

Pop up cakes at Pout event this weekend



A pop-up cake boutique called Cake-Cetera is appearing at Pout Edinburgh which takes place at The Corn Exchange this weekend 21 – 22 September 2013.

A leading Scottish entrepreneur is bringing her pop-up cake boutique to Pout Edinburgh event this weekend.

Pauline Quigley, founder of Cake-Cetera, will be joining Carol Smillie and a host of businesses at the ladies lifestyle show.

The pop-up shop will have samples of the company's signature products including unique cake-bouquets and push-pops, the next generation of cup-cakes.

Hamilton-based Cake-Cetera was established in 2011 and has since gone from strength to strength expanding its national footprint.

Pauline said: "We're delighted to be attending the Pout Edinburgh event this weekend. We're joining a number of exciting pop-up shops, beauty stalls and champagne bars to bring the ladies coming along a slice of something different.

"This is a very exciting time for the business. We are working hard to put Cake-Cetera on the map.

"We've developed a number of delicious products including our floral bouquets which have been a big hit with our customer-base throughout Scotland. Presented in a ceramic pot, the bouquets are artfully decorated cupcakes, entwined with chocolate leaves.

"Pout Edinburgh is a great girly day out and the perfect way

to come and check out some of our delicious products.”

Pout Edinburgh is in its second year and the event is taking place on 21 and 22 September at the Corn Exchange in the capital.

Aimed at aspirational women, the show will bring a mix of fashion, beauty and leisure to Edinburgh and the surrounding areas.

Amanda Wrathall, sales and marketing manager at Pout Edinburgh, said:- “The last Pout Edinburgh event was a huge success and we’re thrilled to welcome Cake-Cetera this year.

“We’re confident that the ladies attending will enjoy all of the delicious products that Pauline and her team are bringing to the event.

“The ladies lifestyle show is a perfect way for Scottish business people to showcase their products to their target audience.”

Photo courtesy of Alasdair Watson photography

Scottish Independence Referendum – Round up of comment



A smattering of the remarks and comments and pointers to articles about the Scottish Independence Referendum which we

have found on the web today.

Today marks 364 days until the people of Scotland are invited to vote in the referendum on independence from the United Kingdom.

The question which will be asked on 18 September 2014 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 First Minister, Alex Salmond started off yesterday's debate on independence thus:-

"It will give me enormous pleasure to move the motion in my name. In exactly a year's time, the people of Scotland will choose whether to become an independent country. It is a precious thing for any country to be able to decide its own future through a democratic vote, following a free debate. That places a responsibility on each and every one of us.

When this Parliament was reconvened in 1999, Donald Dewar said in what, in my estimation, was his best-ever speech, that devolution was

"about more than our politics and our laws. This is about who we are, how we carry ourselves."

How we carry ourselves—how we conduct the arguments—will be more important than ever over the next 12 months. Both the yes and the no sides must live up to the standard set by the Edinburgh agreement, an agreement that brings credit to both the United Kingdom Government and the Scottish Government. The debate over the coming year must be respectful as well as vigorous, constructive as well as passionate, and influenced by empathy, not enmity. That is the best possible way of

ensuring that Scotland emerges next September as a stronger nation. Although both sides will ask searching questions of the other, it is important for both sides—actually, it is incumbent on them—to set out a positive vision. History tells us that fearmongering is likely to be counterproductive.”

Contributions to the debate from some of the Edinburgh and Lothian MSPs included:-

Margo MacDonald Independent MSP for Lothian in response to Ruth Davidson’s remarks about Scotland being stronger as part of the UK armed forces :-“I wonder whether Ruth Davidson is aware that there are fewer men under arms in the British army and other services now than there were at the start of the battle of Waterloo. In a recent news story about Syria, it was reported that the American fifth fleet had been moved into the Persian gulf and the sixth fleet had been moved up to the eastern Mediterranean, while the British had a submarine somewhere off Cyprus. Are we joking about this Great Britain defence?”

Later Ms MacDonald said during her own speech:-“I believe that our aspirations will rise if we go for independence, because our self-respect, our feeling of pride in ourselves and our boldness will grow bigger—just the same as everybody else’s do—and the opinions of people outside Scotland will reflect that. Independence will not make us a world power, but do we want to be a world power? I do not think that anybody wants us to be, but neither does it hold much attraction to stick with Britain and therefore fall into the category used by President Putin’s adviser, who described the country formerly known as Great Britain as an unimportant little offshore island that nobody bothers about.”

Neil Findlay Labour MSP for Lothians commented:-“I do not—and never will—question anyone’s commitment to their country or community, and I hope that no one will ever question mine.

Opposition to independence is not anti-Scottish, unpatriotic or an act of treachery. It is my deeply held view that the SNP's version of independence is fundamentally flawed and absolutely not in the interests of working people in Scotland or beyond our borders. As Alex Bell, the First Minister's former adviser, has said:

"Scotland's problems are common to "all countries in the developed world".

That is very true.

Currently, poverty and inequality in Scotland are at appalling levels. If someone is born into a poor household and community, they are likely to become ill and die sooner than a more affluent Scot who may live in the next street or the next community."

He then continued:-"I would like us to learn from past mistakes. Last week, 25 senior academics, trade union leaders, politicians and activists launched, "Class, Nation and Socialism-The Red Paper on Scotland 2014". It is in the Parliament's shop. I recommend that the First Minister get a copy and educate himself. The book promotes a positive agenda for political change in Scotland-one that argues for a major political and democratic reform to free up and re-empower local government so that it can work in the interests of citizens and not just obey the diktat of central Government. It argues for an economy that is more democratic, with forms of social, co-operative and public ownership so that we can balance societal, environmental and economic considerations for the wellbeing of the entire society, with the renewables industry being a prime example of where that can be achieved. It argues for an industrial policy where Government support and intervention create and sustain jobs and investment. The Forth Bridge contract is the greatest missed opportunity that we have had in that regard. We need a taxation system that supports and services communities, not financial institutions

and transnational companies.”

Malcolm Chisholm Labour MSP for Edinburgh North referred to the First Minister’s photo call at a nursery in Pilton yesterday morning and commented:-“The Scottish Government can do far more on childcare now, as it can on other policies. Devolution can do a great deal and more enhanced devolution can do even more—that is the message that I will be speaking about in the next twelve months.”

The newest MSP Cameron Buchanan Conservative MSP for Lothians stood up to make his maiden speech and said:-“Scottish products and services are sold in large numbers throughout the United Kingdom: 84 per cent of mortgages provided by Scottish firms are sold to people living elsewhere in the UK; 67 per cent of individual savings accounts are sold to people living elsewhere in the UK; and 70 per cent of the pensions sold by Scottish firms are sold elsewhere in the UK. When we set out those terms, we see just how important the UK is to Scotland and, indeed, Scotland is to the UK. How vital it is for our future success to have continued access to that market for our services and goods on an equal and competitive footing.”

Christine Grahame SNP MSP for Midlothian South Tweeddale and Lauderdale said:-“In the meantime, the oil and gas revenues have been producing wealth and revenue for the UK Exchequer for 40 years and they have decades to go. Do we have an oil fund worth trillions—that sounds a lot to me—like that of Norway, a small, independent country that discovered its reserves at the same time as Scotland’s were discovered? Of course not. That Norwegian fund has 1.78 per cent of European stocks and is said to be the largest stock owner in Europe. It can be choosy and authorises only ethical investments. The Norwegians have so much money that they have to think of more ways to invest—talk about money in the bank for a rainy day.

Compare that with the dismal report card of UK Governments over decades: oil and gas revenues squandered, the rich

getting richer and the poor, poorer, and more of the same. If I was offered a guarantee that I would get the Government that I voted for and the chance to have my nation's wealth under proper stewardship so that it could be used for investment in Scotland's people and a more just society, it would not be a hard choice.

Independence for Scotland is just that guarantee. All the rest—the daily diet of negatives from the no campaign—is a desperate distraction from that simple truth.”

Kezia Dugdale Labour MSP for Lothian said:-“There are two types of facts coming from the Scottish Government, depending on what it is being asked. If it is asked about a popular policy, the answer to the question is, “Don't worry. That is guaranteed under independence. We will make it so.” If the question is a bit harder, or if there is division over the answer to the question, it is suddenly a matter for the Government post independence. The Government can hardly be surprised that that inconsistency fuels a sense of cynicism in the public debate around the independence referendum.”

The Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon ended the debate in this manner:-“Whatever way we cut the figures, Scotland's public finances are in better shape than the UK's public finances, but the benefit of independence is having the powers to grow our economy faster and create more wealth so that we can challenge some of the issues that we face. You know what? Being one of the wealthiest countries in the world while having some of the highest levels of child poverty cannot be an argument for staying the same. It is an argument for doing things differently and better. It is an argument for being independent.”

Some others are looking forward to the rally planned for this weekend on Calton Hill.

*I'm DJing at the [#IndyRally](#) After Party [@BongoClub](#) this Sat:
<http://t.co/gbK906Yv27> ...*

– Johnny Gailey (@johnnygailey) [September 19, 2013](#)

At First Minister's Questions at Holyrood today the First Minister assured Scotland that the Royal Mail would be renationalised in an independent Scotland

*Alex Salmond to re-nationalise Royal Mail in an independent Scotland in a move that could cost more than £300m
<http://t.co/zjR5FeYf0J> [#SP4](#)*

– Scottish Express (@ScotExpress) [September 19, 2013](#)

*Video archive of today's FMQs now available:
<http://t.co/NhUK8uynXN>*

– Scottish Parliament (@ScotParl) [September 19, 2013](#)

Chair of Better Together, Alistair Darling, said:-“The experts confirm that within the United Kingdom Scotland enjoys public spending that is more than £1,200 higher per person than the UK average. It is this higher spending on public services that underpins the success of our Scottish Parliament. This is evidence that we get the best of both worlds – devolution delivering for Scotland backed up by the financial security of a bigger United Kingdom.”

*Countdown to the referendum. Video from [@nicolasturgeon](#):
Scotland's Future in Scotland's Hands <http://t.co/hNsjerCizN>
[#indyref](#)*

– Christina McKelvie (@ChristinaSNP) [September 19, 2013](#)

Our next Newsnight [#indyref](#) debate is on arts & culture on 30/9/13. Apply to be in the audience here... <http://t.co/kTgMENpy6o> [#newsnight](#)

– Newsnight Scotland (@NewsnightScot) [September 19, 2013](#)

“The campaign to keep Scotland in the UK is winning the referendum battle with less than a year to go” <http://t.co/34bDLrfJDs> [#indyref](#)

– Union Jock (@Union_Jock) [September 19, 2013](#)

The Scottish Government is looking into what independence might mean for Scottish sport

An expert group is to examine the development of Scottish sport and the opportunities for sport with independence.

The Working Group on Scottish Sport, set up by the Scottish Government, will consider how the country can remain at the leading edge of sports development, and the additional opportunities for athletes to compete on the international stage, following independence.

The group will be chaired by former First Minister Henry McLeish, with a final report being produced by spring 2014. Among the topics it will consider are:

- The action necessary to ensure Scotland can be

successful in future Olympics and Paralympics in its own right;

- The continuing development required to ensure that Scotland remains a country of sporting excellence, with opportunity at all levels;
- The potential for sharing facilities and resources across the Home Nations and abroad.

Sport Minister Shona Robison said:-“This Government has a proven track record in investing in sport and next year, Scotland will host the Commonwealth Games and the Ryder Cup, two of the biggest global sporting events. We enjoy world-class competition and training venues, support for high performance athletes and opportunities for all at new or upgraded grassroots facilities across the country. I want this to continue with independence.

“Sport and physical activity has a significant impact on people’s health and wellbeing, so the referendum in September next year gives us the chance to consider how Scottish sport could be better off with independence, with more opportunities to compete on the international stage, and a greater say on how best to develop our athletes.

“I’m very pleased that Henry McLeish has agreed to chair the Working Group. Henry’s lifelong passion for sport and experience of government will help produce a blueprint for a world class sporting system in an independent Scotland and a model for the continuing development of Scottish sport.”

Henry McLeish said:

“Scotland has a proud history of sporting achievement, both at an elite and grassroots level, which gives us a great platform on which to plan for the future. I welcome this opportunity to work with an experienced and diverse group to give independent and considered views on what will deliver the greatest

opportunities for sport and physical activity in Scotland in the coming decades.”

Yes Scotland published this video:-

The Edinburgh Reporter will round up a selection 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>

Stockbridge Photography Club Photo of the Week



This week's photo comes from James Pringle. James is one half of the team at the club, which he helped start on the advice of one of the now-members.

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 – this month they are meeting in LifeCare, Stockbridge.

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.

This Sunday is the opening night of their Stockfest exhibition, and everyone is welcome to come see the members' hard work. More information can be found on [Facebook](#)

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

Submitted by [Stockbridge Photography Club](#)

News of birth at Edinburgh Zoo...



But not the one you're really waiting for! This is the first koala joey born in the UK, not a wee black and white bundle of joy. The recent arrival was born to koala Mum Alinga at Edinburgh Zoo.

Described as an amazing testament to dedicated and skilled zoo keepers, first time mum two-year-old Alinga only arrived at

the Zoo earlier this year, before being introduced to male Goonaroo in April.

Donald Gow, Senior Keeper at Edinburgh Zoo, said: "We are all immensely excited by the birth of the UK's first ever koala joey. I have worked with the Zoo's koalas for the past eight years and they require a lot of specialised care. Koalas are very sensitive creatures with a very selective diet and the husbandry can be extremely challenging. As they are solitary animals, it takes an expert eye to know how to successfully introduce a male and female together for breeding. There is a lot of dedication and skill involved in caring for koalas, and it is a significant achievement for everybody involved."

Koalas have a gestation period of only 30-35 days and the birth of the joey is thought to have taken place in mid-May. However, koala joeys are extremely underdeveloped when first born – measuring around 2cm long (the size of a jelly bean), blind, with no ears and no fur – and spend a further six months growing inside their mother's pouch. The pouch has a powerful muscle to prevent the joey from falling out and, in addition to milk, the joey will suckle on a substance called 'pap', a special type of dropping produced by the mother which contains vital micro-organisms necessary for digesting eucalyptus leaves when it is older.

Edinburgh Zoo is the only Zoo in the UK to have koalas and this new arrival is testament to the Zoo's expertise, animal husbandry and experience that this species requires. The Zoo has been part of the European breeding programme for eight years and has originally housed young male koalas until they were sexually mature and moved to other collections for breeding. Alinga is the Zoo's first female koala and to have

successfully bred with her so quickly is an immense achievement for the keepers.

✖ Alinga is very relaxed with her keepers and has recently allowed us to start feeling her pouch. The joey currently weighs approximately 100 to 150 grams and is expected to first pop its head out of the pouch by mid-October. The joey will start to climb onto Alinga's belly around mid-November – when it weighs around 400 grams – and this is when visitors are likely to be able to see it. Around December it will then move onto her back and zoo keepers will weigh, sex and name the joey. Alinga will carry the joey around on her back until it is around twelve months old. Once the joey is sexually mature it will join the European breeding programme.

Koala numbers are in decline throughout the eastern coast of Australia due to habitat loss and it is very significant for a successful breeding programme be established outside of Australia. The birth of the UK's first koala joey will help cement Britain's role within this breeding programme as well as raise awareness on the need to protect this species.

Alinga and her joey – along with the two male koalas, Goonaroo and Yabbra – can be seen at the Zoo's newly revamped Koala Territory.

PHOTOS Courtesy of Rob McDougall

Hearts relishing a trip to the Highlands

✖ Hearts manager Gary Locke today backed his young guns to come good after successive defeats in the SPFL. The Jambos head to the Highlands on Saturday to face a Ross County side who have themselves been struggling of late.

“It is a lot to ask of these young players to perform, week in week out, but that’s the demands I’ve put on them” admitted Locke. “We know it’s going to be a difficult season, but they’re playing for a big club and some have been here a number of years now. I certainly expect big things from them and at the moment, they’re showing that they’re good players.”

Having lost to league leaders Inverness Caledonian Thistle and to League Champions Celtic, Hearts will be looking to make inroads on the points deficit imposed on them at the start of the season.

“We’ve had a couple of bad results so it is important now that we try and get back on track and get a few wins.”

Despite Ross County’s poor home form – at a venue where they were so impressive last season – Locke expects a tough encounter in Dingwall. “It hasn’t been the start that Derek Adams has been looking for this season but they’re still formidable,” he said. “I’ve seen them two or three times and they’re still a very good side. It’s never easy going up to Dingwall and we’ll certainly have to be on our toes.”

Another huge Hearts support is expected to head north with many looking forward to making a weekend of it. While the Maroons’ record in Dingwall isn’t brilliant, the Tynecastle side know a win coupled with a favour from city rivals Hibernian who face St. Mirren at Easter Road, will cut the gap at the bottom of the league to just six points – with the

Paisley Saints heading to Gorgie in a couple of weeks.

Hearts will be out to rank up the pressure that wee bit more.

Banning Orders for three football fans after Paisley disturbance



Three football fans who were involved in an unprovoked confrontation with rival supporters in the Paisley High Street area on 16 February, ahead of Hibs fixture with St Mirren at St Mirren Park have been banned from attending games for a total of six years.

At the time of the incident the thoroughfare was busy with pedestrians including young children who were caught up in the disturbance, and the men were sentenced today at Paisley Sheriff Court today.

Terence Mark Gilmour (30) from Edinburgh was sentenced to a 2 year Community Payback Order, ordered to carry out 250 hours of unpaid work and given a two year Football Banning Order.

In July, Gilmour plead guilty to a charge involving behaviour likely to incite public disorder, contrary to Section 1(1) of the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012.

Two other men were also sentenced for the same offence on 23 August. Ryan Brown (19) was sentenced to carry out 150 hours of unpaid work as part of a 12 month Community Payback Order

and Steven Piercy (18) was sentenced to carry out 225 hours of unpaid work as part of a 15 month Community Payback Order. Both were given two year Football Banning Orders.

Greater Grassmarket to get a going over on Friday

✖ *In an initiative involving council staff and business owners the area around the historic Grassmarket will be targetted in the same way as The Royal Mile was earlier in the year.*

Volunteers and business owners are set to give the Greater Grassmarket area a post-festival buff and polish this week.

Weeds, graffiti, litter and flyposting will be tackled by the team, which will include environment staff from The City of Edinburgh Council, during this Friday's Clean Up Day.

The clean-up has been organised by the Greater Grassmarket Business Information District (BID), following the success of a similar event in June this year.

Transport and Environment Convener Councillor Lesley Hinds said: "The Grassmarket and the surrounding streets are extremely popular with locals and visitors, and are steeped in history.

"Edinburgh is a beautiful place but litter and graffiti can spoil the impression we give. This clean-up campaign shows

that businesses take pride in the area in which they work, and is also a great way of spreading the word that Edinburgh is not a waste bin.

“A lot of work is being done by cleansing staff to clean up, but the best way in which the public can help is by binning or recycling their rubbish.”

Georgia Artus, from the Greater Grassmarket BID, said: “We’ve received very positive comments from local residents, businesses and visitors surrounding the Clean Up activity we’ve been working on so far this year, including seeing great results from our Greater Grassmarket Clean Up team visiting in the first week of September.

“Friday is a chance for us to work in partnership to enhance the area even more, and we want to say thank you to everyone who volunteers their time.”

Anyone who wants to join in can either meet at the blue police box in the middle of the Grassmarket at 10am, or else approach one of the volunteers – who will be wearing high-vis jackets. Free tea and coffee will be provided.

The Greater Grassmarket area includes the stretch from George IV Bridge to West Port, and has undergone many cleanliness and improvement initiatives since the Greater Grassmarket BID was set up earlier this year.



Council workers cleaning up on the Royal Mile in May this year

Edinburgh Community Food on avoiding food waste

Stephanie Scott who is Food and Health Development Worker with Edinburgh Community Food gives readers advice on avoiding too much food waste.

With both Zero Waste Week and Waste Less, Live More Week taking place throughout the month of September you may have seen information regarding the reduction of food waste in the media recently. Current figures have shown that Scottish households waste an average of £35 of food each month – this adds up to £460 per year! While some of this is due to things that cannot be eaten – such as bones, tea bags or peelings – the majority of food waste is made up of things that are, or were, perfectly good to use.

The majority of food we waste comes from either buying and preparing too much or from not using food before it goes off. As food prices continue to rise making some quick & simple changes to reduce the amount of food we throw out could save us all a lot of money, not to mention the positive effects it will also have on the wider community and the environment.

Below are some simple yet effective ways to reduce food waste in your home. To start off, why not aim to make one change per week and build it up slowly? You will soon notice the difference in the amount of food you are throwing away as well as the money you are saving at the till!

It pays to plan before going shopping

- Before you go to the supermarket, take a quick look around your kitchen and think about the meals you can make from the items you already have. Remember to check your freezer too!
- Look at the dates shown on any packaging and make a note of anything which needs to be used soon.

- Plan out your meals for the week and stick this on your fridge. This will not only help you to reduce food waste but will also help you to eat more healthily and reduce the likelihood of picking up last-minute convenience meals (which are often high in sugar, salt and fat).
- Once the above steps have been done you can write a shopping list of items that will help you make up your meals for the week. This will save you time in the supermarket and help you to avoid being tempted by offers that you don't really need. These tips will not only save you time and money but will also make your trip to the supermarket much quicker!

In the supermarket

- Stick to your shopping list – try not to buy anything else in the supermarket and this will help you minimise potential food waste.
- Buy what you need – People are more likely to waste food when they do a big shop and do not plan what they need beforehand. Try to do a shop once a week and top it up every couple of days with foods which have a short shelf life to reduce waste. Buying loose rather than pre-packed items is another good way to reduce food waste.
- Cook in batches – If you are tempted by offers such as buy one get one free why not make a big batch of food on the day you purchase it and freeze it in portions to use another time?
- Check labels – Check 'best before' and 'use by' dates on products and refer back to your menu planner to make sure you will be able to use the food before it goes off.

Food Labels What this means

Use by Date This is important for food safety. You should never eat food after the use by date stated on the packaging as while it may look or smell fine, the food could be unsafe to eat.

Best Before Best before dates refer to quality rather than food safety. They show how long foods will be at their best. After the best before date, the food is still safe to eat.

However, it might not have the same flavour and texture.

At home

- Know your portions – One of the main causes of food waste is cooking more than we need.
- Store things correctly – this will help your food to keep better.
- Cooking once and using twice – Making extra and using it for the next day or freezing it will not only save you time but also help to reduce your energy bills too.
- When freezing foods – make sure to label them clearly so that you know what is in your freezer and when you cooked it. Foods can be kept for up to three months in the freezer.
- Using leftovers – If you do end up with leftovers try to think of creative ways to use them up. Some of the most common foods which are wasted include bread, rice and vegetables. Below are some practical tips on how to use them up.

Commonly wasted foods How to make use of them

Bread or rolls Breadcrumbs or a base for a homemade pizza

Vegetables Add to soups, curries or stews to bulk up meals or add to omelettes

Pasta or rice Make a pasta or rice salad by adding chopped fruit or veg – perfect for lunchtime

Meat or fish Are perfect for making a curry, stew, pie or Bolognese and can then be frozen in portions for use at a later date. Alternatively, simply use a combination of herbs to marinade your meat or fish and bake for a quick, simple meal

For more information on all things related to food waste, please visit <http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com>

Edinburgh Community Food are currently working in partnership with Changeworks and Citizens Advice Edinburgh to deliver a city wide programme which supports families with children to better manage rising energy/ food costs and to maximise income. This project is funded by Big Lottery Support and

Connect Fund. If this is something that you would like to find out more about please contact Stephanie at Edinburgh Community Food on 0131 467 7326, or by email: sscott@edinburghcommunityfood.org.uk

Submitted by [Stephanie Scott](#)



The Centre in Livingston to host the launch for FIFA 14 game launch

Livingston will be just the place to kick off the FIFA 14 launch.

GAME in The Centre, Livingston has beaten off fierce competition from 18 stores country-wide to secure funding to host a spectacular launch event, to kick-off FIFA 14.

Staff at the Livingston store impressed EA Sports judges with their pitch-perfect proposal to host the special celebration which will bring the ultimate FIFA experience to The Centre this autumn.

With the new game set to land on shelves throughout Scotland, EA Sports has voted West Lothian as the venue to host three days of football fever.

Gaming enthusiasts are invited to attend the weekend event, from 27 – 29 September to be in with the chance to win a field of freebies.

As the football frenzy descends on The Centre, customers will also be able to try a range of in-store gaming demonstrations.

The FIFA 14 game, which fans can get their hands on during launch weekend, has a range of new features including Pure Shot and a ball physics system which aims to make shot attempts feel like the real thing. Dedicated gamers will also now be able to connect with one another through EA SPORTS Football Club – the ultimate footballing social network.

Leigh Halliday, GAME store manager, in The Centre, Livingston, said: “We love being part of the gaming community in West Lothian and the FIFA 14 launch is all about giving gamers what they want.

“The store team at The Centre is revved up and ready to bring customers lots of FIFA fun and excitement. Shoppers can keep up-to-date with what we’re doing or tell us what they would like us to do in-store by following us on Twitter at @GAMELivingston.”

James Bailey, centre director at The Centre, Livingston, said: “We’re delighted that GAME in The Centre managed to pip so many Scottish stores to the post to secure funding and the chance to host the celebrations.

“We know this news will be popular with gamers throughout West Lothian. Congratulations to all of the staff at GAME on their hard-work to secure this sponsorship.”

Submitted by [Corrie Campbell](#)

Bearing gifts as the world awaits news about UK's first panda cub

✖ *While we are all waiting for the equivalent of the Royal birth here in Edinburgh one of the companies who are trying to help the zoo ensure that any panda cub is given the best start has told The Edinburgh Reporter what they are doing.*

The potentially first baby panda cub to be born in the UK will be in safe hands, thanks to an early baby shower gift from Dräger.

As the world awaits news of the potential new arrival Dräger has donated an ex-clinical incubator to Edinburgh Zoo, which had previously been used to support vulnerable babies within neonatal intensive care units across the UK.

If Tian Tian does give birth, the incubator will be used in case she rejects the cub or if she has twins. Female pandas are by nature single mothers, and as a rule, don't have sufficient resources to raise two offspring at once. In the wild, if twins are born to a free-ranging panda, one of the new-borns is normally abandoned.

The Caleo® Incubator is an extremely quiet device and will be used to keep the panda cub in a safe, thermally controlled environment, delivering both accurate temperature and humidity control.

On average, new-born pandas weigh just over 100 grams so once they start to grow, the integrated weighing scales can monitor the cub's weight. For the zoo staff looking after the panda cub, they will have excellent views as well as easy access to the cub.

This won't be the first panda cub that a Dräger incubator has helped. In 2007, Zui Ba gave birth to twins in Madrid zoo. The second baby panda was born two hours after the first, and was placed in one of the zoo's incubators a few minutes later. It was then transferred into a Dräger incubator where it could be monitored more precisely.

Luke Bourdillon, sales and marketing manager for neonatal care at Dräger, said: "We had previously supported Edinburgh Zoo with an older obsolete incubator. When we heard through the veterinary community that they required a replacement incubator, we were delighted to be able to donate one of our Caleo® machines, an ex-clinical, incubator."

He concluded: "We are absolutely committed to supporting this donation as it is an extension to our ongoing commitment for premature life. Like the rest of the world we are eagerly waiting to (hopefully) welcome a new panda – or pandas – into the UK and now, the zoo has the equipment needed should there be a need for any neonatal care."

Darren McGarry, Head of Living Collections for Edinburgh Zoo, said: "It's tremendous that Dräger has donated this top of the range incubator to Edinburgh Zoo, which will be a very important part of the husbandry requirement for hand rearing a panda cub should the situation arise."

Dräger is an international leader in medical technology as for warming therapy and neonatal life support.

Dräger. Technology for Life®

Dräger is an international leader in the fields of medical and safety technology. Our products protect, support and save lives. Founded in 1889, in 2012 Dräger generated revenues of around EUR 2.37 billion. The Dräger Group is currently present in more than 190 countries and has about 12,500 employees worldwide. Please visit <http://www.draeger.com> for more information.

Edinburgh Councillor Blogs – Councillor Gavin Corbett on the draft budget

✖ *City of Edinburgh Council spends over £1 billion a year. The draft budget framework for 2014-15 and 4 years after was approved for public consultation at the council's Finance and Budget Committee today. But not before an amendment by opposition groups was voted down – an amendment which sought to refer the budget back for more thorough preparation. Green Finance Spokesperson Gavin Corbett explains why.*

Edinburgh's Capital Coalition has made a lot of its commitment to produce a draft budget for consultation and the fact that it has been produced in September. Writing in his self-named ["Really Bad Blog"](#), council leader, Andrew Burns says: "This year we are leading the way for other local authorities by publishing the draft budget even earlier."

I would heartily applaud that, if what we got was a draft budget.

But we don't have that. Or anything like it.

At the Finance Committee [@Edinburgh_CC](#) [@gavincorbett](#) criticising the form of the draft budget which has been prepared – not enough detail.

– Edinburgh Reporter (@EdinReporter) [September 19, 2013](#)

Readers can see what a draft budget looks like by looking at the Scottish Government [draft budget](#) published last week. And, to ensure that I am not making a partisan point, this is equally true of the Labour-Lib Dem Scottish Executive in the past. The Scottish Budget is a long way short of perfect, but at least there one can see **total spending**, set out sector by sector, with an indication of what's changing, what is not and what lies behind the proposals.

What we have from the City of Edinburgh Council is nothing like that. It is a [draft savings plan](#), at best, amounting to less than 3% of ongoing spend, which allows no opportunity to see other potential proposals. It is like an iceberg, only the tiniest tip of which is visible, with 97.5% hidden below a dark surface.

To take an absurd (and, let me emphasise, entirely fictional, example), let's say the Lord Provosts' office spent £2 million annually on cakes. If that amount was not changing it would not appear in the budget framework, even though almost everyone (bakers aside) might want to suggest better uses for the money.

To compound the matter, the detail given as to actual savings or cuts in the draft budget framework is far too sketchy to

mean anything. It's all most a week after the papers were published and we still do not have budget packs which would describe each proposal, would set out risks and alternatives and allow us to judge what has merits, what has not.

That is why I said at committee that, if we approve the report presented to councillors, we are giving the green light to a process which is a travesty of transparency and does a great disservice to the consultation which is to follow. It is why I urged all members of all parties to send the process back to get a proper draft budget on which to consult.

As a Green councillor I am going to have very different spending priorities from fellow opposition groups, the Liberal Democrats and Tories. But we have a shared interest in a budget process that is complete, accessible and transparent. Indeed, I think that is in the interests of all councillors and of the Edinburgh public, whose ideas and insights are so important if the City Council is to make the right spending choices.

Councillor Corbett was at the [Finance & Budget Committee](#) this morning where the amendment which he seconded was defeated. The motion which he seconded would have meant that the motion proposed at item 7.1 would have been defeated. In practical terms this would have resulted in more information being made available to councillors before voting on the budget framework. The Finance Convenor assured the committee that all details will be made available by Monday 23 September on the council website.

Gavin Corbett is Green Councillor for Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart and he tweets [@gavincorbett](#)

We filmed a cameo video of him earlier this year.

Man convicted of Armadale pensioner murder



At the High Court in Edinburgh today, Kieryn Nisbet was found guilty of murdering 67-year-old Ronnie Simpson at his property in Mayfield Drive, Armadale on 6th October 2012.

The 21-year-old was unknown to his victim and carried out the attack after being ejected from a nearby pub earlier that evening.

Following the discovery of Mr Simpson's body, police in West Lothian launched a major investigation and Nisbet was subsequently identified and charged with murder.

Detective Chief Inspector Robert Cowper, who led the investigation, said: "While nothing can undo the pain and suffering Mr Simpson's loss has had on his family and the impact in the local community, I hope that today's verdict can allow the family to move forward from this ordeal.'

"Mr Simpson was a well-known local and the attack within his own home was a callous act, which Kieryn Nisbet has never offered any explanation for."

Nisbet will be sentenced on Friday 11th October.

Drugs worth £20k seized from house in Cleekim Drive



Two men have been arrested and charged under the Misuse of Drugs Act after police in Edinburgh recovered various drugs from a property in the Capital.

Officers carried out an intelligence-led search of an address in Cleekim Drive on Wednesday 18th September and seized a cannabis cultivation along with 84grammes of heroin and around 350grammes of a white powder, believed to be Methadrone.

The total value of the recovered drugs is around £20,000.

Detective Inspector Stuart Harkness said: “Police Scotland continues to engage with the public across Edinburgh and obtain vital information relating to on-going drug crime.

“Whenever intelligence is received, we will respond accordingly to ensure harmful drugs cannot make their way into our communities.

“Anyone wishing to report drug-related criminal activity in there area can contact their local policing team or make an anonymous report via the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.”

The men, aged 55 and 22, are scheduled to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court later today (Thursday).

Five things you need to know today



Bedroom Tax arrears in Edinburgh – Edinburgh Sunrise – Whistleblowers – Brian Taylor’s Big Debate – Red Note Ensemble

Nearly one in three council housing tenants affected by the UK government’s welfare reform have fallen behind on their rent since its introduction earlier this year, according to new figures released today by False Economy.

Figures provided by 114 local authorities across Britain in response to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests by False Economy show that since the ‘bedroom tax’ was introduced this April, over 50,000 council housing tenants – 31 per cent of all tenants affected by the tax in these areas – have been pushed into arrears.

In Edinburgh of the 3,566 tenants affected by the welfare reform, 1,592 are said to be in arrears since 1 April 2013.

The data measures the impact of the changes over the first four months of its operation. But with emergency funding from councils rapidly drying up, the situation is likely to get far worse over the coming months, warns False Economy.

The bedroom tax, introduced under the Welfare Reform Act 2012, penalises council housing and housing association tenants if they have a ‘spare’ bedroom by reducing their housing benefit by 14 per cent or 25 per cent, depending on the number of spare bedrooms.

Those affected have included disabled people who currently use ‘spare’ rooms for their carers to sleep in or to store their equipment. Other affected tenants have offered to move but are

unable to be re-housed as smaller properties are not available for them to move into.

False Economy has voiced concerns that as only one in ten local authorities who responded to the FOI request have any form of 'no eviction' policy, many thousands of families risk losing their homes as a result of the bedroom tax. Edinburgh Council adopted a no eviction council before the legislative changes were made.

The figures show that:

- 76 per cent of affected council housing tenants in Barrow have fallen into arrears since the bedroom tax started.
- Clackmannanshire, Tamworth and South Kesteven are the next worst affected areas. Over half of all affected council housing tenants have fallen behind on their rent since the bedroom tax was introduced.
- Across the sample of local authorities that responded to FOI requests over 50,000 council tenants have fallen into arrears since the tax was introduced. The total number of affected council tenants across Britain is likely to be far higher.
- Evidence is also emerging of problems in housing associations, with social housing providers in Knowsley reporting a doubling in the number of arrears cases among bedroom tax households.

Some of the tweets of the sky at sunrise this morning have to be seen to be believed – particularly now that it is pouring rain! So cheer yourself up with these wonderful photos.

Beautiful sunrise over Arthur's Seat this morning. [#sunrise](#) [#edinburgh](#) [#sky](#) [#earlybird](#) @ Arthur's Seat <http://t.co/oqBYxEozZJ>

– Andrew J Peel (@andrewjpeel) [September 19, 2013](#)

Nice sunrise ☐ pic.twitter.com/05AGj4GBIJ

– Peter Matthews (@urbaneprofessor) [September 19, 2013](#)

Fiery coloured morning [#sunrise](#) over Authur's Seat [#edinburgh](#)
pic.twitter.com/aT0XZT9nlF

– Susanna McGregor (@suzysj) [September 19, 2013](#)



The council's Finance Committee meets today to approve the draft budget proposed by the Capital Coalition last week.

All the papers for the meeting are already online [here](#). There is a request to be heard prior to the meeting from the organisation Kids Not Suits. This organisation first of all campaigned on class sizes at Primary 1 stage, but has now widened its remit to the whistle blowing reform which it felt

was needed at the council. Pete Gregson of the organisation submitted the petition which led to this policy being reviewed.

The council proposes to introduce a pilot scheme to address the problems which it has had with the matter. The report on the table today states:-“It is critical that Council employees have a mechanism to report their concerns to ensure that wrongdoing and malpractice, as well as any issue that could give rise to significant risks to the Council, are flagged and addressed appropriately.

In response to concerns about proper oversight and the whistleblowing process it is proposed to pilot a Whistleblowing Hotline which will allow Council employees to raise their concerns with an external third party in the knowledge that all concerns will be logged and reported regularly to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee (the ‘GRBV Committee’) who will scrutinise and call management to account for the proper handling of all concerns raised.”

You can read what Kids not Suits think about the proposal on their [website](#).

The Assembly Rooms Edinburgh is hosting Brian Taylor’s Big Debate – a live broadcast on BBC Radio Scotland – on Friday 25 October at 12 noon.

This is an hour-long live discussion hosted by Brian Taylor and covering topical issues along the lines of its television counterpart, Question Time. The event, to be held in the Assembly Rooms Music Hall, will feature a panel of politicians and prominent figures from the worlds of business, academia, arts and the media, and all are welcome to attend.

If you would like to take the opportunity to put a question on a burning issue to the panel, or just come along and be part

of the audience, entry is completely free.

Details of the panel and the topics to be discussed are usually announced nearer the time, but tickets need to be booked in advance. You can secure your place at this lively and informative event by completing the [application form on the BBC website](#).

Red Note Ensemble have just announced a run of concerts across Scotland for the rest of this year. Here is what they will be offering in Edinburgh:-

Monday 30 September 8pm: Noisy Nights at Traverse

Noisy Nights is fun, free and your chance to listen to (and compose for) the musicians of Red Note. Noisy Nights is a place to meet music-lovers, curious minds, musicians, composers and artists in an informal space and hear some of the best examples of brand new music. All sorts of music are welcomed here – as are all sorts of listeners. And, with the established 10 Minute Composer's Challenge, the audience also get the chance to write their own pieces to be played by the ensemble after the interval. Students from King's Park Secondary School will have their compositions performed from the UNESCO Family Day. If you're a composer, visit http://www.rednoteensemble.com/Calls_for_Scores.html to find out the instrumental line-up each time, and how to submit your scores.

Ticket Price Free

Location Traverse Theatre, 10 Cambridge Street, Edinburgh, EH1 2ED

Box Office 0131 228 1404

Tuesday 12 – Wednesday 13 Nov: (Enough Already) Lachez Tout performances, Summerhall, Edinburgh

LOD|muziektheater / Red Note Ensemble / François Sarhan

Enough Already (Lachez Tout) is a music-theatre performance

created by French composer-artist François Sarhan for actor, musicians, live sound effect artists, stop-frame animation and film. It is a funny secular parable in which meanings and relations between people, objects and events become increasingly absurd.

Ticket Price £12/£8

Venue Summerhall, 1 Summerhall, Edinburgh, EH9 1PL

Box Office Enquiries 0845 874 3001

Monday 9 December 8pm: Noisy Nights at Traverse

Noisy Nights is fun, free and your chance to listen to (and compose for) the musicians of Red Note. Noisy Nights is a place to meet music-lovers, curious minds, musicians, composers and artists in an informal space and hear some of the best examples of brand new music while having a beer. All sorts of music are welcomed here – as are all sorts of listeners. And, with the established 10 Minute Composer's Challenge, the audience also get the chance to write their own pieces to be played by the ensemble after the interval.

If you're a composer, visit http://www.rednoteensemble.com/Calls_for_Scores.html to find out the instrumental line-up each time, and how to submit your scores.

Ticket Price Free

Location Traverse Theatre, 10 Cambridge Street, Edinburgh, EH1 2ED

Box Office 0131 228 1404



Five things you need to know today



One year to the Scottish Independence Referendum – Independence Rally -Tram fares announced – Trams slated in Grand Theft Auto – This week at the Cameo

We have started our year long coverage of the year to the Scottish Independence Referendum which will take place next September. We hope you liked our variety of articles published today, and here is our video shot on Calton Hill

There is a March and Rally for Scottish Independence this Saturday 21 September 2013. Scottish Greens Co-Convenor Patrick Harvie will be speaking at the rally in support of independence, and a list of the speakers is on the organisation's website [here](#). The compere will be Elaine C Smith.

The 2013 Rally for Scottish Independence, to be held on Sat, 21 September 2013, is the second of three events to be held in support of Scottish Independence.

11 AM – 12PM: ASSEMBLE AT THE HIGH STREET, EDINBURGH

MID-DAY: DEPART/MARCH TO CALTON HILL – [click here for route info](#)

1PM till 4PM: RALLY

Last year, a successful first March and Rally took place from The Meadows in Edinburgh to the iconic location of Princes Street Gardens where approx. 10,000 participants gathered to listen to key speeches and enjoy music from varied performers.

This year, the event will be held on top of Calton Hill in Edinburgh. The route of the March to Calton Hill takes in the iconic HighStreet, North Bridge, Waterloo Place and Calton Hill itself.



The council chose today to announce that the tram fares will be largely the same as the bus fares except that the fare from the airport will be higher than the bus fare. However there is an £8 fare from the airport which will allow the passenger to use the tram from the airport and then buses and trams across

the city for the rest of the day.

[More details here...](#)

And while we're on the subject of the trams, Deadline News reckon that Rockstar North who have just released Grand Theft Auto V have taken a pop at Edinburgh Trams.

The makers of worldwide hit video game GTA V have turned their guns on Edinburgh's long-delayed and massively overspent trams system.

Rockstar North, whose Edinburgh offices have been hit by tram-related roadworks, released the game to international acclaim just after midnight on Tuesday.

But it has now emerged that the Scots team take a vicious sideswipe at the trams project in GTA V.

[More on Deadline...](#)


The Cameo is showing the new Alan Partridge Movie among its offering.

You can book tickets [here](#).

Have you been to see it? Would you like to write a review for us? Use our Submit your Story feature [here](#).



Scottish Independence Referendum – Neil Findlay MSP recommends some reading

 *Neil Findlay is the Labour MSP for Lothians and he would like to recommend some reading around the issues which he believes will decide the Independence debate.*

“The Red Paper on Scotland 2014 – Class, Nation and Socialism” was published last week. The first book written in 1975 brought together a range of people from across the board left to address issues affecting Scots in the 1970s. The new Red paper follows this tradition and includes chapters from leading trade union officials, politicians academics and activists. Their agenda is clear: the promotion of an agenda for radical political change, not just in Scotland but across the UK and beyond. They argue only significant political and economic change, not constitutional change alone is required to address the deep rooted issues facing Scotland its people.

Hence, this book isn't a book about whether we should be Scottish or British; rather this is a book about that injects some class politics into the debate. It should be no surprise to find then that a central supposition of the contributors is that whatever the constitution, powers must have a purpose. Namely, that we have to start addressing, substantively and not just paying lip service to, the deep inequities, which shamefully still exist in the Scotland of 2013.

The Red Paper collective argue that Scotland won't tackle the multitude of problems it faces with a change of border, flag or even a list of powers, it will only do so through a political agenda which seeks to radically challenge the perpetual failure of the dominant neo-liberal orthodoxy – a failure that has revisited us again in the guise of an austerity programme precipitated by a fundamental failure of the market system. It is against that backdrop that the thinking of the Red Paper Collective has developed during our discussions over the past two years.

Featuring people who every day work for, and in the interests of, working people it should be no surprise to hear that the group who contributed to the Red Paper concluded early on that an assessment of which model would best serve and advance the interests of ordinary working people was needed prior to the referendum. This included a consideration of the status quo and some form of enhanced devolution, as well as independence. Posing this hypothesis necessitates, in fact demands, an answer grounded in the political and economic realities of today: a direction in tune with the natural instinct of nearly all of the contributors, who in their daily working lives simply cannot afford to pander to fantasy.

The political reality is that should Scotland vote for independence the SNP Government will not dissolve; they will carry on under the guise of a so called "Scotland's party

fighting Scotland's corner." Initially this will include that party writing any new constitution, which will be hard to undo or amend – a constitution that will no doubt incorporate membership of the EU, a UK currency union (impacting upon our ability to raise taxes and determine public spending priorities), the monarchy and reducing corporation tax so as to attract the inward investment – a policy that can only result in a race to the bottom. Such a proposition could actually be interpreted as a form of federalism and not independence at all; critically however it would be an arrangement that adheres even further to neo-liberal thinking.

Economic realities are expertly laid forth by Professor John Foster and Richard Leonard. They show clearly how external ownership of the Scottish economy is growing. Unless, I have missed something there is no suggestion of any change on that front, unless a Lazarus style recovery is made by those political parties who advocate appropriation. Therefore, you would have a Scottish economy still externally controlled, predominately in the city of London but without any ability to intervene and influence or curb that power. In such a circumstance political self-determination is, arguably, fatally undermined from the start.

The strength of the book also lies in its multiplicity. To take a couple of examples, Alan MacKinnon unpacks and analyses just how realistic the removal of Trident will be in an independent Scotland, particularly given the conversion of the SNP to the cause of NATO. Stephen Smellie, Vince Mills and Gordon Munro argue for an empowerment of local government asking why within the current constitutional debate the role of local government is largely absent.

Another section of the book considers democratic ownership of our economy. The value of this section is in the production of pragmatic, but progressive, policy ideas. Indeed, these chapters provide a pathway for progressing public ownership in a variety of sectors ranging from football to energy; each acknowledges that this need not mean a homogenous version of public ownership. No matter the result of the referendum next year these are chapters that offer any (progressive) government sound policy ideas.

At the heart of both 'Yes' mainstream and Radical Indy thinking is that there can be no "British Road to Socialism." Apart from the obvious question of how and why anybody thinks the Scottish Road will be any easier, this point does throw up some philosophical considerations. Is it right for example that we take the lifeboat strategy whereby the lifeboat escaping from the sinking ship takes only Scots without any recourse or concern for those left behind?

We should never forget that advances made over the centuries – universal education, the NHS, the minimum wage, pension and the welfare state were all won by progressive forces across the UK campaign for them. They were not handed down willingly by the political elites. That unity is very important – tearing it up could be a huge mistake. What is clear is that a bricklayer in Leith has more in common with a bricklayer in Liverpool than he has with a merchant banker in Edinburgh's financial sector. Some suggest otherwise and say that we could offer a good example to the more reactionary forces elsewhere in the UK. Such an argument makes assumptions that may reflect more their own wishes than political reality.

The truth is that, as Stephen Low and Vince Mills highlight,

social attitudes are very similar in Scotland and the North of England and we cannot assume that Scots are more inclined to progressive politics than their counterparts in England, especially those Northern regions. These arguments quite simply ignore how the progressive unity of working people, not national consciousness has been at the root of material advancement for working people across the UK. Such unity provides greater capacity to challenge the dominance of international capitalism and we weaken that at our peril. Such an analysis is, or should be, an inescapable principle of socialists – each of the Red Paper contributors forcefully remind us of this point.

Finally, the book suggests that an enhanced devolution settlement is something that needs considered: thus reflecting, if the polls are to be believed, the views of the majority of Scots. Such a model would enable us to work constructively within the UK whilst taking decisions at the Scottish level to meet our national circumstances.

The Red Paper on Scotland 2014: Class, Nation and Socialism: has sought to instil some radical thinking into the current constitutional debate, which up until now has been sadly lacking. We recognise we have merely scratched the surface but nevertheless have, we hope, provided food for thought particularly for those thinking about what type of country we aspire, or should aspire, to be.

You can purchase the book for a bargain £11.00 including postage – from the Centre for Workbased learning, Glasgow Caledonian University, Cowcaddens Road, Glasgow, G4 0BA) or £7.99 if you can collect it yourself from Neil Findlay MSP.

Neil Findlay is Labour Lothians MSP and you may contact him [here](#).

Scottish Independence Referendum – Round up of today's views 18 September 2013



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

Today marks one year until the people of Scotland are invited to vote in the referendum on independence from the United Kingdom.

The question which will be asked on 18 September 2014 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](#).

Today at Holyrood there was a debate about independence on the following motion:-

S4M-07721 Alex Salmond: Scotland's Future—That the Parliament agrees that Scotland has an abundance of resources and talent and can more than afford to be a successful, thriving independent country; notes that successive UK administrations have pursued an economic policy that has led to the UK having one of the most unbalanced and unequal economies in the developed world; agrees that it is wrong and costly for policies to be imposed on Scotland that have been overwhelmingly rejected by Scotland's political representatives, and welcomes evidence that shows that there are gains for families and communities when decisions about Scotland are taken by those who care most about Scotland, the people who live and work here.

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendment

S4M-07721.1 Johann Lamont: Scotland's Future—As an amendment to motion S4M-07721 in the name of Alex Salmond (Scotland's Future), leave out from first "agrees" to end and insert "welcomes the people of Scotland having their say on the constitutional future on 18 September 2014; believes that Scotland is best served by a strong Scottish Parliament in a strong UK, and looks forward to a debate over the next year that reflects the priorities of the people and strengthens the position of Scotland as a partner in the UK rather than as a separate state".

If you missed the live debate you will be able to watch the proceedings in Parliament on The Scottish Parliament website [here](#) or you can follow the live coverage provided by the BBC.

As-it-happened: Details of the key points from Holyrood's debate marking one year to the [#indyref](#) vote <http://t.co/Ihp6A82Pwk>

Nicola Sturgeon speaking live on the BBC Daily Politics Show prior to the debate explained that on Newsnight last night the vote was undecided at the beginning of the programme which turned into a 2:1 vote in favour of independence. She continued:-“This will be a campaign conducted on the doorsteps and the town halls across the country. I am feeling very confident. We are not asking people to choose an identity. We are asking people to decide where decisions about Scotland are best made.” “We can afford to be independent. The question is are we going to take the powers in our own hands to use that wealth for our own good.”

Michael Moore MP, Secretary of State for Scotland said:-“If people weigh up this big decision, they see the opportunity we have as part of the UK, and they will wonder why they should turn their backs on this.” When reminded of the LibDem collapse in the council elections last year, and the fact that the LibDem in one Ward was beaten by a penguin, he insisted that it would be best for Scotland to have the best of both worlds.

The Edinburgh Reporter met up with Chair of Better Together, former chancellor Alistair Darling on top of Calton Hill today. Here is our report:-



Iain McGill, a former Conservative candidate in the Scottish Parliamentary election in 2010, and now a Conservative Party activist is voting no. McGill said:-“We have the best of both worlds, a successful Scottish Parliament delivering for Scotland backed up by the strength of being part of the UK.”

One of Scotland's most senior environmental campaigners has declared his support for a Yes vote in next year's independence referendum. Dr Richard Dixon, Director of Friends of the Earth Scotland, announced at the weekend that he was supporting Yes Scotland in the biggest grass-roots campaign the country has ever seen. He believes there is more scope to address environmental challenges in an independent Scotland.

Speaking in a personal capacity, the leading green campaigner, who is a respected commentator on climate change and the environment, said: 'I am still listening to both sides, but I am at the stage that an independent Scotland is the better option.' Dr Dixon, who was Director of WWF Scotland prior to his appointment last year to Friends of the Earth, is on his second stint with the environment group, having been head of research for eight years.

While at WWF Scotland, he worked on issues as diverse as climate change and fish farming. He helped to treble the number of Scottish beaches officially recognised by the government and wrote the first comprehensive report on air pollution in Scotland. Dr Dixon, 49, has a BSc and PhD in Astrophysics and an MSc in Energy Systems and Environment Management from Glasgow Caledonian University. He was born in Ireland, grew up in England, and has lived in Scotland for 30 years.

Blair Jenkins, Chief Executive of Yes Scotland, said:- 'Richard Dixon is a respected and significant figure in the field of environmental issues and I welcome his decision to go public in his support for independence. Like many, he understands that decisions that matter most to the people of Scotland are best made by the people of Scotland – and that includes environmental improvements.'

Debate on Twitter is always entertaining and you usually get both sides of the story. The hashtag #IndyRef appears to be one of the most universally used. If you know of others then

please tell us! The Scotsman had a suitably patriotic photo adorning their front page today:-

Whoops. Year to go to independence referendum. This is @TheScotsman front page. #indyref pic.twitter.com/zYplfks95j
– Peter MacMahon (@petermacmahon) [September 18, 2013](#)

Brian Wilson, a former Labour MP and Energy Minister, wrote in The Scotsman today:-

Brian Wilson on the money, in today's @Scotsman <http://t.co/akbcS9018i> #indyref
– Better Together (@UK_Together) [September 11, 2013](#)

Gerry Hassan writes about his thoughts on independence here:-

@GeoffHuggins One year from #indyref my thoughts: Yes to a Different Scotland. <http://t.co/mZ3JC9tACg>
– Gerry Hassan (@GerryHassan) [September 18, 2013](#)

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>

Offer on Reflexology for pensioners in Muirhouse

Reflexology/Massage special Offer 23 – 27 Sept 2013

Chritina Fragulea (Resident Masseur/Reflexologist at the Muirhouse Millennium Centre is offering the following Special Offer for pensioners: **20% off all treatments**

All treatments and prices can be viewed on [Facebook](#)

Submitted by [Jim McGinty](#)



Meet Paul Michael Glaser with Edinburgh's Waverley Care

Paul Michael Glaser who played Starsky in Starsky and Hutch is coming to Edinburgh to appear in Fiddler on the Roof. While he is in the capital he will appear on stage in a charity event and you can buy tickets now.

Waverley Care, Scotland's leading charity providing care and support to people living with HIV or Hepatitis C has today announced a unique fundraising event with Paul Michael Glaser,

known by millions for his portrayal of streetwise cop, Starsky.

The “In Conversation” event, to be held at the Festival Theatre, Edinburgh on Friday 4 October 2013 at 3.30 pm, will give Scottish audiences the opportunity for an intimate encounter with a man whose life was turned upside down when he lost his first wife, Elizabeth, and his daughter to AIDS following a contaminated blood transfusion.

Broadcaster and journalist, Sheena McDonald, who is a Patron of Waverley Care, will interview Paul Michael Glaser about his campaigning work in the field of HIV, his life on stage and screen and his passion for his new role as Tevye in Fiddler on the Roof, which plays at the Festival Theatre from 1– 5 October.

Grant Sugden, Chief Executive of Waverley Care, said:- “We are thrilled that Paul Michael Glaser is choosing to support us while he is in Edinburgh. As well as providing the audience with a unique opportunity to hear about his TV, film and stage work, Paul’s openness in speaking about his family’s experiences helps to challenge the stigma which people living with HIV have to face on a daily basis. Our work resonates with the aims of the Elisabeth Glaser Paediatric AIDS Foundation as we work alongside our NHS partners to eliminate mother to child transmission of HIV here in Scotland.”

Paul Michael Glaser, said: “I am very much looking forward to my visit to Scotland and to Edinburgh with Fiddler on the Roof. I am also delighted to be able to support Waverley Care in its important and vital work with this event. Many of us become touched by AIDS in the most wretched of ways but there is so much hope to talk about and so much we can all do to support each other. I look forward to sharing with you my experiences of my life on stage and screen on the 4th of October and supporting a great cause at the same time.”

In Conversation with Paul Michael Glaser: A Life on Stage and Screen takes place at the Festival Theatre, Edinburgh on Friday 4 October 2013 from 3.30 – 5.00 pm. Tickets (£10) are available from the Festival Theatre Box Office on 0131 529 6000 or by visiting <http://www.edtheatres.com>.

Submitted by [Karen Docwra](#)



Scottish Independence Referendum – Why Cameron Buchanan MSP thinks you should say No

 ***Cameron Buchanan is Conservative Lothians MSP who succeeded the late David McLetchie only very recently.***

Today I made my first speech to the Scottish Parliament since becoming MSP for the Lothians, and it is perhaps fitting that it should be on Scotland's future. After all, next year's referendum is the biggest decision we will have to make in a generation.

For me it is about our relationship with the other nations in the UK, not about independence. And it is a stark choice; do we abandon that 300 year old link, a link that has served us so well? Or do we strengthen and improve it, so that it serves Scotland better?

I don't deny there is room for improvement and that is why I believe we should look at the relationship between Scotland

the rest of the UK, between our two Parliaments and ask questions about how power is shared between them and whether some decisions presently taken at Westminster would better to be taken at Holyrood.

However to abandon the link completely is extreme and jeopardises so many of the benefits that being part of the UK brings us. Scotland is the UK's biggest financial hub outside of London; Edinburgh alone is the base of Tesco Bank, Virgin Finance and the global headquarters of the RBS Group. In this context it is interesting to bear in mind that of the £69.4 billion worth of goods and services which Scotland exported in 2011, an estimated £45.5 billion of that was exports to the rest of the UK. 84% of all mortgages, 67% of all ISAs and 70% of all pensions sold by Scottish firms are sold to households elsewhere in the UK. Considering that, why would we want to risk our access to that shared market?

This debate won't only affect our relationship with the UK either. My background is in the textile industry and for years I have been buying and selling in European countries such as Spain and Belgium (to name just a few) who are keeping a close eye on what is happening in Scotland because of their own constitutional debates. Indeed all European countries are nervous about Scottish independence to a degree due to what it may signify for them, and the precedent it will set in terms of regional sovereignty. Accordingly if we were to become independent, accession to the EU would by no means be straightforward and there would be real uncertainty over the terms of our membership. That kind of uncertainty is no good for business and no good for Scotland.

So there we have it, do we work to improve those links that have served us so well for so long, or do we throw it all away and gamble it on some vague promise of a brighter future. I don't think we should be gambling with Scotland's future and that is why we should reject separation next year.

Submitted by [Cameron Buchanan](#)

Cameron Buchanan is Conservative Lothians MSP and you may contact him [here](#).

Scottish Independence Referendum – Why Sarah Boyack MSP thinks you should vote No

✖ *With a year to go until the referendum, Lothian MSP Sarah Boyack explains why she believes it's in Edinburgh's interest for Scotland to remain in the UK.*

Edinburgh has a strong identity as Scotland's capital but it also has a strong reputation as a cultural hub, a centre of knowledge and as a place to do business.

For the last 13 years it has been voted as the best place to live in the UK, and every year millions of visitors arrive, attracted by the city's history, shopping and vibrant cultural scene including the internationally renowned festival season.

I'm confident that Edinburgh will continue to thrive in the years to come, but I believe it is in all of our interests to stay in the UK when we get our chance to vote in the Independence Referendum on 18th September 2014.

Edinburgh is home to the largest financial services sector outside of London generating £8.8bn a year for the economy and accounting for around 7% of all jobs in Scotland. The firms that base themselves in Edinburgh value our skilled workforce and recognise the advantages of operating within the same legal framework as the City in London. They recognise the stability that the UK provides for financial services and there can be no guarantee that this will remain if our ties are severed and we lose control of the pound or join the Euro.

Our universities are renowned across the world as leaders in scientific research and this has been supported by the UK.

Overall, Scottish universities receive 15% of the UK's research funding – almost double our share of the population.

However, there is doubt that this funding would be sustainable under independence.

Similarly, as part of the UK we know that the pensions of one million Scots are guaranteed. To date, the Scottish Government's pledges have been light on detail, but in private even they have concerns about affordability.

Hard as it may be to believe, there is still a full year to go before we cast our votes. The campaigns on each side officially launched well over a year ago and there are legitimate concerns that the referendum is drowning out all other debate.

Scotland faces wide ranging challenges from rebuilding our economy, protecting the most vulnerable in our communities from Coalition cuts like the bedroom tax and ensuring that we

get Scots back into work. The referendum, irrespective of the result, will not in and of itself solve these problems and we should be taking action now to tackle them. Disappointingly, however, the Scottish Government is pressing ahead with its Budget for Independence at the expense of the priorities of ordinary people – Scotland is on pause.

In Edinburgh we currently have the best of both worlds with the security of the UK behind us and a successful, devolved Scottish Parliament that has improved the lives of Scots. We should build on this success not just by strengthening our Parliament, but by devolving further powers to local councils and communities. We should reverse the SNP's centralisation and devolve power to local and community level.

Labour's land reform agenda empowered our rural communities a decade ago we now need to give those of us who live in urban Scotland the chance to make better use of our land and buildings to improve the quality of life and resilience of our communities.

Sarah Boyack is Labour Lothians MSP and all her contact details are [here](#).

Local Charity Launches Eco-

Contest In West Lothian

Environmental charity Central Scotland Forest Trust (CSFT) is urging individuals, community groups, schools and nurseries in West Lothian to sign up to an eco-competition aimed at increasing awareness of important environmental issues in today's society.

The Greatest Greenspace contest encourages people to pick up their rakes and spades and better their local surroundings to be in with the chance of winning a shopping spree at a local Dobbies Garden Centre.

The competition's Educational Environment category provides the perfect opportunity for schools and nurseries to enhance their green credentials and engage pupils in learning about the environment. Participating establishments should send photography of a green project within their grounds and explain how it helps to increase the biodiversity of the local area and promote positive environmental messages to pupils.

The Green Garden category urges aspiring horticulturists to plant wildflowers in their gardens or allotments, and cultivate their own fruit and vegetables, to encourage biodiversity and boost the economy and ecology of the local environment. Entrants should send photography of their plot along with a description of the wildflowers, plants and vegetables grown, as well as information on the wildlife it attracts.

Simon Rennie, Chief Executive at CSFT, said: "In addition to planting trees and increasing woodland cover in the Central Scotland Forest area, CSFT aims to engage communities in protecting their local environment.

"Our Greatest Greenspace competition provides a valuable learning resource for local schools and nurseries, and also gives locals a chance to support environmental biodiversity on

their doorsteps, through the planting of a variety of wildflowers, hedgerows and plants – which can have a highly beneficial effect.”

Not only will the winning participants receive the accolade of Educational Environment or Green Garden of the Year, but they’ll also get £100 of vouchers for Dobbies Garden Centre to help them maintain an environmentally friendly green space all year round.

Competition entries should be submitted by email to csftcompetition@bigpartnership.co.uk or by post to CSFT Competition, The BIG Partnership, 3rd Floor, Fountain House, 1-3 Woodside Crescent, Glasgow, G3 7UL by Friday 15th November 2013.

For further information about Central Scotland Forest Trust please visit <http://www.csft.org.uk>. You can also follow CSFT on Twitter and become a fan on Facebook.

Submitted by [Central Scotland Forest Trust](#)



James McDonaugh admits Hibs did not deserve to win derby



Overall Head of Hibernian Academy Coaching James McDonaugh admitted that his team did not deserve to win the Edinburgh derby last night and claimed that although Hibs’ two late penalties were ‘soft,’ they were justified.

After the game which ended 2-2, McDonaugh told the club website: "I wasn't pleased with the performance; I didn't think we played well enough and I didn't think we did both sides of the game well enough.

"I don't think we did enough with the ball and without it. I didn't think we got tight enough to our men or showed enough aggression.

"I think Hearts showed more than us and that's really disappointing from my side because that shouldn't happen in a derby, but it happened tonight and I thought we could have played better."

The game was a typically rambunctious affair with little in the way of clear-cut chances for either side, especially in the first half.

"I was impressed with goalkeeper Dougie Horne; I thought he played quite well. His save from the free-kick in particular was outstanding. He is developing quite well at the moment and playing well and I thought he had a good game tonight.

"The penalties were soft if they were against you but the first one their player has kicked Jordon Forster in the head inside the box so that was a penalty kick.

"The second one he doesn't go down but he was tripped inside the box so it was a penalty kick. For me both of them were penalty kicks – absolutely.

"Ross has been taking penalties for me since he was 15 or 16 at the under-17s and then the under-19s and under-20s and I've not seen him miss. He has scored every one and he is very cool from that distance.

"He wasn't happy with his performance tonight, I thought he was okay, but he scores under pressure and again scores against Hearts and has some record against them.

“It was a very soft free-kick at the edge of our box and I thought we were a little bit naive in giving that free-kick away and in giving the ball away that led up to it and then we were poorly organised.

“But to be honest I didn’t think we deserved to win the game and the draw was probably the fair result, but when you are 2-1 up after 90 minutes you are disappointed not to win.”

“It is a sign of a good team when you don’t lose but also don’t play that well, I just thought tonight we didn’t look as good a team as I had hoped we did, we were disappointed drawing the game and it is a wee bit flat but it’s another point on the board so that’s better than nothing.”

Edinburgh Quartet announce a few surprises for their new season



You are warned to expect the unexpected in the 2013/14 season when the Edinburgh Quartet get under way.

The quartet launches its 2013/14 season in **Edinburgh** on **Wednesday 9 October** at the **Queen’s Hall** and in **Glasgow** on **Saturday 12 October** at the **Royal Conservatoire of Scotland**, both at 7.30pm.

This season the Quartet will present an eclectic line up of events, from formal evening concerts to jazz-bar style late sessions, from performances with image projections to concerts interspersed with theatrical readings – this year, not only in Edinburgh, but in **Glasgow** too, thanks to funding from Creative Scotland.

Tristan Gurney, Leader of the Edinburgh Quartet said:-“In a drive to reflect the ambition of the great masters of the string quartet genre we are on a mission to revolutionise the way we listen to and experience chamber music with a series which acknowledges and complements our 21st century lives.”

Their evening concerts will have a **Czech** flavour encompassing, amongst others, **Smetana**'s much loved 'From my Life' quartet and **Dvořák**'s G Major masterpiece. Other highlights include a **world premiere** from one of the UK's brightest talents, **Helen Grime** and the innovative use of projections to literally illuminate the music of **Mozart** and **Janáček**!

The Late Sessions, this year at **Summerhall**, Edinburgh and **Sloans**, Glasgow will showcase the music of the Quartet's Patron **James MacMillan**. The players will give a musically illustrated guide to each quartet before the performance so audiences can settle down, drink in hand and enjoy!

The music of **Haydn**, **Mendelssohn** and **Schubert** will be interspersed with chat, debate and readings at the Rush Hour Series at **St Andrew's and St George's**, Edinburgh, offering a moment of sanctuary on the way home from work.

Further information about the Edinburgh Quartet's full concert season available at www.edinburghquartet.com



Witness appeal after serious road accident in Dunbar



Police in East Lothian are appealing for witnesses following a serious road collision in Dunbar.

The incident happened around 10.15am today (Wednesday) in Edinburgh Road, West Barns.

A Vauxhall Antara was involved in a collision with a bus, which subsequently struck a residential property.

Road Policing Officers closed the road while they conducted an investigation and fire and ambulance service were also in attendance.

Seven people suffered various injuries and were taken to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh for treatment.

Enquiries into the full circumstances surrounding this incident are on-going any anyone with information that can assist police with their investigation is asked to come forward.

Road Policing Inspector Andy Amour said: "This has caused significant disruption in the area and we are awaiting further confirmation as to the nature of the injuries sustained by

those involved.

“Our enquiries into exactly what happened are continuing and we are keen to speak with other motorists or members of the public who were in Edinburgh Road and witnessed the collision.

“Similarly, anyone with any further information relevant to this incident is also asked to contact police immediately.”

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

Designer handbags stolen during city-centre break in



Police in Edinburgh are appealing for witnesses following a break-in and high-value theft at a store in the city-centre.

The incident happened sometime between 5.15pm on Saturday 14th and 10am on Monday 16th September at the Handbag Heaven premises in Howe Street.

Staff returned to work to find the property had been entered and several handbags had been stolen along with sunglasses, jewellery and belts. Among the items taken were:

A Hermes vintage classic 1954 handbag in cream leather with gold clasp

A Jimmy Choo perforated tan leather with double gold bangle

A Louis Vuitton large hobo bag in brown suede, monogrammed throughout

A Prada tan and python leather with clip top and rope handles

It is believed the stolen goods are worth a five-figure sum.

PC Gavin Howat said: "All of the items taken from the store are extremely expensive and those responsible may attempt to sell them on at a discounted rate.

"As such, anyone who is offered any handbags matching the description of these is asked to contact police immediately.

"Similarly, anyone who remembers seeing anything suspicious in the Howe Street area over the weekend or early on Monday morning is also asked to come forward."

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

English Football – Tottenham and Liverpool moving to the top

Spurs and Reds pose a major threat to the Big Four.

The race for the top four this season promises to be one of the most exciting to date, with Tottenham and Liverpool splashing the cash this summer to move closer to the current big four.

Manchester United, Arsenal, Chelsea and Manchester City are in their third season as England's Champions League representatives. They could struggle to make it four in 2014-15.

Not only have Spurs and Liverpool built impressive squads, but three of the aforementioned sides are in a period of transition under new managers. The other club has failed to add sufficiently despite the last-gasp signing on transfer deadline day of Mesut Özil.

Manchester City and Chelsea may be getting used to life under Manuel Pellegrini and Jose Mourinho respectively but they are doing so with stronger squads than last term. City have added Stevan Jovetic, Alvaro Negredo, Fernandinho and Jesus Navas, while the Blues have signed Andre Schurrle, Marco van Ginkel, Willian and Samuel Eto'o. It would be a major surprise if either side finished outside the Champions League places.

It would have been unthinkable to predict a top four without including Sir Alex Ferguson's Manchester United. However, there is a different feel about the [Premier League champions](#) under David Moyes. Life after Fergie was always going to be tough; it could be even tougher after a quiet transfer window.

Arsenal fans too will be disappointed with their club's summer dealings. Özil was an excellent signing but there must have been envious eyes glancing across north London as Spurs went on a major shopping spree. A couple of serious injuries at the back or up front and the Gunners could struggle to make the top four.

Spurs and Liverpool are the sides waiting in the wings. While neither are the finished article by any means, they both have enough quality to secure a place in next season's Champions League at the expense of their rivals.

The Premier League will be a better place for the likes of Christian Eriksen, Erik Lamela and Mamadou Sakho. Will the new star names be able to help disrupt the natural order?

Are there any Edinburgh fans of big English teams out there? Would you like to write about them for The Edinburgh Reporter occasionally? Then get in touch!

Tram tickets to cost the same as buses



Edinburgh City Council has just revealed that the cost of getting on a tram will be the same as getting on a bus, with the exception of the fare to the airport and Ingliston Park and Ride.

A ticket for the tram be the same price as a bus ticket. The initial price will be £1.50 for a single adult journey and 70p for a child.

A return ticket to the airport will be £7.50 (£4 child fare) and drivers will be able to take the tram from Ingliston Park & Ride for £2.50 with a £1.50 child fare. The return fare on the Airlink bus is already different as it costs £6 return from Waverley to Edinburgh Airport.

Day tickets will be usable across both tram and bus and Ridacards will be valid throughout the entire route. The bus day ticket is £3.50 which will now include tram journeys too. If you pay £8 then you will be able to get on the tram at the airport and use trams and buses all day long.

Transport Convener Lesley Hinds said: -“The tram will offer a fast, comfortable, convenient and reliable transport option at a very good price. With Lothian Buses, we’ve ensured that the

bus and tram ticketing systems are fully integrated for ease of use and to keep costs low.

“Ridacards and day tickets will be usable across bus and tram while a single ticket will be the same price across both. Like most cities there’s an airport supplement and this is part of the business model to ensure the service is cost effective in operation. ”

“With the end of tram works nearing and a passenger service in sight, this is the perfect time to develop a new approach to transport in our city. With their existing knowledge and expertise Lothian Buses is ideally positioned to thrive with the tram and I’m very pleased that we’re working in partnership with them.”

Users of the National Entitlement Card will be able to use their cards on the tram through a Council funded scheme. Earlier this year Councillor Hinds said: “We are determined that Edinburgh residents who are eligible for free travel across the country should be able to use the tram on the same basis. The tram needs to be wholly integrated into the national transport network and, for me, this means that over 60s and people with disabilities should have free use of the service.”

The tram service is now forecast to be up and running for passengers in May 2014, two months ahead of the revised target of July 2014. Plans have been set out for the handover of a section of the tram route between Gogar depot and Edinburgh Park Station for testing in early October with full route testing to take place in December.

The city centre will be clear of tram civil engineering works by October with Haymarket (Dalry Road to Manor Place) now set to reopen to traffic around 12 October and Shandwick Place crescents to open around 19 October.

Last month the Council set out plans to create a new

organisation, Transport for Edinburgh, to integrate transport services in the Capital. Transport for Edinburgh will be set up initially to integrate the tram and bus services, with Lothian Buses and Edinburgh Trams confirmed as the operators.

The project remains in line with the revised budget (£776m) approved by the Council in September 2011, with work either ahead of schedule or in line with the revised timescale reported in December 2011.

Fares

City single

Adult – £1.50 Child – £0.70

Park & Ride single

Adult £2.50 Child – £1.50

Airport single

Adult – £4.50 Child – £2.50

Airport return (to/from airport only)

Adult £7.50 Child – £4.00

Tram & Bus day ticket – city only

Adult £3.50 Child £2.00

Tram & Bus day ticket – Park & Ride & city

Adult £5.00 Child £3.00

Tram & Bus day ticket – network wide including airport

Adult £8.00 Child £4.50

Lothian Buses go 4G



4G technology is now being trialled on Edinburgh buses

Starting with the Airlink Lothian Buses may roll out more and better free wifi on all its buses

Bus passengers in Edinburgh could have access to the latest 4G technology in the future thanks to the increasing popularity of Wi-Fi on the move.

Lothian Buses is currently trialling the super-fast 4G technology on one of its Airlink buses, which operates on Edinburgh's dedicated express service linking the city centre to the airport. This follows an increase of nearly 150,000 passengers using on bus free Wi-Fi since it was first introduced in 2010.

Some 290,000 passengers have used their mobile devices on Lothian Buses services in the last three years – registering more than half-a-million hits on the free Wi-Fi network.

Ian Craig, CEO of Lothian Buses, said:- “Due to the success of the free Wi-Fi on our services and our commitment to offering modern public transport, we have decided to trial 4G technology. So far during the trial we have experienced high speeds and fast service over the whole route.

“We hope that if it does prove successful, it will be something we can roll out across other services in the future so that our passengers can continue to make better use of their time on the bus”

As well as Wi-Fi on the company's Airlink buses, hybrid and service 21 buses, Lothian Buses introduced its social media bus earlier this year designed to show travellers the many ways they can connect with the company to find out travel information and service updates.

More than 110,000 passengers have used Wi-Fi on Lothian Buses this year, spending on average of 25 minutes of their journey on the free network.

Scottish Independence Referendum – Why Council Leader Andrew Burns is voting no



Council Leader –
Andrew Burns

by City of Edinburgh Council Leader Andrew Burns.

A year to go until the referendum.

I've a shocking acknowledgement to make – I don't think the sky will fall in, if Scotland votes yes next year ...

... even more shocking – I don't think the sky will fall in, if Scotland votes no next year either.

Life will go on; the earth will continue to turn; the sun will

rise.

Of course, the *actual* result will have a profound political impact on the country we live in.

But *neither* possible result – and I only wish more politicians would honestly admit this – will be a panacea for all of Scottish society's ills.

Now, it *won't shock anyone* to hear that I'll be voting no.

Just type 'devolution' in the top-left, blogger search-box; and scan through the results, and you'll quickly realise that I'm a (relatively) unusual – but hopefully consistent – unreformed, Labour Party (con)Federalist.

If I was to pick out one post, to illustrate my thinking, I guess I'd choose [this one](#) (and the links therein); but there are many more if you're inclined to undertake the suggested search ☐

I have thought (rather sadly!) about these issues over several decades now, and basically remain fully committed to the cause of a Federal UK.

I completely accept that others, have arrived at a different decision – many of them may have settled on supporting Scottish Independence via a similar, constitutional (and political) trajectory to my own ... that's fine by me; I respect their view; and hope they respect mine.

366-days from now, regardless of the result, we'll wake up and the sky won't have fallen in; the earth will still be turning; and the sun will have risen ... and we'll need to *collectively* get on with attempting to make our country a better place to live in, for as many of its inhabitants as possible.

The vast majority of the people I know, on both sides of the referendum debate, are working to do just that today ... they'll

be doing just that tomorrow; in a months time; and in years time.

Wouldn't the next 12-months be a little more interesting, and engaging, if we could all just keep that in mind as we move towards the morning of Friday 19th September 2014?

Councillor Andrew Burns is Leader of The City of Edinburgh Council and leader of the Labour Group. This article first appeared [here](#) on his own blog.