy with commuters and we are keen to speak with anyone who witnessed this incident.

“Similarly, anyone who can help us trace those responsible is also asked to get in touch.”

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

Folk, Bluegrass & Funk from Dan Walsh and Suhail Yusuf Khan at the Douglas House



Edinburgh music fans can expect a heady blend of British and Indian folk, bluegrass, funk and much more when groundbreaking crossover duo Dan Walsh and Suhail Yusuf Khan get together at the Douglas House on Monday 18 November.

The duo originated in the ‘Folk Nations’ collaboration residency in Kolkata which featured ten musicians from Britain and Asia and culminated in a highly successful gig in the city.

Suhail Yusuf Khan, is one of the most sought after musicians in India and is an eighth generation sarangi player from the Moradabad gharana who is the grandson of the great Ustad Sabri Khan & nephew of Kamaal Sabri Jee. He began performing at the age of eleven and his greatest quality is his interest in and ability to adapt to musical styles from all kinds of musical cultures and traditions, including an avid interest in electronic music.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lHF0-PKa5eI> (American song)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JvPMNSgMli4> (Indian instrumental)

UK claw-hammer banjo maestro Dan Walsh, is touted as one of the finest banjo players in the UK as well as being a superb singer, songwriter and guitarist, He is described as 'taking the banjo into the stratosphere' (Froots) with a unique and eclectic style taking in folk, funk, bluegrass, jazz, rock and even Arabic.

After three years of touring the UK as one half of award nominated duo Walsh and Pound, Dan's returning to his solo gigs as well as fronting an all-new Dan Walsh band made up of outstanding and award winning musicians including the Shes Rachel Newton and drummer Adam Sinclair whose credits range from the New York Dolls to the Unthanks.

He also performs with the legendary Alistair Anderson and has recently appeared on stage and in the studio with Seth Lakeman, the Levellers, Martin Simpson and numerous others. His new album 'The Same But Different' is out now gaining fantastic reviews across the music press.

Thankfully Dan was able to take time out from his busy schedule to explain to the Edinburgh Reporter how this unusual concept came to be.

He said: "It is a bit odd! Over the years I've had a banjo/harmonica duo, a banjo/concertina duo and now this! It started out in India in February where I was asked to be part of a collaboration of four Brits and six Indians. Suhail was one of the Indian musicians and we really hit it off so wanted to work together. Our attitudes to our instruments are very similar – both are so heavily associated with one type of music but both us just see music as music and an instrument as an instrument."

Tickets are likely to be in short supply, given the quality of performers, so what can the audience expect on the night? Dan continued: "A lot of surprises I think! I played a bluegrass song out in India and Suhail started to improvise some sarangi and Indian-style vocals and it worked amazingly well! I've been working on Indian music on the banjo for years and that surprises people when they hear it. I guess you can expect a whole mix of styles, vocal and instrumental. There'll be some Indian material, some British or American material and lots in between!"

After the tour Dan has a number of exciting projects on the go, as he explained: "I'm joining the Urban Folk Quartet at the end of the year so I've been rehearsing hard with them. I've also been writing a lot of stuff with a view to a new record next year which will be nice. More touring basically is the main plan – I have a solo UK tour next spring then UFQ tour and I'm even touring New Zealand in February!"

Mon. 18 November; Douglas House Concert, 42-43 Royal Park Terrace, Edinburgh, EH8 8JA Tel 0131 467 7028 info@douglasinscotland.co.uk

'Eclectically inspired and consistently brilliant' – FR00TS

'If anyone succeeds in making the banjo cool it'll be Dan Walsh, he can play it all' – R2

'Breathtaking' – SONGLINES

'The real deal, a demon picker' – UNCUT

'Incredible, you must see him' – JANICE LONG, BBC RADIO 2

Hearts fans snap up League Cup tickets

✖ Hearts have announced they have sold their allocation of 3,800 tickets for next week's League Cup quarter final tie with Hibernian at Easter Road. The Maroons have not won in the league since defeating Aberdeen at Tynecastle in August and their only victory 'on the road' this season was in the League Cup when they defeated Raith Rovers in a penalty shoot-out at Starks Park.

It's another astonishing show of loyalty from the Hearts support who refuse to give up on their team, despite Gary Locke's side languishing at the foot of the SPFL, still on minus seven points after having 15 points deducted for going into administration during the summer.

As well as large attendances at Tynecastle, the travelling Maroon Army have also been on the march in large numbers with a huge following present at Perth, Inverness, Dingwall and Motherwell already this season. Despite the Edinburgh derby cup-tie at Easter Road on 30 October being shown live on BBC Television, the Hearts support have again demonstrated how much their club means to them with their ticket allocation sold with more than a week to go until the game.

The League Cup quarter final promises to be another dramatic evening with Hibernian looking to exact revenge following their defeat the last time the sides met in the SPFL at Tynecastle in August. Whatever happens, nearly 4,000 Hearts supporters will ensure there is a fervent atmosphere at the home of their city rivals.

Edinburgh Bus Tour advertising for young tour guide – Age range 11-14

✖ Edinburgh Bus Tours is offering one lucky 11-14 year old the chance to develop their very own tour of Edinburgh as part of charity Kids In Museums Takeover Day Scotland, Thursday 28 November 2013.

Budding tour guides will be asked to explain in 500 words what they would include in a tour of their city to win the chance to a guide for the day. Edinburgh Bus Tours' expert team will select the young guide based on their enthusiasm and passion for Scotland's capital.

Kids In Museums Takeover Day Scotland is here north of the border for the first time, supported by Museums Galleries Scotland, following a successful three years involving thousands of children and young people in England and Wales. The day celebrates their contribution in museums, galleries and historic homes and allows them to take part in different jobs on the day. Takeover Day activities in Edinburgh include city guides written by primary school children, and young people delivering interactive science shows at the National Museum of Scotland.

The selected guide will be supported by Edinburgh Bus Tours in developing their own commentary for the five star attraction's green Edinburgh Tour, taking in sites including Edinburgh Castle, the Palace of Holyroodhouse, and Edinburgh's Old and New Towns.

✖ The budding tour guide will be invited to welcome their classmates on board their unique Takeover Day tour.

Celebrity children's author, Damian Dibben, Takeover Day Ambassador and Kids in Museums Patron, said: "I'm proud to be the first Takeover Day Ambassador. My History Keepers books are all about kids being put in control and saving the world, so I really believe, if you put young people in charge, all sorts of incredible things happen – including on bus tours!"

Tim Armour, General Manager at Edinburgh Bus Tours, said: "We are looking forward to discovering what aspects of Edinburgh are important to our younger audience. We hope the winner will enjoy working behind the scenes with us, and are delighted to be supporting Takeover Day here in Scotland for the first time."

If you think you've got what it takes to give a tour on board Edinburgh Bus Tours, they would love to hear from you. Please email marketing@edinburghtour.com stating in no more than 500 words what you love most about Edinburgh.

Christmas Parties at The Royal McGregor

Do something different this Christmas...

What are the main ingredients of a great office Christmas party? You might say that delicious food, your favourite tipple and good company is the perfect mix. An easy to get to, central location could be on your list too. And we would agree.

The Royal McGregor would also suggest adding some extra sparkle, to make this year's party the best yet.

At The Royal McGregor, they don't just provide a delicious lunch or dinner for your festive celebrations. They can help your group keep the party spirit going with karaoke, live music, whisky tastings, wine tastings or craft beer sampling – the choice is yours.

But first, the food. You can enjoy starters such as ham hough and lentil soup, Strathdon Blue cheese and apple salad, or smoked salmon with prawn Marie Rose. They promise tasty main courses include traditional turkey with all the trimmings, or chestnut and wild mushroom bridie, to name but a few. If there is some room left, those with a sweet tooth can choose from triple chocolate torte, fruit and brandy pudding or profiteroles.

The prices are hard to resist too. Lunch or dinner costs only £16.95 for two courses or £19.95 for three. We can accommodate up to 40 people, so there is plenty of space for everyone.

And if you would like to extend the party and delight your colleagues with an evening of entertainment, we can organise that for you too.

We are taking bookings now, so why not give them a call on 0131 225 7064, or find out more on their [website](#) ?



Five things you need to know today



Culture & Sport Committee – Greener Leith AGM – Edinburgh Marathon Festival Workshop – Forth Valley Chorus to appear in Kirkliston – Makar’s Court inscription

The council’s Culture & Sport Committee meet this morning at the Traverse Theatre. This is a departure from the norm but there is a public gallery and members of the public are invited along as normal. The meeting starts at 10:00am.

One of the items on the agenda is a discussion of the £50,000 which the council awarded to the tennis event held in Stockbridge earlier this summer. As readers will know the Brodies Champions of Tennis was affected badly by the rain on

some of the days, and the roof over the courts which was very pretty was deemed ineffective. The sports event had a £700,000 budget raised largely from sponsorship, but the net economic benefit has been assessed independently at £0.238m. The most surprising comment in the report given the number of comments on Twitter and other social media is that over 90% of all who attended declared the event good or very good. This was assessed by face to face interviews with almost 400 spectators at the event.

But the other benefits from the event were the coaching sessions and a tennis festival in Inverleith Park. The council confirms it will look at funding any future events. EventScotland also contributed £50,000 to the company organising it.

You can go along to the Greener Leith AGM tonight!

“Members and non-members are cordially invited to The Greener Leith Annual General Meeting which will take place on Tuesday October 22nd 2014, in The Shore Room, Leith Community Centre, the Kirkgate at 7.30pm.

Please come along to find out more about our work and how you can get involved.

Members will also elect a committee for the next year.”

Date/Time

Date(s) – 22/10/2013

7:30 pm – 9:30 pm



FREE EDINBURGH MARATHON FESTIVAL WORKSHOP

Thursday 24th October 2013 – 6.30 to 8.30pm.

✖ Gain some valuable knowledge and tips for EMF 2014 at the **FREE** Edinburgh Marathon Festival Workshop on Thursday evening at Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh.

Runners will have the chance to receive professional advice on every aspect of Edinburgh Marathon Festival preparation (for any event) including training plans, nutrition, injury treatment, prevention and tips on how to stay motivated. This includes a unique 'on the track' running session on Meadowbank track where runners will be assessed based on the running distance they wish to enter.

Freebies and discounts will be on offer from the EMF team, and the experienced staff from our retail partner Run and Become will also be on hand during the evening to offer any advice on footwear and kit.

The format of the event will be as follows:

Doors open 6pm: Please arrive for a prompt 6.30pm start

6.30pm – 6.40pm: Introductions

6.40pm – 7pm: Alex McEwan, Sports Development Officer and

Endurance Coach at Edinburgh AC

7pm – 7.15pm: Sarah Dempster, Nutritionist

7.15pm – 7.30pm: David Hilton, Macmillan Representative

7.30pm – 8.30pm: On track training session

This is a **FREE** event and everyone is welcome to attend – whether you're running a marathon or a 5k, have signed up or are still thinking about it.

Please note there is a **maximum of 4** tickets per person. Tickets for the event are free but are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. **Please arrive in your running gear.** Book [here](#).



The council are about to approve the latest inscription at the Makar's Court.

This is planned to recognise John Muir the environmentalist who has done so much for the conservation of the natural world, including the national parks movement.

The proposed inscription, and source of the quotation, are as follows:

John Muir (1838 –1914)

"I care only to entice people to look at Nature's loveliness."

Don't know where the Makar's Court is? It's next to the Writers' Museum on Lady Stair's Close. Look out for it next time you are up in the Old Town. The inscriptions are set into the flagstones.



Hallowe'en fun awaits at The Edinburgh Dungeon



***SCOTLAND'S ATTRACTION FOR SCARY FUN LAUNCH DINNER FOR THE DEAD
SHOW IN CELEBRATION OF HALLOWEEN***

***The Edinburgh Dungeon revisits the authentic roots of All
Hallows' Eve with festival of Samhuinn-inspired new show***

Forget the clichéd ghouls and gremlins, witches and wizards that are synonymous with Halloween as this year the Edinburgh Dungeon will be revisiting the authentic roots of the annual celebration with a dark and mysterious new show steeped in the Pagan festival of Samhuinn.

On Halloween, the time when the veil between the living and

the dead is said to be at its thinnest, pagans historically hosted a Dinner for the Dead, where an extra place was set to try and summon back their loved ones. And so, this Halloween, the Edinburgh Dungeon will be extending their table too...only the visitor from beyond is going to be an altogether nastier soul.

The new themed show '*Home of Halloween: Dinner for the Dead*' will feature ethereal tales from ancient history, mystic predictions and terrifying visits from spirits looking for sacrificial lambs of the human variety. Until 31 October 2013 visitors can expect to be thrilled and frightened by this spectacular show at what is truly the Home of Halloween.

Johnny Campbell, general manager at the Edinburgh Dungeon said:- "The Edinburgh Dungeon comes to life at Halloween; it's a time for our dark side to permeate the capital and the Dinner for the Dead is perhaps our most chilling show yet.

"As 31 October draws closer the dungeon will become the Home of Halloween once again, guaranteeing visitors less treats and more tricks of the spookiest kind. In the coming weeks, we will also be unveiling some fearsome additions to the Halloween line up. Keep an eye on the website and on the Edinburgh Dungeon Facebook page and Twitter @EdinDungeon for updates."

The '*Home of Halloween: Dinner for the Dead*' show is all part of the unforgettable journey delivered at Scotland's top attraction for scary fun. A host of grim characters lead visitors through 1000 years of the country's darker history, with non-stop action and hilarity delivered by 11 live-actor shows, state of the art special effects, 360° theatrical sets and two heart stopping rides during the 80 minute tour.

Tours will be running from 10am till 5pm every day, with extended opening hours on the 26th, 27th and 31st October (10am-8pm). For more information and tickets visit the [website](#).

Scottish Independence Referendum – View from Alyn Smith MEP

✖ Alyn Smith is SNP MEP. One of six Scottish MEPs he commutes regularly between Edinburgh and Brussels.

We asked him for his views on independence, and he was only too happy to oblige.

“You’ve got a decision to make – a big one. In less than a year’s time you’ll be asked to decide what you want. Do you want to stay part of the UK with all that’s likely to happen there or do you want to renew Scotland, take the power to build a better nation, and be independent? That’s the question the referendum is asking.

“Opponents of independence have already admitted that Scotland will be a successful independent nation. We’ll be a normal sized country in the European family, with full rights in the European Union. In Brussels or Strasbourg week after week I see colleagues from Ireland, Denmark, Malta, Sweden and other countries standing up for their own interests and with a voice at the top table in Europe. These are countries the same size and smaller than Scotland confident enough to represent themselves. We’re not there yet; we’re still locked out in

the corridor being represented by a Tory government we didn't vote for.

"The bit of democracy we control ourselves in Scotland does some great things. We protect our NHS from the privatisation agenda that Westminster is running; we keep to the principle of free education; we ensure universally free prescriptions so illness isn't taxed; we support small businesses with reduced rates; Scots look after each other. We've been able to do a lot in the areas where we're already independent.

"We're still missing parts of our democracy, though, some of it is still at Westminster and we're hampered by the strange split in responsibility between Holyrood and Westminster. We need to be able to do wonderful things in all areas of public life.

"Independence will give us that. It will let us run our economy for Scotland's benefit and what matters to the people who live here. Even without oil our national output is on a par with the rest of the UK – oil is a bonus we can use to invest for the future.

"We'd be wealthier independent but a nation is not a balance sheet. Independence is about taking responsibility, joining the world and taking the decisions we, the people who live here, believe to be best for Scotland.

"We have policies imposed on us just now that we simply do not want. From the poll tax and mass privatisation of the 1980s to the bedroom tax and nuclear weapons of today, we're being forced to swallow things we find obnoxious. Waiting through Thatcher and Major for Blair and Brown really didn't work for Scotland. We can choose a different path.

"That's what this referendum is about. Not flags and not anthems but who decides what's best for our country. It's between bringing our government home or leaving society in the hands of a government 400 miles away physically and a million

miles away politically.

“When you make your decision next year remember it’s about making all the decisions that follow. It’s about taking responsibility for our own future.”

The Edinburgh Reporter also met up with Alyn Smith at the SNP Conference 2013 when he agreed to offer some more views on film

If you would like to contact Alyn with regards to a constituency query, the easiest way to email Alyn’s office direct:- alyn.smith@europarl.europa.eu

Alyn receives hundreds of emails everyday. He deals with email in the same way as regular post and your email will be processed within 20 working days from when you send it.

You can also contact Alyn’s office in Edinburgh by calling 0131 525 8926 and leaving a voicemail.

Effortless Sites want you to have a good looking website

HOW TO LOOK GOOD ON THE WEB

Every small business needs a website ... but not just any website.

Some take the decision of doing without, or doing it themselves, to cut costs. But this can be a false economy.

We all want sales and your website is your shop window. It is usually the first port of call for any prospective customer,

who wants to find out more about your business. And what they see can make all the difference to your bottom line.

It is not as easy as it looks to create an effective website, so it is always worth seeking the advice of an expert. They will ensure that it showcases your business at its best.

The design and content should reflect your business values and strengths. It is a good idea to keep it simple and straightforward, so that viewers know exactly what you offer.

Testimonials, a call to action and easy to find contact details are also a must. The goal is to attract customers and encourage them to buy your product or service, so it pays to make it easy for them.

And nowadays your website should provide a link to your social media channels, such as LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter.

Every small business also needs to keep an eye on costs. A good website does not need to break the budget, though. The ideal website designer will provide not just quality and excellent service, but value for money too.

Iain Faulds is managing director of [Effortless Sites](#) and you can follow the company on [Facebook](#).

effortless**sites**.com

Seven Edinburgh winners in

national writing competition

Seven Edinburgh residents who penned stories about their most treasured possessions for a national writing competition have had their submissions chosen to be published in a book.

Bethany Anderson, Udit Banerjee, Nicole Brandon, Peggy Hughes, Gill Monaghan, Marianne Paget and Finola Scott beat off competition from over 300 other entries to win places in a special book entitled *Treasures*, and their stories will feature alongside entries from 40 other winners and celebrity contributors such as John and Carole E. Barrowman, Denise Mina and Mairi Hedderwick.

Commenting on her win with 'Grandma's Book of Poems', Udit said: "We are what we read. Being featured in the *Treasures* book and becoming a part of this wonderful reading and writing movement has made me feel happy, honoured, and humbled."

The competition was held by Scottish Book Trust, the leading agency for the promotion of literature, reading and writing in Scotland, and encouraged members of the public to write, read and share stories about an object that is special to them. Contributions arrived in a variety of forms including poems, diary entries and stories, and these previously untold accounts of unexpected objects included pieces about a steamship, a VHS tape, a rucksack and a chip of concrete.

To celebrate the second year of Book Week Scotland (25 November – 1 December 2013) more than 150,000 free copies of *Treasures* will be gifted to people throughout the country. The books will be distributed in local bookshops, public libraries, National Trust and Historic Scotland properties, workplaces, ferry terminals and train stations. All the competition entries are also available to read at www.bookweekscotland.com.

Treasures also features original commissioned contributions

from some of the best-loved names in Scottish arts and literature, among them exclusive stories from Richard Holloway and Mairi Hedderwick. A special contribution in Gaelic comes from Catriona Lexy Chaimbeul.

Philippa Cochrane, Head of Reader Development at Scottish Book Trust said:-“The winning stories from the Treasures campaign give a fascinating and heart-warming insight into the valued objects that have shaped people’s lives in Scotland, and we are delighted to be able to publish them so that they may be enjoyed by others and, most importantly, may never be forgotten.”

The Bed Shop would like you to treat your holiday guests to a new bed!

Gordon Burgess, owner of The Bed Shop, advises on buying a new bed for your Christmas visitors

THE BED SHOP – GETTING AHEAD WITH A NEW BED FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holidays are over, autumn’s here and soon our thoughts will turn to the festive season.

As we plan for friends and family coming to stay, we often realise that we need an extra bed, or a new mattress. It’s best not to leave it till the last minute if possible, as many suppliers will not be able to deliver on time. We don’t have that problem, however, as we always keep The Bed Shop well stocked up.

The Bed Shop is a local, family business and customer satisfaction is of paramount importance.

We have more than 30 years' experience of advising on and selling beds, so we understand that customers want flexibility. The Bed Shop can deliver right up till and including Saturday 21 December. We deliver at weekends the rest of the year too.

And don't worry about what to do with your old bed, We can dispose of it for you. How's that for service?

So, if you would like to get ahead and tick off one item on your festive 'to do' list, why not give us a call? We'd love to help you choose the perfect bed for your guests.

[The Bed Shop](#) is at 110-120 Leith Walk (0131 553 3050)



Scottish Government says UK will pay for nuclear until middle of century

The UK Government announced today that they and EDF Group have reached commercial agreement on the key terms of a proposed investment contract for the Hinkley Point C nuclear power

station in Somerset.

This paves the way for the construction of the first new nuclear power station in the UK in a generation. Westminster says it will provide a stable source of clean power from 2023, generating enough electricity to power nearly 6 million homes or an area twice the size of London.

The Government said:-“Hinkley Point C (HPC) will be the first new nuclear power station to be built since Sizewell B, which started generating electricity in 1995. It will begin the process of replacing the existing fleet of nuclear stations, most of which are due to close in the 2020s. Once built, it will provide a clean source of home-grown energy, helping to keep the lights on, cut emissions and reduce consumer bills over the long-term.

“EDF Group and other investors will be responsible for funding this project. Consumers will pay for the electricity it generates from 2023 through their bills. Building a new fleet of nuclear power stations could reduce bills by more than £75 a year in 2030, compared to a future where nuclear is not part of the energy mix.

“The Government will ensure that the operator of Hinkley Point C will be responsible for the full costs of decommissioning and its share of the costs of waste management.

“Building HPC will have significant benefits for the UK economy, including:

- A massive investment by EDF Group and its fellow investors of around £16 billion to build the plant. UK companies could benefit from getting up to 57% of the work;
- 25,000 jobs created during construction, with 5,600 people employed on site at peak of construction, and 900 permanent jobs over 60 years of expected operation;
- Power provided for nearly 6 million homes, an area

almost twice the size of London, with the site meeting around 7% of the UK's electricity demand when running at full capacity; and

- A clean, home-grown source of electricity, which will reduce the UK's emissions by 9 million tonnes of CO₂ per year, helping to meet climate targets.

Prime Minister David Cameron said:-“Earlier this month I spoke about our new industrial policy that looks to the future, and about our determination to embrace new technologies and back new industries and energy sources so that they can flourish and help us build a rebalanced economy across the country.

“As part of our plan to help Britain succeed, after months of negotiation, today we have a deal for the first nuclear power station in a generation to be built in Britain.

“This deal means £16bn of investment coming into the country and the creation of 25,000 jobs, which is brilliant news for the South West and for the country as a whole. As we compete in the tough global race, this underlines the confidence there is in Britain and makes clear that we are very much open for business.

“This also marks the next generation of nuclear power in Britain, which has an important part to play in contributing to our future energy needs and our longer term security of supply”.

Energy and Climate Change Secretary Edward Davey said:-“This is an excellent deal for Britain and British consumers. For the first time, a nuclear power station in this country will be built without money from the British taxpayer. It will increase energy security and resilience from a safe, reliable, home-grown source of electricity.

“This deal is competitive with other large-scale clean energy and with gas – and while consumers won't pay anything up front, they'll share directly in any gains made from the

project coming in under budget and from refinancing or equity sales in particular circumstances. We are creating one of the most attractive electricity investment markets in the world – and this is a clear sign that investors are already responding, even before our electricity market reforms become law.”

Henri Proglio, Chairman and CEO of EDF Group, said:-“The agreement in principle reached today with the British government significantly strengthens the industrial and energy co-operation between France and the United Kingdom. The EPR project at Hinkley Point represents a great opportunity for the French nuclear industry in a context of a renewal of competencies.

“This project will deliver a boost to the economy and create job opportunities on both sides of the channel and will enable the United Kingdom, a country in which EDF is already the leading producer of electricity, to increase the share of carbon-free energy in its production mix.”

The key terms include a “Strike Price” of £89.50 /MWh fully indexed to the Consumer Price Index. This price benefits from an upfront reduction of £3/MWh built in on the assumption that the developer would be able to share the first of a kind costs of the EPR reactors across the HPC and Sizewell C sites. If the EDF Group does not take a final investment decision on Sizewell C, the Strike Price for HPC would be £92.50/MWh. The development of Sizewell C will be subject to relevant consent and regulatory and other approval procedures at the appropriate time.

The developer would separately be required to start putting money into a fund from the first day of generation to pay for decommissioning and waste management costs associated with HPC.

The EDF Group has also announced today the intent of two

Chinese companies, CGN and CNNC, to invest in HPC as minority shareholders. This follows the signing last week by the Chancellor of a Memorandum of Understanding on civil nuclear energy cooperation between the UK and Chinese Governments.

The commercial agreement reached today on key terms is not legally binding, and is dependent on a positive decision from the European Commission in relation to State Aid.

An investment contract is an early Contract for Difference (CfD). CfDs are designed to provide the most efficient long-term support for all forms of low-carbon generation – including nuclear, renewables and Carbon Capture and Storage technology. They are being introduced through Government's reforms to the electricity market which are designed to keep the lights on and reduce emissions at least cost to consumers.

The support provided for HPC under the proposed investment contract is consistent with the Government's policy of not providing a public subsidy for new nuclear unless similar support is provided to other types of low-carbon generation. Similar support will be made available to other types of generation which are eligible for CfDs.

Energy Minister Fergus Ewing responded today to the UK Government's announcement about the nuclear plant

Mr Ewing said:-“Today's announcement confirms that consumers across the UK will be paying for nuclear generation until after the middle of this century. The single nuclear station at Hinkley could be eligible for consumer funded payments totalling around £1 billion per year, depending on wholesale prices. These payments will apply for the length of the contract being awarded – which, at 35 years, dwarfs the 15 years being offered to renewable energy technologies.

“The cost of this single station alone is comparable to the £43 billion which the UK Government's budget is assigned for all energy technologies between 2013/14 and 2020/21 and risks

squeezing out home grown developments for imported nuclear technology.

“This UK Government’s misguided enthusiasm for nuclear comes at a time when other countries, such as Germany and EDF’s home nation France, are either eliminating or scaling back their dependence on nuclear generation and when we should be putting the support to our renewables energy industry and the jobs it will support across the country.

“The guarantee of support and subsidy under this contract until after the middle of this century also sits in sharp contrast with the lack of a UK Government commitment to support our offshore renewables sector and its potential beyond 2020.

“The Scottish Government has an ambitious but achievable target to generate the equivalent of 100% of electricity from renewable sources by 2020, alongside generation from thermal sources fitted with carbon capture and storage.

“Nuclear energy cannot be relied on for our energy needs. The output from Scottish nuclear generation fell to historic lows in 2006 and 2007 due to unplanned outages. Although output has increased since then, nuclear generation has not yet recovered to its pre 2006 levels.

“This underlines the susceptibility of nuclear to sudden interruptions, and supports the Scottish Government’s drive towards a balanced energy portfolio, based on cleaner thermal generation and the advantages which our huge renewables potential offers to Scotland.”

Death Valley charity cycle for Edinburgh College man



Father and Son to cycle 500 miles through Death Valley for charity

An Edinburgh college employee and his 72-year-old father plan to cycle from Las Vegas to Los Angeles via the Death Valley national park to raise money for Barnardo's.

George Stewart junior, 38, and his father, George Stewart senior, are keen cyclists and have decided to take on the scorching challenge next March to raise funds for Barnardo's. Their target is to raise £6000.

Death Valley is the lowest, hottest and driest area in North America. On their journey, George and his father will face various challenges such as: temperatures as high as 39 degrees celsius, a climb to 5,550 feet above sea level followed by a drop to 136 feet below sea level, and cycling on roads dominated by traffic on the busy streets of Los Angeles. The journey is planned to take six days.

Additionally, George senior is undertaking the challenge after surviving five strokes and undergoing a triple heart bypass. Over a long period of recovery, George senior had to learn to speak, write and type again. His ordeal did not dampen his passion for cycling and he has undertaken many tours with his son, whom he is responsible for getting in to cycling and cycle racing. They recently completed a tour from Scotland to France together.

George junior, who works as a facilities assistant at Edinburgh College's Granton Campus, said: "Though the main aim of completing this challenge is to raise as much money as possible for Barnardo's, we also aim to show that if a 72-year-old man who has had five strokes and a triple heart bypass can cycle 500 miles through some of the harshest land in the planet, then anything is possible."

George senior will be cycling attached to a small portable heart monitor to ensure his wellbeing throughout the challenge. The rest of the Stewart family are very supportive, despite calling the pair "crazy".

George junior said: -"My fiancé is very worried about the reputation of the route we've chosen as it's not just a national park we're going to; it is called the Death Valley after all. She is very supportive though; she kicks me out on my bike every weekend and tells me to get going."

The Georges have been training relentlessly, averaging 120 miles every weekend from Edinburgh to Loch Lomond and back. George senior does find it difficult to maintain speed when

riding uphill but has an excellent recovery time. The pair have always been very close as George junior lost his mother a number of years ago to motor neurone disease. George junior says: "I think we'll have a cracking laugh together when we're doing the challenge. We spend a lot of time together in training and doing other cycle tours and we've always had a great relationship."

They plan to post video blogs whilst on their journey through Death Valley relying on the various remote hotels they are staying in to have internet connection. The blogs will include the number of miles covered, how much water they have gone through, any problems they have encountered and how their bodies are dealing with the physical aspect of the challenge. Any current developments and their training regime can be tracked on their [Facebook page](#).

The father and son duo are also running a couple of other events prior to the cycle challenge to promote their participation and attract more donations.

They are holding a charity dinner with guest comedian Chris Purchase on 14 November at 6:15pm at Edinburgh College's Granton Campus.

Tickets are just £15 and can be bought via email at George.stewart@edinburghcollege.ac.uk or on the phone 07718 229530.

There will also be a silent auction on 27 February at the Apex City Hotel in the Grassmarket. Tickets will be £10 and include a glass of wine and canapés. For tickets and more information on this event please e-mail George junior on the above

address.


The Stewarts' Death Valley Cycle Challenge is due to take place in March 2014. To donate go to their [Virgin Money Giving page](#).

Restaurant Review: Chop Chop, Leith



“Can a billion people be wrong?”


[Chop Chop](#) is an award winning restaurant with a great history, beginning when Chop Chop's owner Jian Wang arrived in Edinburgh from China in 1997. Jian was amazed to find that Chinese cuisine in the UK was dominated by the Cantonese style and with her love of the jiao zi dumplings, from Changchun in North-Eastern China, she set about trying to change perceptions.

 In 2006 she opened Chop Chop in Haymarket which by 2008 was voted Best Chinese Restaurant in Scotland, and Chop Chop received even more acclaim in 2009 when it was voted onto Gordon Ramsay's F-Word T.V. show.

Chop Chop serves delicious healthy Chinese food and having heard so many great things about Chop Chop we were eager to try their renowned boiled and fried dumplings and Crispy Northern Chicken.

We decided on the 'unlimited banquet for two'. It really is


unlimited and at £19.75 per head this is not only healthy but also a cost effective way to dine.

The set banquet consisted of a Cucumber salad which gave a  fresh initial bite to the meal. It was so good we ordered two portions as well as pan-fried aubergines which are actually one of their most popular dishes.

We also ordered the much talked about Crispy Northern Chicken and I am ashamed to say that I polished off two portions! It was honestly the best Chinese dish I have ever eaten. Not to shy away from the dumplings we ordered the pork and coriander Jiao Zi (boiled dumplings) and the spicy beef and chilli Guo Tie (fried dumplings). The tasty little morsels came with a sauce of Soy, ginger and chilli which you mix yourself according to taste.



Please do not leave Chop Chop without first having a wee look at the pudding menu. After eating such fantastic fare we nearly waived this opportunity, but thankfully our lovely host (and Jian Wang's son) convinced us otherwise. The puddings were almost my favourite part of the meal (the Crispy chicken just pipped it to the post) and we ordered the peanut dumplings (yes they are as good as they sound) and the sugar string apple. The sugar string apple was not only yummy but a lot of fun too and can only be described as a DIY toffee apple (perfect for this time of year!).

 There is a good atmosphere at Chop Chop and fantastic food to back it up. I will definitely be going back and it certainly lives up to its tagline – “Can a billion people be wrong?”

[Chop Chop](#), 76 Commercial, EH6 6LX 0131 553 1818

The Reporter Food reviewer, Holly Jones, is a partner in [The Lifestyle Company Scotland](#) You can follow the company and

their lifestyle tips on [Twitter](#)

Forth Valley Chorus to perform in Kirkliston



Tickets are now on sale to see the Forth Valley Chorus barbershop singers perform a charity concert at Kirkliston Parish Church on the evening of Friday 29th November 2013.

The Forth Valley Chorus is composed of over 90 women who sing unaccompanied four-part close harmony music, with sparkly costumes and lively choreography to match. They have a wide repertoire including barbershop, pop and jazz.

They are currently the champion chorus in the UK and ranked 11th internationally. In November 2014 they are heading off to Baltimore, USA, to represent Great Britain at the Sweet Adelines International Convention.

Proceeds from the evening will support the Queensferry Care charity and its work supporting the older people of South Queensferry and the surrounding area.

David Pomfet, Chairman of Queensferry Care, said:-“Forth Valley Chorus will be entertaining us to a wonderful mixture of jazz, pop, gospel, songs from the shows and standards with their unique blend of enthusiasm and energy. It will a night of high quality singing, and great fun for audience and singers alike and I am very much looking forward to their performance.”

Tickets are £8, but £7 for seniors (65+) and £6 for juniors (up to 18). Tickets can be purchased by phoning 0131 331 5570 or by visiting <http://qccc.eventbrite.co.uk/> The concert will start at 7:30pm.

Love walking? Love great food and fine wine?

✖ Anyone in the Edinburgh area who loves walking, great food and fine wine is invited to our free Information Evening on Thursday 7 November 2013 from 6 – 8 pm at The George Hotel in Edinburgh.

We run top quality gourmet guided walking holidays in Italy and Slovenia and will be in Edinburgh for just one night to talk about our tours for 2014.

The evening is free to attend but please call 01858 565148 or email annabel@hedonistichiking.com to book your place. Our website at <http://www.hedonistichiking.com> has more details.

Submitted by [Annabel Purling](#)

Board members to be appointed

to Transport for Edinburgh this week



With a third of the tram route now open for testing the council believes it is time to appoint the members of the board who will run the public transport offering in Edinburgh which is now called Transport for Edinburgh (TFE).

All major roadworks have been removed over this weekend, and most streets are free of major diversions due to tramworks except where tram stops are still being built.



Council Leader Andrew Burns said:-“This is another significant step in the tram project.”

He also announced ahead of this week’s council meeting when some tram business is being discussed that trams will be tested on Princes Street in December which will include the interaction between trams and other road traffic. At present the trams are being tested as far as Edinburgh Park where they do cross a significantly big road and interact with cars there, but the next big test will be at Haymarket and Princes Street later in the year.

Transport for Edinburgh will now be set up with four councillors as members, and four of the directors from Lothian Buses who will be charged with the day to day running of the transport body. These include Ian Craig CEO, Operations Director, Bill Campbell, the Engineering Director, Bill Devlin, and Norman Strachan, currently Finance Director of Lothian Buses.

Transport for Edinburgh is wholly owned by the Council, holding the Council’s 100% shareholding in Edinburgh Trams Ltd and 91% shareholding of Lothian Buses.

The four councillors to be appointed next week will include Lesley Hinds who is being nominated for the Labour Group

Three other politicians from the other political parties (with the exception of the LibDems who decided not to be represented on the board of the transport company) will be put forward this week.

Following the appointments the Board for TFE can then meet with Lesley Hinds as chair.

After that the board will recruit Non-Executive Directors decided upon by a cross-party panel and those appointments will be ratified by full council in December.

All of these positions (except the non-executive directors) will be unpaid positions given that they are already on the board of Lothian Buses or are elected councillors.

As well as this under item 8.2 on the agenda for this Thursday's council meeting the Tram Byelaws are presented for adoption by the council as they have now been approved by The Scottish Government. These will be in place by 1 November 2013.

Most of this is common sense but some things may differ from the conditions of carriage on Lothian Buses as the tram is a kind of light train so comes under different rules and regulations anyway. For example if you take your dog or other small animal with you then it must either be on a lead or in a cage or carrying case.

You may not take a bicycle with you except a folding bicycle in a suitable carrying bag, and provided there is space to do so.

You are allowed to travel on the tram in a wheelchair if the designated wheelchair space is available.

There will be CCTV to ensure everyone's safety on the trams.



Passengers who travel with young children are encouraged to fold their buggies when possible, although they will be allowed where they do not obstruct the doorways or the aisles.

The Edinburgh Reporter has travelled on one of the Edinburgh Trams and it is clear that they will have a lot of room for luggage, particularly sensible as the last stop on the route is the Airport.

This is the document to be given final approval by the council:-

<http://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Tram-Bye-Laws.pdf>

Government urges you to use the extra hour this week to get Ready for Winter!



A campaign launched today urges people in Scotland to use the extra hour as the clocks go back this Sunday (27 October 2013) to get ready for winter.

We can't be sure what weather Scotland will enjoy over the winter period, so the campaign reminds people that severe weather can strike at any time, and taking action now will serve them well in winter, and all year round.

While 44 per-cent of people in Scotland say they feel prepared for severe weather according to new research published today, people are being asked to consider how prepared they are for all kinds of challenging conditions through this year's Ready for Winter campaign.

The campaign sets out the simple steps we can all take in the home, before a journey (whether driving, cycling or on foot), at work and in our communities. It also encourages people to look out for others, especially the more vulnerable, when bad weather strikes.

Findings from the survey carried out jointly by the British Red Cross and the Scottish Government show that:

- There's a five per cent increase in public preparedness for extreme weather on last year – 44 per cent in 2013 versus 39 per cent in 2012.
- People are most concerned about extreme weather, power cuts and being cut off from their water supply.
- Many car owners think they're doing enough just by having an ice scraper and de-icer.

In the last four years, parts of Scotland have been badly affected by severe weather – from high winds and blizzards that affected the country last February, to the snow and freezing temperatures of previous winters.

Launching the campaign, Minister for Transport and Veterans, Keith Brown, said:-“While we can't stop the weather causing disruption, we can be well prepared to deal with it. Our winter preparedness campaign reminds us of this and the simple actions we can all take to prepare ourselves. With the clocks changing next week, the campaign calls on everyone to use the extra hour to get ready in the home, before a journey, at our

place of work and in our communities. This will serve us well not just throughout the winter months, but all year round and in a range of emergency situations.

“As we have seen in Scotland, severe weather can strike quickly and at any time of year. In March, we saw the impact of severe snowstorms on communities in Arran, Kintyre and Dumfries and Galloway. The weather can cause a range of problems but we can be ready for them. So whether it is making your home energy efficient, protecting your pipes, packing an emergency kit for the car or looking out for vulnerable neighbours, we can all play our part in helping Scotland get ready for winter.

“I’m delighted the campaign is again being run in partnership with the British Red Cross and will be supported by a variety of other partners across the public, private and voluntary sectors in Scotland.”

David Miller, operations director for the British Red Cross, said:- “At the Red Cross we know that severe weather, including snow and floods, can happen quickly and have serious consequences. However, with a few simple steps you can make yourself and others more able to cope with the disruption it can bring. You can prepare an emergency kit for your home and car, jot down your emergency phone numbers and check on any neighbours, family or friends to see if they will need any help.

“Each year the Red Cross helps people across Scotland cope with the effects of severe weather and this winter we’ll be prepared and ready. We urge everyone to take some time to get ready too.”

COSLA Spokesperson for Education & Young People, Councillor Douglas Chapman, said:- “The past few years have demonstrated how unpredictable our weather can be and the risks of being underprepared for it. Councils have contingency plans in place

to minimise the effects of severe weather on services this winter but we encourage individuals to also work together to ensure their communities are prepared.”

Inspector David Carballo, Trunk Road Policing Group, Police Scotland, said:- “Winter safety is not just about severe cold weather. We all know that the Scottish weather can be very unpredictable and drivers can sometimes experience a variety of different driving conditions during a single journey.

“Effective planning plays a huge part in everyone getting safely to their destination and, in support of the Ready for Winter campaign, Police Scotland will be working with road safety groups and organisations to offer free advice to road users.”

Phil Evans, the Met Office’s Director of Government Business, said:- “We are pleased to continue to work with the Scottish Government, Transport Scotland, SEPA and many more agencies this year. By working together we can ensure the Scottish public are well informed and able to prepare for any severe weather ahead. Members of the public can stay up-to-date by checking the forecasts and warnings on our website –www.metoffice.gov.uk.”

Ratho Housebreaking – Woman Arrested



Police have arrested and charged a 46-year-old woman in connection with a break-in to a garage in Ratho where hundreds of porcelain dolls were stolen, along with football

memorabilia.

The break-in happened in School Wynd sometime between Monday the 7th and Monday the 14th of October.

Around 100 stolen dolls have been recovered so far, and inquiries are on-going to locate the remaining dolls, along with the stolen football memorabilia.

In addition to the arrest of the woman, a further two people, a 52-year-old man and 50-year-old woman, have been arrested and charged with reset offences connected to the break-in.

Anyone who has any information on the whereabouts of the remaining stolen items should contact Police Scotland on 101, or make an anonymous report through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Our fashion Editor's weekly tip #2 – Must-Have Monday



These [flat boots](#) are perfect for everyday use. Whether you're dressing for the office or a day with the kids these casual boots will take you everywhere in style. They're both comfortable and affordable at just £34.99 a pair and are slightly padded at the back with a decorative chain, a zip at the side and a quilted lining.

Their chunky rubber soles will stop your feet getting wet in Autumn showers and they'll go with most things in your wardrobe. Head down to H&M before this new season must-have sells out!

Ann Russell is a fashion writer and has her own fashion blog [here](#).

Police praise actions of boatman in East Lothian



Police in East Lothian have praised the actions of a boatman, who helped rescue a kayaker in Dunbar.

Members of the public raised the alarm at around 10.45am yesterday (Sunday) after they witnessed one-person canoe experiencing difficulty just off the shore at Skateraw Old Harbour.

A small boat, which was skippered by 58-year-old Brian Ball, was on the water during this time and heard the emergency radio message issued by HM Coastguard.

The boat called Dignity reached the kayaker prior to the arrival of the RNLI and Mr Ball rescued the male from the water before bringing him back to shore.

He was then airlifted to Border General Hospital and treated for hypothermia before later being released.

Officers will now submit a meritorious recommendation in relation to Mr Ball's action.

Sergeant Stuart Higginbottom said: "The male, who is an experienced kayaker, experienced difficulty and ended up in the water, which was extremely cold."

“Thanks to the quick response of Brian Ball, tragedy was averted and the male is now recovering in hospital.

“Brian’s actions are commendable and we are delighted to nominate him for a meritorious award.”

The neglected form of art – “What is textiles?”

✖ Edinburgh, a place of wonderful, exciting and innovative art and a place where textile once had a historical importance.

But what was once a highly progressive and key form of art is no longer considered important or relative by the art community. Why is it that Textile art is being neglected by most art communities in Edinburgh?

We at Kalopsia, a contemporary Textile collective, are currently running an exhibition in the heart of Edinburgh, showcasing work by 19 local and international creators who work in the medium of Textiles. The exhibition work as a showcase for the artists, mainly recent graduates who has degrees of Textiles, and who want to be part of the art scene.

But a confusion and frustration occurs, mainly towards the art institution themselves. Hundreds of emails and invitations were sent out but were ignored. Is it the Textiles that is being ignored or is it us?

Three graduates who are fighting to open a profitable business promoting other textile creators’ work but constantly face difficulties when trying to get the art community to accept

textiles as a valid form of art. This is not a exhibition of craft, but an exhibition that shows clearly that textiles has a rightful place as a distinct form of art.

Exhibition at Gallery 17, 17 Dundas Street EH3 6QG

Submitted by [Nina Falk](#)



New UNESCO City of Literature announced



The world's seventh UNESCO City of Literature has been announced today. Krakow, widely regarded as Poland's cultural capital, has joined Edinburgh, the creator of the title and founding city in the network. Other designated Cities of Literature include Melbourne, Dublin, Iowa City, Norwich and Reykjavik. The Cities of Literature are part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, which now has 38 cities across its seven thematic areas.



Wisława Szymborska

Ali Bowden, director of the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust said: "Krakow is an amazing literary city and absolutely worthy of this permanent UNESCO City of Literature title. We've been working with Krakow over the last few years to help them with their bid to UNESCO, so today's news is a real achievement and recognises hard work from both cities.

Krakow is a place steeped in literature and poetry, with a vibrant community of publishers, bookshops, literary festivals, prizes, residencies and programmes, and also two Nobel Prize winners in Literature to their name: Czesław Miłosz and Wisława Szymborska.”

From Robert Piakowski, main coordinator of Krakow UNESCO City of Literature: “We want to thank everyone for supporting our efforts and the real collaboration that has been shown by our fellow Cities of Literature. Krakow looks forward to playing an active role in the network and continuing newfound alliances across the Cities of Literature network. We think of this newly acquired title as a commitment to the vibrant literary community across the city and we embrace the opportunity to share the best Krakow has to offer with cultural hubs around the world.”



Literary events in Krakow

There are ten other cities preparing bids to join the Cities of Literature network: Vancouver (Canada), Prague (Czech Republic), Lviv (Ukraine), Dunedin (New Zealand), Naples (Italy), Heidelberg (Germany), Tromsø (Norway), Lillehammer (Norway), Ljubljana (Slovenia) and Kampala (Uganda).

In response to the news, Darłusz Adler, the Consul General in Edinburgh said: “Edinburgh and Krakow already have collaborated on many cultural projects and I hope with this designation the various cross-cultural initiatives and literary exchanges will grow stronger. “

For further event information visit the City of Literature [website](#) or @EdinCityofLit



Adam Zagajewski

Scottish Independence Referendum chat



A resumé of remarks and comments and pointers to articles about the Scottish Independence Referendum.

People living in Scotland are invited to vote in the referendum on independence from the United Kingdom on 18 September 2014. The referendum question is “Should Scotland be an independent country?”

Whether you intend voting Yes or No to that question, your views, and those of others, have a place here. We invite comments and we also invite you to write about what you think by using our Submit your Story feature [here](#).

The White Paper on independence will be published on 26 November 2013, First Minister Alex Salmond announced at the SNP conference 2013 which ended over the weekend.

He confirmed that the Paper will set out the founding structure of an independent Scotland and said:-“People across the country want to know more about independence.

“They want to hear more about the benefits. They are hungry for information. And we have undertaken to provide that information.

“The more people know about independence, the more likely they are to support it.

“The Scottish Government will publish the White Paper on independence on Tuesday, November 26th.

“It will do two things. Firstly, it will spell out the foundation that we will establish between the referendum next year and the first elections for an independent Scottish Parliament in the spring of 2016.

“Secondly, it will set out clearly and unmistakably that independence is about a Scottish Government that the people choose – an independent Government. And it will set out our vision of Scotland – the ‘why of independence’ – the Scotland that we seek.”

The SNP Conference 2013 wound up at Perth’s Concert Hall on Sunday afternoon with some speeches from Government Ministers. Education Minister Mike Russell said this in his speech on Sunday:-“We need the full powers of independence in order to use the tools of a normal nation to eradicate poverty, for poverty saps all initiative and undermines all achievement. Using our welfare, taxation and labour market powers – powers we don’t presently have – we will be able to achieve equity in our schools and make sure that poverty, in the words of the first Robert Owen Award winner, Ontario educator Avis Glaze, is not educational destiny. And we will be able to build the high skill, high wage, high-achieving country that we all want to live in.

A country well served by its schools, its colleges and its universities. A learning nation leading learning in the world. But more importantly still, using learning to enrich and take forward a fair, equal, positive, outward looking society.”

Convener I regard myself as very fortunate to be Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning. Every day I learn something new and every day I met inspirational people

who are also learners, no matter the role they occupy in our education systems.”

Nelson Mandela observed that “education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world”. And we, of course, are world changers. So we must go on investing in, supporting, encouraging, improving and delivering world quality education in this country of ours. Only by so doing will be able to change what needs to be changed – and that is a great deal.”

But we are the lucky generation to have that opportunity. John Adams, the first American Vice President and the second American president put that sense of excitement and opportunity well when, in 1796 on the eve of voting on the Declaration of Independence, he wrote of his time being one in which his society had “an opportunity of beginning government anew from the foundation and building as they choose.” And he went on to muse on “How few of the human race have ever had an opportunity of choosing a system of government for themselves and their children? How few of them have ever had anything more of choice in government than in climate?”

“We have the chance – unique for our generation and our generation alone – to begin government of Scotland anew from the foundation and to build as we choose. We must engage every citizen of this country in that task. They have choices they wish to make. Let us help them to make them.”

A Yes vote in next year’s referendum will rid Scotland of the corrosive and cynical world of Westminster and allow us to build a better and fairer nation, Yes Scotland Chief Executive Blair Jenkins said on Sunday.

Addressing a Referendum Rally at the SNP conference in Perth,

Mr Jenkins said independence was a unique opportunity for Scotland to follow a new path – and to leave behind the broken and discredited system of Westminster rule.

He said: 'If you are sick and fed up of the corrosive and cynical world of Westminster, then next year we can be rid of all that.

'Vote Yes and we can say enough to the remote House of Commons and the ridiculous House of Lords. Enough of the war-mongers and the job-cutters; enough of the asset-strippers and mortgage-flippers; enough of the welfare-bashers and the bedroom-taxers.

'Let's be done with them. Let's make our own decisions and live by our own values. It's time to speak up for Scotland. It's time to stand up for Scotland. It's time to vote Yes.'

Mr Jenkins told delegates that the key to winning next September's referendum lay in the grass-roots campaign being carried to every city, town, village, and community the length and breadth of Scotland.

He said: 'Not only do we have the best arguments in the referendum, we also have the best advocates and the best ambassadors.

'That advantage in numbers and enthusiasm will be crucial as campaigning and canvassing become more intense in this final year. We will have more people with more commitment on more streets knocking on more doors. And that will mean more votes.'

His confidence that Yes would win was based on three big reasons which, he said, would define and transform the debate in the next 11 months:

- The very different character of the two campaigns.
- The overwhelming case for independence from the evidence and

the arguments.

- The way public knowledge and awareness will grow in the run-up to September 18.

The promotion of the Yes case in public debates, particularly in major TV events, would also provide a boost for the campaign, he said. The quality of the people on his team who could perform in broadcasting studios gave him a major advantage over his opponents.

‘It was notable how quickly David Cameron ran away from the prospect of a televised debate with Alex Salmond,’ he told delegates. ‘If he had run away any faster, the Prime Minister could have been a contender for medals in next year’s Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.’

Closely linked to the scale of the campaign was the variety and diversity of volunteers committed to delivering a Yes vote, Mr Jenkins explained.

‘We have never had so many people from so many different backgrounds, political and non-political, working to achieve an independent Scotland.

‘Naturally, that means there are different views of what we might do with the powers of an independent parliament – competing and compelling visions from the SNP, the Scottish Greens, the Scottish Socialists, Labour for Independence, the Common Weal project, Business for Scotland and many other organisations and individuals.

‘That wide range of views is a strength – it’s the sign of a healthy independent Scottish democracy in the making.

‘What unites us in Yes is the democratic principle that Scotland’s future should be in Scotland’s hands, that the best people to make decisions on what is right for our country are the people of Scotland themselves.

Mr Jenkins added: 'What a contrast we present to Better Together. For the No campaign the day is never bright. It is only every dark, very dark. Their emotional range is strictly limited – anger and aggression, or fear and anxiety. And that's on a good day.

'We have our vision and our values. They have their scares and their smears. This referendum is a contest between Project Hope and Project Fear.'

He said only a Yes vote guaranteed that Scotland would get the governments it chose, and end the travesty of being governed from London by a political party that Scotland had consistently and repeatedly rejected, with policies that Scotland had consistently and repeatedly rejected – from the Poll Tax to the Bedroom Tax.

Mr Jenkins continued: 'If the democratic case for independence is overwhelming, then so too is the case based on greater prosperity. The facts bear frequent repetition. There have been stronger public finances in Scotland than in the UK, not just this year but for 30 years. Even with the legacy of London mismanagement, at the point of becoming independent Scotland will go straight into the top ten of world economies based on our wealth production per head of population. We are the European Union's biggest oil producer, and its biggest source of offshore renewable energy.

'So don't let anyone tell you that Scotland isn't a rich country. We are a very rich country, but we are also a country where far too many people live in poverty. We don't lack the wealth or the resources to tackle that poverty – what we lack is any political willpower at Westminster.

'The UK just doesn't regard reducing poverty as a top priority, but an independent Scotland will.

'Why do we have such widespread fuel poverty in energy-rich Scotland? Why should we have twice as much child poverty as

countries like Denmark and Norway? Why should we tolerate a five-fold increase in the number of Scots depending on food banks just to keep going?

‘These are damning indictments of the UK.

‘An independent Scotland will tackle these problems and focus on fairness, so our young folk have decent jobs, working families can prosper, and older people can have guaranteed security in their older years.

‘The truth is that Westminster is utterly incapable of delivering social justice. And that leads on to the third reason why we will win: the fact that more and more people in Scotland are becoming better informed about the independence debate. And as they do so, they are much more likely to move to Yes.

‘I know this from every community I visit, from every meeting I attend, and from every conversation I have. I know it from our own research. The only movement is to Yes and your hard work is paying off.’

Mr Jenkins said that since devolution, Scotland had taken a different path. And now people in Scotland wanted a Scottish Parliament with new powers over key economic levers such as welfare and taxation.

He added: ‘We’ve come a long way with devolution, but there is much more work to do. Only a Yes vote will deliver those extra powers, and the prospect of transformational change.

‘And that is where all of us, you and me and the tens of thousands of Yes volunteers from all around the country, have a pivotal role to play. This referendum will be fought on a number of battlefields, but none is more significant and important than the individual conversations we all have. Each of us can help to convince our friends and families and the people we work with and the people we meet.

'That's why at this conference we are promoting the idea of Yes conversations backed with our new canvassing database-Yesmo – and supported by the real facts and figures about Scottish independence.

'Our volunteers are the most committed and the best informed campaigning force that this country has ever seen. I know we can deliver Yes votes from a majority of our fellow citizens.'

[The Scotsman](#) carries a report of the Better Together campaign's comments on the currency plan for a post independence Scotland, calling on the SNP to lay out a full range of options in case a currency union with the rest of the UK is not agreed upon.

The Better Together campaign will be at the Haddington Farmers Market this Saturday 26 October 2013.

[@UK_Together](#) *Better Together East Lothian Haddington Farmers Market on Saturday 26th October from 10am all welcome*
[@EastLothianCLP](#)

– Robert McNeill (@robertmcneill2) [October 21, 2013](#)

And the latest blog on the Better Together website is about defence. They claim that there is little detail behind the words uttered at the SNP conference in Perth about defence, and that it will be a difficult task to set up a defence body in Scotland with just £2.5bn per year.

The Edinburgh Reporter will round up the variety of views we find across all media as often as we can.

This may be a daily article if there is a lot of chat about the independence referendum, or less frequently if we have too


much else to do. If you would like to write about your views on independence then please feel free to submit your article using the Submit your Story feature [here](#). The Edinburgh Reporter does not have a stance on the independence question, but hopes to help you make your mind up about the vote on 18 September 2014 by providing as much unbiased coverage as possible.

There are two main websites where you can obtain further information:-

Yes Scotland can be found here <http://www.yesscotland.net>

Better Together has a website here <http://bettertogether.net>

Competition – win Hallowe'en cupcakes from Cuckoo's

 Cupcakes are to be given a makeover worthy of Sherlock Holmes this Halloween, as Cuckoo's Bakery unveils a range of cakes, designed to terror and delight its customers.

Inspired by the super sleuth created by Scotland's very own Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the Dundas Street bakery and tea room has unveiled a range of ghoulish cupcakes, each of which has a secret tale of mystery, deception and murder behind them – helping create a bit of fun for cake lovers this Halloween.

Each cupcake is topped with its own spookily realistic looking crime scene, created by hand by the team of bakers at the

award-winning cake emporium.

With six terrifyingly tasty flavours to choose from, the cupcakes will make the perfect addition to any Halloween party and can also be enjoyed as a sweet trick or treat for both adults and children alike.

Graham Savage (good name for Hallowe'en!), owner of Cuckoo's Bakery, said:- "Halloween is one of our favourite times of the year, as it gives us a chance to have a bit of fun and get as creative as possible with our cake flavours and designs.

"This year we wanted to do something extra special and extra ghoulish, so came up with the idea of a murder mystery, with each of our cakes depicting a gruesome crime scene. Scotland is the home of the murder mystery, so it was only apt that our cupcakes followed this theme.

"We had a lot of fun coming up with the ideas for the cupcakes – although it took us a lot of time and many hours of practice to perfect the ghoulish looking body parts.

"Hopefully they are not too scary for our customers, but I'm sure after a bite or two they will forget how scary looking they are because they taste that good!"

Six 'to die for' cupcakes will be available in the Halloween range including; **The Eye Witness**, a strawberry and vanilla cupcake topped with a gruesome edible eyeball – are you brave

enough to try this frightening delicacy?

The Butchered Baker – thankfully not one of Cuckoo's own bakers – is a twist on the classic red velvet cupcake, flavoured with a hint of blood red raspberry and a sugary human digit that's finger licking good!



For fans of Zombie movies, the **Brain Dead** cupcake, with a guts and gore cherry jam filled sponge as well as a bloody marvellous topping of fresh cherry brains, is the perfect Halloween treat.

Death by cupcake might come after eating this one – **Crushed by Crumbs** is a chocolate sponge with strawberry jam filling and a crumbly chocolate topping made all the more gruesome with the inclusion of a bloody arm appearing to come out from below the crumbs.

Those with a sweet tooth might think again about this Lemon Torte-rous cupcake and its pulled teeth topping that lives up to its **Sweet Tooth Torture** name.

And finally if that wasn't enough gore there's **Murder at the Bakery** – a bloody raspberry and coconut concoction with a shard of edible glass left as the murder weapon and the only clue in this tasty 'who dunnit' crime scene.

Cuckoo's handcrafted Halloween cupcakes are priced at £2.95 each and are available from Friday 25th to Thursday 31st October from 150 Dundas Street. Orders can be placed [online](#) or over the phone on 0131 556 6224. Delivery is available for orders of a minimum of six cupcakes in the Edinburgh area.

But especially for Edinburgh Reporter readers....To recognise the growing visitor numbers to The Edinburgh Reporter we asked some of our contacts to offer our readers a wee freebie as an Edinburgh Reporter Reward.

Our visitor numbers are now three times what they were in January...and growing!

Remember if you have a story for us you can submit it through our feature [Submit your Story](#), or if you are a business you can advertise with us. We also now accept £1 donations to help us retain our position as Edinburgh's hyperlocal news website – just look for the Donate button at the right hand side!

The Edinburgh Reporter Reward we have on offer today is a box of six Hallowe'en cupcakes from Cuckoo's Bakery.

All that you have to do is send us an email to theedinburghreporter@gmail.com answering this question...(which you might find by searching The Edinburgh Reporter website!)

On which romantic day did Cuckoo's Bakery open its doors for the first time?

The winning entry will be selected from all winning entries received by 25 October 2013 at 5:00pm

Largest offshore wind turbine now in Fife



The Samsung Heavy Industries prototype offshore turbine is the world's largest and most powerful offshore wind turbine due to become operational later this year, and it is now standing at Energy Park Fife..

The structure is situated 50 metres offshore in the Firth of Forth and the tip of its blades stretch 196 metres above the sea. The nacelle, which contains all generating components for the turbine, was installed a couple of weeks ago and that was followed by the attachment of the three massive blades.

SHI is one of the world's growing suppliers of onshore wind farm turbine technology and this is its first European offshore wind project. The Korean company has invested £70million in the Fife wind turbine demonstrator scheme, which has the potential to create up to 500 jobs in Scotland.

The project has the backing of First Minister Alex Salmond, whose Government wants all Scotland's electricity to come from renewables by 2020.

The 7MW Fife turbine will deliver enough electricity to power 4,800 homes.

SHI said that, following a successful testing period, it will work to attract orders for its turbines. This would allow it to build a world-class manufacturing facility at Energy Park Fife. The company which wants to become a leading player in the European offshore wind sector, has been manufacturing 2.5MW wind turbines for four years and already has turbines installed in Korea, the US and Canada.

It chose to base its European operation at Energy Park Fife because of the area's growing energy cluster and the huge opportunities this presents for supply chain companies, particularly those involved in the offshore wind sector.

The structure was installed by GRAHAM Construction, the principal contractor on the project. Leo Martin, executive director, GRAHAM Construction, said:- "This is a very important project for GRAHAM, one which was both interesting and rewarding.

The project was technically challenging and GRAHAM has risen to meet these challenges and has delivered a high quality product on time and within budget. This project cements the relationships we have forged with Samsung Heavy Industries, Fife Council and Scottish Enterprise as well as our supply chain partners and allows GRAHAM to continue to be an active participant and leader in the renewables and marine sector."

SHI worked very closely with both Fife Council and Scottish Enterprise as it developed the project, which could help put the area firmly on the map as a major European hub for renewable technology.

Councillor Tom Adams, chair of the Levenmouth Area Committee said: "I was delighted to be able to visit the site on Thursday with other members of the Levenmouth Area Committee and was impressed by the excellent progress being made, so it's fantastic to hear the construction is now complete.

"This is a vitally important project for the local area as

this mast is a visual example of the regeneration of the Levenmouth Area.”



Maggie McGinlay director of energy and clean technologies at Scottish Enterprise, said: -“The development of the SHI turbine in Fife is testament to Scotland’s growing reputation as a global centre of expertise for the next generation of offshore wind energy technologies.

“This, along with planned investment from other key players such as Areva and Gamesa, is helping to create a potential manufacturing hub on the east coast, which would lead to significant opportunities for our supply chain companies.

“We look forward to continuing to work with SHI to support its long-terms ambition ns for Scotland.”

The Crown Estate also worked closely with Scottish Enterprise to ensure Samsung had certainty regarding access to the seabed and to provide specialist advice, support and guidance to help it become established in the UK market.

Ronnie Quinn, The Crown Estate’s Energy and Infrastructure Lead in Scotland, said:- “This marks a big step forward for offshore wind technology development, and we’re pleased to be providing ongoing support to Samsung.

“This long-term investment is a hugely important contribution to building the supply chain in Scotland and in driving growth of a world-class offshore wind industry.”

Dussehra celebrated on Calton Hill



I am from Edinburgh, and this photograph was taken on Sunday 20 October 2013 at Calton Hill as part of Dussehra celebrations happened there.

Dussehra is a Hindu festival to celebrate the victory of Lord Rama over the evil king Ravana. The effigies of Ravana, his brother Kumbhakarna and son Meghanad were burnt on bonfires in the evening, and this picture captures that moment.

Submitted by [Renjith Thomas](#)



Edinburgh wave energy company could create jobs in the Western Isles



Edinburgh wave pioneers Aquamarine Power have permission for a wave farm on the Western Isles, and the company have announced

today that this could create hundreds of long-term skilled jobs in one of Britain's most remote communities.

The Edinburgh firm's 40MW Lewis wave farm – which was fully consented by the Scottish Government earlier this year – could generate between 98 and 200 jobs during construction and inject up to £9 million a year into the Western Isles and wider Highland economy.

The project would involve installing up to 50 of Aquamarine Power's Oyster near-shore energy machines along the north-west coast of Lewis. The company is currently testing their second full-scale prototype, the Oyster 800, at the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) in Orkney.

The figures come from an in-depth assessment carried out by Aquamarine Power using a methodology developed by consultants ABP Marine Environmental Research and Risk & Policy Analysts Ltd.

The consultants were commissioned by seabed owner The Crown Estate, using funds from their Pentland Firth and Orkney waters enabling actions programme, to develop an objective technique which project developers could use to identify the economic opportunity presented to the UK by the wave and tidal industry.

Aquamarine Power's study showed that their 40MW wave energy project in the Western Isles could generate:

- 98 to 200 jobs in the Outer Hebrides and wider Highlands and Islands during the construction phase, generating an estimated £4.49 million to £9 million gross value added per year;*

- 23 to 37 jobs during the 20 year operations and maintenance*

phase, generating £1.3 million to £2.1 million per year.

The calculation includes all direct employees and contractors used by Aquamarine Power, indirect jobs such as shops, hotels and local services, and induced jobs created by the increased overall activity in the area.

The first two Oyster devices have been almost entirely British-built, and the study confirms that future machines could be manufactured wholly in the UK, with the potential to source a hundred per cent of the farm's manufacturing supply chain within Britain.



(Photo courtesy of Orkney Media Group)

“The UK is looking for success stories where British businesses can build on British innovation to create economic activity and jobs here in the UK,” said Aquamarine Power Chief Executive Officer Martin McAdam.

“Wave energy has been invented here, is being tested here and has the potential to be a home-grown global economic success. Our study shows there is the potential to secure all of the manufacturing, construction and operations and maintenance supply chain here in Britain.

“The vast majority of the UK's wave resource lies in remote locations, where economic opportunities are few. Wave energy

offers a real opportunity for these communities, even for a relatively small project. With hundreds of megawatts of wave power in Scotland's islands there is genuine potential for the UK to capture the entire supply chain of this exciting new industrial sector."

Lindsay Leask, Senior Policy Manager for Offshore Renewables at Scottish Renewables said:- "This study shows yet again that wave and tidal energy has the potential to create thousands of jobs across Scotland. Importantly, many of these new, skilled jobs will be in some of our most remote communities.

"However, we must not forget this is exactly the kind of prize that could be lost unless access to the grid is secured and connection charges for Scotland's island-based marine energy projects are set at a competitive level."

Councillor Angus Campbell, Leader of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, the Local Authority for the Western Isles, said:- "The Western Isles are home to one of the best wave energy resources in Europe, if not the world, and our community is determined to maximise the benefits from this resource. At a time when the islands are facing serious structural disadvantages on account of peripherality, transport costs, distance to markets and so on, it is important that the opportunity to develop new industries and to create employment is grasped.

"We have worked closely with Aquamarine Power as they have developed their world-leading project off the Atlantic seaboard of the Western Isles and have long recognised the potential for local investment and employment through this project. Up to 200 jobs in construction and up to 37 long term jobs in operation and maintenance will make a huge difference in our fragile economy and we will continue to lobby for equitable transmission charges for the islands so that projects like Aquamarine Power's can reach commerciality and contribute to UK security of energy supply. We must make

sure that the UK retains its competitive advantage in this emerging technology which will have global application as it matures and as more maritime nations seek to address climate change issues.”

Calum Davidson, Director of Energy and Low Carbon with Highlands and Islands Enterprise, said: “We have been committed to the development of the marine energy industry in the Highlands and Islands for well over a decade, and there is no doubt that the region is now widely regarded as the global leader.

“Through the European Marine Energy Centre in Orkney, we have been pleased to enable Aquamarine Power to test and develop its Oyster devices to bring them to the stage when they can be put into commercial use, both in Scotland and around the world. Wave energy is still a relatively young part of the renewables sector, and this assessment underlines its tremendous potential to generate substantial economic benefits in some of our most fragile areas.”

David Krohn, Wave and Tidal Energy Development Manager, Renewable UK, said:-“This is a great example of a leading wave energy technology, developed and demonstrated in the UK, having a real positive effect on the British economy. This methodology will enable marine energy projects to highlight the capacity for the industry to deliver real socio-economic benefits to the United Kingdom. We recommend the use of this tool to other developers looking to demonstrate the use of local supply chains.”

ABP Marine Environmental Research and Risk and Policy Analysts developed the methodology to look at all of the socio-economic inputs (both positive and negative) of wave and tidal energy developments in Scotland. It enables developers to gather all of the relevant information related to a project – such as materials and services used – based on standard industry data, and then runs this information through an excel-based spread

sheet to deliver a set of objective, standardised outputs.

“The beauty of [this methodology](#),” says Stephen Hull, Technical Director at ABP Marine Environmental Research, “is that it can be picked up and used by other renewable industries such as offshore wind, to demonstrate the positive impact their projects will have on the UK supply chain.

“There is real potential for other businesses in the renewable energy sector to show, in an objective way, the jobs and economic activity their projects will create.”

The Big Draw events in Edinburgh this week

✖ The Big Draw is organised across the UK by the Campaign for Drawing which is a charity set up to raise the profile of drawing. They say that their work will finish when nobody says “I can’t draw!”

During October and November there are events in Edinburgh all part of the Big Draw designed to encourage everyone and anyone to draw, and to highlight the power of drawing as a way of seeing, thinking and inventing.

There are many events in Edinburgh including these listed here:-

The City Art Centre (part of the Family Arts Festival)

The People’s Story Museum on 26 October 2013 when you are invited to draw yourself or your friends

into the story and help build a picture of the city today

Forest Centre Plus

National Museum of Scotland next weekend 26-27 October when there will also be the opportunity of watching a demonstration by the Edinburgh University School of Informatics Department and the possibility of watching 3D printers at work.

The Palace of Holyroodhouse today, 21 October 2013, and Wednesday and Friday when you can dress up like royalty and then draw your experience. Artist [Clare Hume](#) will also bring Leonardo's world to life on 27 October between 14:00-16:00 and you will be invited to create a giant drawing in the specially created Artists' Studio.

The Royal Lyceum Theatre on 26 October 2013 when you are invited to bring your sketch pads for a morning of inspiration

The Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art on 26 October when they are having a Big Hallowe'en Big Draw and you will learn how to use pen and ink techniques in the Witches Gathering.

St Martin's Community Resource Centre on 2 November 2013 for a Family Hallowe'en Ceilidh

More details on all these events on the Campaign for Drawing [website](#) and the Family Arts Festival [website](#).

Police ask missing man to get in contact



A man has been reported missing from his home and police have asked for help in tracing him.

Christopher Knights (26) was last seen at his home address in Loaning Road, in the Restalrig area of the city, on Monday, 14 October 2013. He has not been seen or heard from since.

He is described as white, 5ft 10ins tall, slim build, blue eyes, with short brown hair. When last seen he was wearing a black sweatshirt, a navy shower-proof golf top and navy golf trousers, along with a small black rucksack.

A Police Scotland spokesman said:- "While there are no immediate concerns for Christopher's safety, his family are anxious to hear that he is safe and well.

"We would encourage Christopher to contact his family or the police to let us know that he is ok. Similarly anyone who has seen or heard from him over the past week should also get in touch."

Anyone with information should contact Police Scotland on 101.