

Number of Scottish bankruptcies is falling



Bankruptcy and other insolvencies fell in second quarter

Official insolvency figures for Scotland show a sharp fall in the number of people entering bankruptcy and other formal insolvency solutions between July and September.

The data from the [Accountant in Bankruptcy](#) (AiB) – Scotland's insolvency service – showed that there were 4,063 personal insolvencies overall during the second quarter of 2012-2013. This marks a drop of 27.5% on the previous quarter, and a fall of 24.5% on the same period in 2011-12.

[Wilson Andrews](#), who commissioned this article, have taken a closer look at the figures and what they reveal.

Bankruptcy: why has it fallen?

According to the AiB, the fall in total insolvencies was largely due to a drop in the number of borrowers applying for bankruptcy. This is probably a result of fees for this form of bankruptcy being raised on 1 June 2012 – prompting many borrowers to apply for bankruptcy before this date.

There were 1,859 bankruptcies awarded in total in the second quarter, marking a 43.8% fall on the previous quarter (3,310) and a 34.9% fall on 2011/12's second quarter (2,857).

A look at Trust Deeds and the LILA route

The number of Protected Trust Deeds totalled 2,204. This marked a 3.8% drop on the previous quarter (2,291) and a 12.7% drop on the same time last year.

Protected Trust Deeds are a form of insolvency available only in Scotland. They are designed to help borrowers with a substantial amount of unsecured debt, who can't repay what they owe in a reasonable timeframe.

The LILA (Low Income, Low Assets) route into bankruptcy is another approach that is only available to borrowers north of the border. Although it is not a debt solution in itself, the LILA route can provide an alternative way into bankruptcy for borrowers on a low income whose lenders have not taken legal action yet.

Of the 1,443 bankruptcy applications made by borrowers in the second quarter, 653 of these were made through the LILA route. This shows a fall of almost 60% (58.2%) on the previous quarter, when 1,563 people went bankrupt through the LILA route.

DAS debt payment programmes on the rise

DAS – the common name for the Debt Arrangement Scheme – is a formal debt management solution backed by the Scottish Government.

Although DAS is not a form of insolvency, it has become an increasingly popular way for borrowers with unaffordable unsecured debt repayments to get back on top of their finances since its introduction in 2004.

During the second quarter of 2012-13, there were 1,110 Debt Payment Programmes (DPPs) approved under the scheme. This represents an increase of 29.7% on the same quarter last year. However, compared with previous quarter, the number of DPPs approved under DAS fell by 24.9%.

According to the AiB, the number of approved DAS cases was higher than during any quarter of the previous financial year, perhaps due to promotion of the Scheme to highlight its benefits for some borrowers.

Cuckoo's Bakery goes spooky for Halloween



Cuckoo's Bakery launches six monstrous cupcake treats to celebrate Halloween

Cuckoo's Bakery, Edinburgh's quirkiest cupcake shop, is feeling seasonal yet again, and is kicking off Halloween with a selection of irresistible yet frightening cupcakes available for purchase in the run-up to Halloween.

Until Thursday 1 November 2012, owners Graham Savage and Vidya Sarjoo will be offering a whole range of devilishly delightful Halloween cupcakes:

- **Buried Deep:** What lies beneath... Belgian chocolate chip sponge buried below baked vanilla cheesecake and an earthy grave scene. 'Relish in Peace'...
- **Trick or Treat:** Spiced pumpkin sponge filled with gooey butterscotch and finished with a caramel cinnamon pumpkin patch. Happy Halloween!
- **Witches' Bru:** Black magic inspired Irn 'Bru' cupcake adorned with a sleek witch's hat... sure to cast a spell on you!
- **The Ghost:** Dark chocolate sponge filled with ghoulish white chocolate ganache. Let your teeth get too close and the ghost will vanish... Beware!
- **The Creature:** This monstrous apple cupcake with a purple custard heart is sure to send shivers through your

taste-buds!

- **The Red Devil:** Don't stare too long... Dive in and devour this devilishly delicious red velvet delight.

These delicious Halloween treats will also be used by The Edinburgh Dungeon to tempt visitors inside. The first 30 visitors on both Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 31st (Halloween itself) will be greeted with a free babycake version of the full-size cupcakes that Cuckoo's is selling.

Graham Savage said:-

"It has been so much fun coming up with this year's Halloween cupcake creations and we're really looking forward to selling these quirky treats come Halloween"

The cupcakes are available in-store for £2.75 (take-away) or £2.95 (eat-in), or if you're buying as a gift they offer a giftbox which includes 6 cupcakes and a card with a personal message, all in a box and tied with ribbon. Individual cupcakes and giftboxes are also available to order online for collection or delivery in Edinburgh.

See the website at <http://www.cuckoosbakery.co.uk/>

Five things you need to know today



Rubbish – Fireworks safety advice – Potholes – Blogging – 4G

Residents in North Edinburgh plonked their rubbish on the doorstep of their Neighbourhood office yesterday to draw

attention to the ongoing problems they are having with their refuse collection. Under the headline A rubbish protest or a protest about rubbish? the [North Edinburgh News](#) explains the argument that has broken out between residents and the Environment convener.

Reader, Jon Chase, who lives in the Fettes area has sent us a copy of the letter he has sent by email to his local councillor and also the Transport and Environment Convener, Councillor Lesley Hinds. He has explained to the council that the new regime of collecting refuse was not actually explained to the residents in the street where he lives until he contacted the council for clarification. As a result there has been some confusion.

He established that the ordinary rubbish was to be collected each Sunday and recycling each Thursday. But on Sunday last two bin lorries arrived at different times to collect general rubbish, and Mr Chase has indicated to the council that this is simply not good enough. What about you? Are you still experiencing any difficulties? Then do let us know.

You can get an automatic reminder by email about when your recycling will be collected. Sign up here at [Green Box Day](#).

Police have issued fireworks safety advice just ahead of Halloween and Guy Fawkes night next week. [You can read more here.](#)

Today's photo is of Dublin Street and we think it shows only too well the condition of the road surface. The council say that they inspect each and every street in Edinburgh each year, but they also take reports of potholes [on their website here](#). Do you have a street which needs some attention? Then let us know and we will pass on the details to the council's

Transport convener. There is also [Fix my Street](#) which is supposed to alert the council automatically, although we have been told that sometimes it does not work. If you know of another reporting service like this which is reliable then you might tell us about that too.

Some of our local councillors have blogs. Notably our Council Leader, Andrew Burns, has his [Really Bad Blog](#). Conservative Leader, Cameron Rose, has two blogs, one devoted to [Ward matters here](#) and his rebuttal of the climate change argument [is to be found here](#). Lib Dem group leader, Paul Edie, has a blog which is perhaps given a little less attention by its author in opposition rather than administration [which you will find here](#). Ricky Henderson, Labour councillor for Pentland Hills [has a blog here](#) where he writes about council matters, and the Edinburgh Greens have a [blog here](#) for all six of their councillors.

And the Lord Provost [has a blog here](#) to tell us all what he is up to. (There is a fabulous display of objects he brought back from Abu Dhabi just outside the main council chamber.)

Who have we forgotten? Do let us know and we will then add the details to our Edinburgh bloggers list which [is a living list here](#). Again we need help from you if you are an Edinburgh blogger and you would like to be included.

History is being made today as EE, who claim to be the UK's most advanced digital communications company, launches the UK's first 4G network in Edinburgh, one of the first eleven cities to benefit from the rollout of the UK's first ever 4G network.

As of today, residents of Edinburgh will be among the first in

the UK to experience EE's pioneering superfast mobile service, with speeds typically five times faster than 3G, and 4G Fibre Broadband for the home and office. The service includes a range of state-of-the-art devices to ensure all customers get the most out of the superfast network.

Derek Smith, Regional Manager East Scotland, at the EE store on Princes Street commented:-"We are hugely excited about being one of the first cities in the UK to launch a mobile and fibre broadband 4G service. Customers signing up to the new service will be able to download media and access the internet at phenomenal speeds. We are looking forward to switching on Edinburgh's 4G and welcoming our first customers through the doors at 9am this morning."

EE is investing £11 million in its network in the region. All eight Orange and T-Mobile stores in Edinburgh will have a full store refurbishment to become EE stores, offering services from Orange, T-Mobile and EE from today.

EE is the UK's most advanced digital communications company, providing mobile and fixed line services to 27 million customers, and from today, will become the first company in the UK to provide 4G mobile services, as well as Fibre Broadband.

Let us know if you manage to access 4G and how good it is?


Edinburgh Filmhouse launch online player



EDINBURGH'S FILMHOUSE JOINS FORCES WITH GLASGOW FILM THEATRE TO LAUNCH NEW ONLINE PLAYER

Edinburgh's Filmhouse and Glasgow Film Theatre (GFT) have joined forces with shareable video-on-demand inventors Distrify to offer online streamings of curated films. In a pioneering move, two of the UK's top independent cinemas will be the first venues in the UK to work together to make available a specially selected online film programme.

Each cinema will host a new online viewing platform on their website – the GFT Player and the Filmhouse Player. The Players will be available as part of an innovative trial, supported by a £90,000 grant from Nesta's Digital R&D Fund, Scotland. The Digital Research and Development Fund for Arts and Culture, Scotland is a partnership between Creative Scotland, Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and Nesta to support arts and cultural organisations across Scotland who want to work with digital technologies to expand their audience reach and engagement and/or explore new business models. This project has been devised so that these two popular cinemas can reach beyond their walls and engage with audiences in other areas, with those who cannot visit in person and with people who have an interest in curated cinema with a Scottish, UK and international focus.

 Films will be available to stream 24/7 and can be watched on computers, tablets and mobiles anywhere in the UK or Ireland. Streaming prices will start at £3.49, great value for those watching as a group.

A dynamic slate of films will be offered online from November,

carefully chosen by experienced GFT and Filmhouse programmers, to complement their cinema screenings. The Players will feature new releases (available to stream alongside their screenings in the cinema) such as music documentary *Sound it Out* and Japanese comedy-drama *Rent-a-Cat*; favourite films that audiences may have missed on the big screen like enjoyable French comedy *The Women on the 6th Floor*; and exclusive additional content, including films that haven't yet been picked up by UK distributors but merit a wider audience, of which *Morgen*, winner of four awards at the Locarno Film Festival, is a perfect example.

Allison Gardner, Head of Cinemas at GFT said:- "Our reasons for pioneering the curated programme online model are two-fold. There are an ever-growing number of films available to us and with our screens already working very hard, we needed to find a way to ensure that great films were not missing out on the exposure we can give them. Secondly, not everyone has access to cinemas like GFT and Filmhouse, or indeed time to go to the cinema when it suits them."

Rod White, Head of Filmhouse added:- "The Player gives us the opportunity to provide an extra screen – open all hours – showing films that we would not otherwise have the room to screen, or audiences simply couldn't make it along to, or may have missed on the big screen."

Teaming up with video-on-demand providers Distrify is key to the success of this project. This will allow both cinemas to utilise digital technology to research best practice in broadening total audience figures. Analysis of digital metrics will offer valuable information on geographic location of audiences, the routes to purchase and the relationship between Theatrical and Home Entertainment. Sharing this data with rights holders will then inform and improve future relationships between exhibitors and distributors.

A unique feature of the Distrify Player is that anyone can

embed it on their website or on their Facebook page or Twitter feed, thereby extending the reach of each cinema's brand and broadening their audiences. An affiliate's share of 10% is available to anyone who shares the film in this way, creating an exciting and original way of sharing and talking about film.

Andy Green, COO of Distrify said:- "Audiences are finding films they want online and we want to offer cinema tickets as well as VOD, the idea is that a choice increases sales of both. Adding the curatorial voice of GFT and Filmhouse creates trust for an audience and adds an extra revenue stream for the cinemas."

While Nesta's Digital R&D Fund offers an excellent opportunity to launch the Players and undertake valuable research, both cinemas hope to gain further funding to be able to extend the project beyond the initial trial period and offer the Players to audiences on a more permanent basis.

The Films:

Sound it Out is a funny and intimate documentary portrait of the last surviving vinyl record shop in Teesside, North East England. Described as 'hilarious and incredibly heartwarming' by *NME*, the film will be available simultaneously in cinema and online. Also available for streaming and on the big screen at the same time will be engaging Japanese comedy *Rent-a-Cat* (*Rentaneko*), in which a young woman hires out friendly felines to lonesome people in need of a little companionship. The film proved popular at this year's Edinburgh International Film Festival and will be available from Monday 3 December at GFT and Friday 7 December at Filmhouse.

Jeanie Finlay, Director of *Sound It Out*, commented:- "I'm very excited that *Sound It Out* is going to be available in so many ways. Watch an independent film about an independent place in the way you want – big screen or at home, it's up to you."

To coincide with the French Film Festival UK, which takes place at Filmhouse and GFT in November, raucous rom-com *The Women on the 6th Floor*, a favourite from last year's Festival, will be offered on both Players. While *Morgen*, a Romanian New Wave gem from writer/director Marian Crisan, will screen at Filmhouse on Wednesday 14 November, followed by a live Q&A with Crisan.

New films will be added to the Players each month. For full programme details please visit www.glasgowfilm.org/player and www.filmhousecinema.com/player.

n0tice and the #myhighstreet project



We told you recently about n0tice, which is a virtual community notice board, [and the project which the people behind n0tice had started to celebrate or change our high street](#) (where high street means locality or neighbourhood.) The film below is an overview of the project, a short documentary of stories and projects that are currently happening across the UK, and also involving online activity such as the hyperlocal websites across the UK.

n0tice sent a film crew to Edinburgh to speak with The Reporter, and this is the first of the films to be released. They also filmed groups of activists who are trying to make a difference across Edinburgh, and that will, we understand, be the subject of a second film. Meantime you can check out what people have been n0ticing: <http://highstreet.n0tice.com>.

Primary School's PE lessons a study for University



Flora Stevenson Primary School is taking a new approach to physical education which is being studied by university researchers. Over the past 2 years extra training has been provided for teachers and pupils have been given opportunities to be active daily. This approach has made a significant impact on pupils who are showing an increase in confidence, motivation and self-esteem, as well as physical ability.

Since 2011 the school has been working with Winning Scotland Foundation and The City of Edinburgh Council who have provided a variety of support and funding for the initiative.

Pupils receive P.E. lessons three days a week and an active class challenge for their 'non-P.E.' day. The week culminates with the opportunity for them to participate in an optional hour of physical activity on a Friday – incredibly nearly 80% of all pupils now choose to participate in active options which include a wide variety of activities from fencing to football and hip-hop to tae kwon do.

Edinburgh University has been so impressed with this approach it is studying the impact it is having on training teachers within their own school.



Convener of
Education – Paul
Godzik

Councillor Paul Godzik, Education Convener said, "This project has really had remarkable results so far. Alongside the great uptake of activities at school and the positive impact this is having on pupils, many are now choosing to partake in sports outwith school time. This means they are more likely to be physically active regularly and continue to be so in the long-run; this is an invaluable lifestyle change for them. This is a great example of how working with other organisations can lead to positive change."

The project has allowed Flora's to work closely with parents and other schools within the local community, one of which is Broughton High School (one of three school based Community Sports Hubs in Edinburgh). Sport can play an extremely important role in assisting children's transition from Primary School to Secondary school.

Angela Hutt, P.E. Specialist at the school is delighted that her initial idea was developed and came to fruition thanks to the support and commitment of Shelagh Dow, Depute Head Teacher and her fellow teachers. Angela said; "The Curriculum for Excellence had given us the flexibility to provide pupils with opportunities to be active daily. As Friday's activities are a reward for good behaviour we are seeing a positive impact on behaviour throughout the week. This is an ambitious project and wouldn't be possible without support. A big thanks to everyone who has worked with us on this."

Morag Arnot of Winning Scotland Foundation said, "This project has had a remarkable affect on the children involved and believe it could act as a blueprint for getting every child in Scotland active every day. We have been pleased to be able to support the project since its inception. We look forward to seeing how the project continues to develop across other schools and the impact it can have on more children."

Cath Morrison, Senior Health Policy Officer, NHS Lothian said, "The advantages of children being physically active are well

known but what Flora's has done is package it up in such a way that it becomes part of their everyday life and influences behaviour outwith that time also. We are proud to be able to fund this programme and look forward to working with new schools on future projects also."

Additional funding from Winning Scotland Foundation & the NHS has allowed the project to continue this year at Flora's and be introduced to Stockbridge Primary. It is hoped to further extend it to the remaining 2 cluster schools in August 2013.

Photo Rob McDougall

Safety First on Bonfire night

Lothian and Borders Police are joining Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service and The City of Edinburgh Council in putting across the message that they want people in Edinburgh to enjoy fireworks responsibly this year.

The lead up to bonfire night is a busy time for all emergency services, and while the emergency services want everyone to have fun, police will be working alongside colleagues in the fire and rescue service to highlight the nuisance and dangers associated with the illegal use of fireworks.

In the run up to November 5th, police and Trading Standards officers will be visiting retailers to remind them of the legislation surrounding the sale of fireworks.

In addition fire safety talks will be given at schools across the city, and joint patrols will be carried out to dismantle any potentially dangerous bonfires.

Chief Inspector Andy McLaughlin, from Lothian and Borders

Police, said:- “Young people and the community should look forward to bonfire night, and be able to enjoy it fully and safely. Although it is an exciting time, the risks involved in playing with fireworks should always be remembered.

“This is traditionally a busy time of year for all emergency services, but many calls could be avoided if people were more aware of the safety of themselves and others. It should be remembered that fireworks are, in essence, explosives, and should only be bought from reputable retailers and used in a safe, controlled environment.

“We have seen a reduction in these types of incidents in recent years, and we hope that our work with school children and shop owners will help continue this trend.”

Community Safety Manager for Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service, Steve Harkins said:-

“We want people to enjoy themselves safely this year. We recommend attending an organised bonfire night display to reduce the risk of accidental injury from fireworks.

“Be aware that bonfires must be supervised by an adult at all times. If they are not we will extinguish them. We will also put out any bonfires we believe may pose a risk to people or nearby buildings.

“Lastly we ask that people respect firefighters as they respond to these calls. Any incidents of anti-social behaviour or violence to crews will be reported to the police. We are there to keep communities safe from fire so please let us do our job safe from interference or harm.”



Vice-Convener of
Health, Social
Care & Housing –
Cammy Day

Councillor Cammy Day, Community Safety leader for the City of Edinburgh Council, said: "The proactive approach taken by our community safety teams in dismantling unauthorised bonfires in previous years has been really successful and this work will continue leading up to November 5th.

"We would remind people to only attend organised displays, remember the dangers involved in handling fireworks and enjoy their celebrations responsibly. It's one of the busiest nights of the year for the fire service and it's important they can carry out their vital role without the threat of anti-social behaviour."

Anyone with any concerns regarding dangerous bonfires, or the illegal sale of fireworks, should contact their Safer Neighbourhood Team on 0131 311 3131.

Talk by US Super Bowl producer today at Queen Margaret University open to the public

US Super Bowl producer to talk to students in the capital

Dr Frank Supovitz, producer of the US Super Bowl, the largest annual sports event in the USA, is coming to Queen Margaret University today to talk to first year event management students and the public.

Dr Supovitz, who is Vice President of Events at the US National Football League (NFL), flies into the capital from

Wembley, London where he has just produced the annual UK American Football event. His only Scottish engagement will be at Queen Margaret University where he will talk to event management students about her career in the special events industry. Whilst at the University, he will discuss his involvement with large scale events including the American Super Bowl, the Olympic Games opening ceremonies, the Goodwill Games and other major events across the globe.

Professor Joe Goldblatt, Director of the International Centre for Planned Events at Queen Margaret University said:-“We are extremely privileged to have an events’ specialist of Frank’s standing. His talk presents an excellent opportunity for our students to learn from one of the most honoured professionals in the industry. Frank has worked on some of the world’s most significant large scale events and will be sharing some of this experience of those with our students today. Aside from his own fascinating career, he will offer useful advice and tips to help students develop their career aspirations and their understanding of the industry. Someone like Frank, who is able to demonstrate success on a global scale, helps encourage our students to think big and is an excellent role model for them to aspire to.”

The free talk is also open to the public and takes place at 4.15pm.

Rings stolen in theft from

Western General Hospital




Lothian and Borders Police are appealing for witnesses following a theft within the Western General Hospital.

The incident happened around 3.15pm on Tuesday 23 October 2012 when a 33-year-old woman was within one of the bathrooms and had taken her wedding ring and eternity ring off to wash her hands.

After leaving the bathroom, she realised she had left her rings inside and when she returned to retrieve them, she found they were gone.

Neither item had been handed in to security, so the woman contacted police to report them stolen.

 The wedding ring is a platinum band with a single one carat diamond while the eternity ring is platinum with around 24 diamonds around the circumference. They have a combined value of around £10,000.

A police spokesman said: "The woman has been left devastated at the loss of her rings and is desperate to have them returned to her as soon as possible.

"Anyone who comes into possession of the rings is asked to hand them in to their local police station. We would also ask that anyone who can assist with our enquiries into this theft contacts police immediately."

Anyone with information can contact Lothian and Borders Police on 0131 311 3131, or the charity Crimestoppers in confidence and complete anonymity on 0800 555 111.

Five things you need to know today



Do we need to market Edinburgh? – This week at Holyrood – Photography – Food waste allows plastic bags – – Edinburgh Tram Project

The Scotsman's Arts Correspondent, Brian Ferguson, has made his views about the new city marketing campaign well known on Twitter over recent weeks, but has now taken time to write a very entertaining opinion piece about the [Incredinburgh panto.....](#)

Although we were not invited to the Marketing Edinburgh launch of Winter in Edinburgh last Tuesday evening, we do have thoughts about spending public money on expensive marketing campaigns.

Perhaps we could add our own views into the marketing mix. We believe that to a large extent a city such as Edinburgh sells itself. We should not need to spend millions of pounds, which might be spent on essential services elsewhere in the city, telling people what the best things about this city are, and particularly we do not need to pick out one Edinburgh chef chasing lobsters and do so in a rap animated film. We believe the film does not do justice to our city's unique allure. We have many restaurants, bars, theatres, wonderful people and wonderful sights. We have our many festivals which are a draw for people from across the globe. And we have our 500,000 inhabitants all of whom are able to tell their own story about Edinburgh, and who can perhaps do so better than this?

One of the more ingenious and useful marketing campaigns we would suggest, has been the sponsorship of a yacht emblazoned with Edinburgh's Inspiring Capital which has sailed around the world in the Clipper Round the World Race, giving those on board a memorable experience, but also a marketing return which is far greater than the £55,000 which the council spends on it. The largest part of the cost, admittedly, has been underwritten by an anonymous donor.

We suggest that the council uses its many Twitter accounts to launch a Twitter and Facebook marketing campaign involving everyone in the capital. It would be absolutely free and easy for anyone to join in. Well maybe we should just start? We would like you to tell us the best thing about Edinburgh for you. Is it a place or the people? Or one person? Feel free to tell us here with a short article through [our Submit a Story feature](#) or tell us on [Twitter](#) using the hashtag #bestofedinburgh.

We will very soon be able to show you the exclusive film about Edinburgh projects about changing parts of our city. This was made here only two weeks ago by the people [celebrating our high streets](#) through the notice campaign which is backed by the Guardian Media Group. Take a look there are many photos of Edinburgh up there!

So have our council paid £1.2m setting up Marketing Edinburgh and around £300,000 for a bunch of catchy slogans for a city that does not need any? What do you think? Let us know by adding your comment below.

This week at Holyrood only one of our Edinburgh MSPs has already lodged written questions for answer.

S4W-10609 Jim Eadie: To ask the Scottish Government how many disabled people receive discounted travel under the national concessionary travel scheme.

S4W-10610 Jim Eadie: To ask the Scottish Government what proportion of people eligible for a concessionary bus pass has one.

S4W-10611 Jim Eadie: To ask the Scottish Government how much on average the national concessionary travel scheme saves people who use it each year.

S4W-10612 Jim Eadie: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will carry out an assessment of the physical and mental health benefits of the national concessionary travel scheme for (a) disabled people, (b) older people and (c) veterans.

And motions lodged include the following:-

S4M-04552 Christine Grahame: Help Keep Animals Safe this Firework Season— That the Parliament commends the work of the Scottish SPCA and, in particular, its campaign to keep animals safe during the firework season; notes that, although the sound of a typical pneumatic drill measures around 100 decibels and people are advised to wear ear protectors when exposed to anything above 80 decibels, the current legal noise limit for a firework is 120 decibels; understands that a dog's hearing is twice as sensitive as a human's and a cat's three times, which means that the sudden bang from a firework could terrify them and cause extreme distress; believes that anyone holding a firework display should warn their neighbours in advance so that they can make adequate provisions for their pets, and considers that, to allow pet owners and farmers to make adequate provisions for their animals, the use of fireworks should be limited to major festival periods and licensed displays.

S4M-04549# Kezia Dugdale: Living Wage Week—That the Parliament is committed to promoting a society where work pays; finds it unacceptable that in-work poverty continues to be a scourge, perpetuating societal ills such as poor health and child poverty, with six out of 10 children in poverty from families

where at least one parent is in work; welcomes recent analysis, which it considers encouraging, by the IPPR and the Resolution Foundation, which estimated for the first time the wage bill for UK companies listed on the London Stock Exchange when paying staff a living wage; acknowledges what it considers the tireless work of the Scottish Living Wage Campaign and the trade union movement to make a living wage a reality for many public sector workers in Scotland; welcomes the advent of the annual Living Wage Week, taking place from 4 to 10 November, and looks forward to events promoting the benefits and ideals of a living wage for all; congratulates those local authorities that have delivered a living wage to their employees and notes the commitment of other councils, including the City of Edinburgh Council, to do so; welcomes the Scottish Government's commitment to maintaining the relevance of a living wage for staff covered by its pay policy by uprating it; understands that it has committed to continuing to do so and notes the work outstanding to make the living wage a reality for all public sector employees, and hopes that the tide of support for the living wage will set a precedent too strong for private employers to ignore.

S4M-04547 Marco Biagi: Putting Scotland on Track for Business—That the Parliament welcomes the publication by the sustainable transport charity, Transform Scotland, of On track for business: Why Scottish businesses should try the train, regarding the economic and environmental benefits of travel by rail; commends the work of Transform Scotland with the rail industry and Scottish business to raise awareness of the importance of rail travel to business competitiveness and productivity in Scotland, and calls on politicians of all parties, as well as Scottish businesses, to take steps toward improving the efficiency of business travel and the reduction of emissions through the promotion of rail for business travellers.

S4M-04524♦ Christine Grahame: Big Energy Saving Week—That the

Parliament supports Big Energy Saving Week, which runs from 22 to 27 October 2012 with the aim of helping consumers “Check, Switch, and Insulate” to help them save money on their energy bills this winter; notes that the recent rises in energy prices by four of the big six energy companies are a serious worry for people looking for ways to cut their costs in Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale and across the country, and congratulates Citizens Advice Scotland on coordinating the week, which includes 30 events in local communities run by Citizens Advice bureaux.

S4M-04522 Alison Johnstone: More Evidence that Pesticides are Killing Bees— That the Parliament notes new research published in the peer-reviewed scientific journal, Nature, on the effects of exposure to pesticides on bees; understands that the study explored the effects of pesticides on bee colonies, tested the so-called cocktail effect of neonicotinoid and pyrethroid chemicals and found that exposure leads to greater bee deaths, reduced ability to collect food and a greater likelihood that colonies will fail; notes the essential role that bees and other pollinators play in ecosystems, food production and the economy; believes that this study adds further weight to the already strong case for a ban on pesticides containing neonicotinoids and other compounds that might harm insect pollinators, and supports the Scottish Wildlife Trust’s campaign for a moratorium on the use of neonicotinoids on crops in Scotland.

S4M-04517 Alison Johnstone: Fair Access to Education for Looked-after Children—That the Parliament recognises what it considers to be the continued good work of the Care Leavers Foundation and its initiatives such as National Care Leavers Week, which runs from 24 to 30 October 2012; commends the work and achievements of similar organisations in Scotland, such as Buttle UK and the Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland, and their continued efforts in promoting and enhancing the rights of looked-after young people and care

leavers; understands that 9 of Scotland's 17 universities have, or are working toward, the Buttle UK Quality Mark and encourages the others to aspire toward this; expresses dismay that, in its view, care leavers continue to be hugely under-represented in higher education, with just 2% of young people who enter higher education directly from high school coming from a looked-after background; endorses NUS Scotland's view that, while universities cannot do everything to achieve fair access, they can do a great deal more, especially for those from a looked-after background, and calls on the Scottish Government to work with all stakeholders to improve access to further and higher education by care leavers.

And the Government's Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee will meet to hear more evidence on the government's renewable energy targets this Wednesday morning at an especially early time of 8:00am.

The Reporter is an amateur when it comes to photography, but in the true sense of the word: someone who loves to take photographs and play with cameras! We are running a free photography tuition evening on 5 December 2012. Watch this space for more details but there will be only 20 spaces so feel free to apply now by email theedinburghreporter@gmail.com. It will be first come first served. You can also add your own photos to the [Edinburgh Reporter Flickr Pool](#). And today's photo is taken with the new lens....

Councillor Maureen Child tells us she has had many enquiries about food waste and how to do it. "I have been asked to explain why the advice has changed about what to use for lining your food waste bin. Plastic bags are now allowed. This is because the Council's contractors now have bag

splitters, at the front end of their recycling process, which first separates the food waste from the bags. Biodegradable bags, or food wrapped in newspaper are still fine. Some people don't want to use plastic bags and work hard to avoid using them. Other people were unhappy about the cost of buying bio bags. For the latter, recycling officers suggest reusing any plastic bags they have so as not to produce yet more plastic waste e.g. old supermarket carriers or sleeves from magazines. The additional technology, added by the contractors, means that residents have options. With the changes made to refuse collection so that the 'landfill collection' is now once a fortnight instead of weekly, have reduced the tonnage going to landfill by 25% compared to the month before, and reduced the landfill tax burden by that amount. There are still some difficulties with refuse collection, but I get the impression things are working out in more areas each week."

Edinburgh Trams appear to be making some progress, although that does mean that parts of the New Town have become a dual carriageway with increased traffic. From today there is some resurfacing in the city centre on North and South St David Street, and the council say this will last for approximately three weeks.

Two-way traffic will be maintained on North and South St David Street during these works, although St Andrew Square / George Street junction will be closed over approximately four nights to allow for essential night-time working on that area.



Convener of
Transport &
Environment –
Lesley Hinds


Councillor Lesley Hinds, Transport Convener, said:- “The carriageway surface on North and South St David Street is in a poor condition, so I’m pleased that we’ve been able to take advantage of this ‘window of opportunity’ before Princes Street reopens fully to get this sorted. It’s also sensible to get the work completed now before winter arrives. I know from personal experience that the uneven road surface has made bus journeys on North and South St David Street pretty uncomfortable of late, so I’m sure all road users – motorists, bus passengers and pedestrians – will be glad to see the road resurfaced.”

The resurfacing work has been financed through the Council’s Capital Roads Programme.

George McKendrick, Lothian Buses Operations Manager, said: “We appreciate the City of Edinburgh Council’s endeavours to improve the city centre road surfacing, which will enable Lothian Buses to improve the quality of our journeys for our passengers.”

For an update on progress with the tram line from the airport to York Place, watch the video below.

Police warn about mobile phone theft

 Police in Edinburgh are urging the public to take steps to secure their mobile phone against thieves.

Officers working on Operation Arable, an ongoing initiative aimed at tackling street robberies in the Capital, are asking

mobile phones users to sign up to the Immobilise database.

Immobilise is a free service where users register their mobile phone IMEI number. In the event that the phone is lost or stolen, the database can be immediately updated, and a notification sent to the National Mobile Property Register.

This means that police are better able to identify if a phone that comes into their possession is lost or stolen, and can return it to its rightful owner.

Detective Chief Inspector Gary Cunningham, from Lothian and Borders Police, said:- "Mobile phones, especially smart phones, are particularly attractive to thieves, and all contain personal and private information that makes their theft particularly worrying for victims.

"At present, there are potentially around 9000 lost or stolen phones in circulation in the Force area, and we are aware of criminal operations that provide an income for those who target mobile phone users.

"In recent weeks we have been successful in returning stolen devices to their rightful owners as a result of them being registered on the Immobilise database, and we are keen that as many people as possible take advantage of this service, which is completely free.

"Of course, you should always report the theft or loss of a mobile phone to the police, but by registering with Immobilise you are giving yourself a far better chance of your phone being returned to you, if it is recovered by officers.

"We would encourage anyone with a mobile phone to register their device on the Immobilise database, which can be accessed at www.immobilise.com."

Spend This Halloween At The Overlook Hotel

The Shining

Everybody knows The Shining. The story of a man driven to madness and murder while working as the winter caretaker at an isolated hotel in the Rocky Mountains is one of the most famous and influential horror films ever made. And now you get to see it the way you were meant to.

For the first time, cinemas across the country will be showing the US edit of the film, with an extra 25 minutes of previously removed footage. The BFI is behind the release of this new digital transfer, which gives us a deeper look into the tale of Jack Torrance and his psychic son, Danny.

This longer cut of The Shining has never been released in the UK before, either in cinemas or on home video (as it was called back then!) but if you have watched the film on ITV in recent years then the extra scenes will be familiar. Even so, this is an event that is not to be missed. Edinburgh's Filmhouse will be screening The Shining from this Friday, November 2nd, with special Halloween previews on 31st October. What better way is there to enjoy the spookiest night of the year than with the perfect scary movie?



Shine on, you crazy diamond

Directed by Stanley Kubrick from Stephen King's novel, The Shining stars Jack Nicholson as the iconic Jack Torrance, with Shelley Duvall, Scatman Crothers and Danny Lloyd.

The Filmhouse is also the only cinema in Scotland showing the fantastic documentary film Room 237, which explores some of the theories about hidden meanings within The Shining. Sounds like a perfect double feature to me.

Hit and run on Kirk Brae

✖ Lothian and Borders Police are appealing for information following a hit and run accident on Kirk Brae, Edinburgh in the early hours of this morning.

A 21-year-old man is currently in the city's Western General Hospital where he is being treated for serious injuries following the collision which happened just before 2am today.

He was on his own at the time and crossing Kirk Brae after being dropped off by a taxi when he was struck by another vehicle which did not stop.

Shortly after, another taxi driver came upon the young man lying on the road.

Police are appealing for any witnesses or anyone who has information about this incident to contact them.

Inspector Keith Denholm added:- "This pedestrian is suffering from possibly life-changing injuries. He was crossing Kirk Brae from west to east when he was hit by a vehicle between 1.50am and 2am today.

"Anyone who was in the area or who knows someone who was driving on Kirk Brae at that time is asked to get in touch"

The injured man was taken initially to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary before being transferred to the Western General

Hospital.

Those with information should call the Lothian and Borders Police on 01313113131 or the charity Crimestoppers on 0800555111


Heavy Horse on the M8 decorated with a poppy



The Heavy Horse statue on the M8 at Baillieston is wearing a specially-designed poppy to celebrate the 2012 Scottish Poppy Appeal, organised by veterans' charity Poppyscotland.

At an unveiling event at Glasgow Business Park, Army veteran and Scottish Poppy Appeal area organiser Ian Forsyth, 88, from Hamilton, inspected the Heavy Horse to check it will be properly attired before being visible to thousands of drivers every day over the next few weeks.

Following the success of the initiative in 2011, Poppyscotland was keen to display the poppy on the Heavy Horse again this year in order to enable as many people as possible to see the iconic emblem during its key fundraising period. The poppy has been created by the original sculptor, Andy Scott.

 Ian Forsyth, who served with the 15-19th Hussars in the Second World War, said: "I am very pleased to see this magnificent statue proudly wearing a poppy. The combination of a well-recognised landmark and an iconic symbol provides a great opportunity to raise awareness and support for the Scottish Poppy Appeal."

Poppyscotland uses money raised from the Scottish Poppy Appeal to provide year-round support to veterans and their families in Scotland, who may find it hard to make the adjustment from military to civilian life, struggling with issues such as

finances, housing and employment.

Photos by Mark Owens

Edinburgh v Scarlets, RaboDirect PRO 12, 26th Oct. 2012



Report and Photos – John Preece

A much better performance from a heavily criticised Edinburgh came within two minutes of securing the win in their latest RaboDirect match against league second place side, Llanelli Scarlets. 23 points from the boot of Man-of-the-Match, Harry Leonard, just failing to out-trump the four tries from the Welsh visitors.

Llanelli came close in the first few minutes, but a knocked-on ball stopped them getting too close to score the opener. Getting organised themselves, Edinburgh drove up the field from the restart and a fine display of passing and driving left the ball in the capable hands of Tim Visser who battered his way over from five metres out to score his ninth try of the season under the posts. Leonard slotted home his first kick of the evening and Edinburgh were 7-0 ahead after nine minutes. The Scarlets weren't to be outdone, however, as it took them less than five minutes to even the score. Getting the ball out wide inside the Edinburgh 22, they won a line-out close in and from the ensuing ruck, George North drove over to score the visitors opener. Aled Thomas scored with the kick to draw them level, but only for a few minutes as Leonard took the home side back into the lead with a penalty.

Straight from the restart, the Welsh team got hands on the ball and a break from scrum-half, Gareth Davies, handed the ball to Nick Reynolds who beat Tonks to the line to score their second. Another successful kick and it was 14-10 to Llanelli.

Not to be outdone in the kicking stakes, Leonard took the home team back into the lead with two more penalties before North appeared to don his 'Cloak of Untouchability' and ghosted through a flailing Edinburgh defence to score his second try of the night. It was a marvellous thing to see on the big screen – if you were Welsh – as three successive Edinburgh players completely missed touching, never mind pulling down, the giant winger. 19-16 to Llanelli. Another penalty from the on-form Leonard drew Edinburgh level again, before a final seconds' disaster struck the hosts. Fighting to keep the Scarlets out from close in, Ross Rennie ripped the ball clear, but the ensuing fumbling left the ball in the hands of Davies, who scrambled through to touch down. The referee went 'upstairs' for confirmation – which he received – and the kick put the Scarlets 26-19 ahead at the break.

✘ The second half started well for Edinburgh, coming close on a couple of occasions, but failing to get through the Welsh defence. Again, the boot was to dominate the scoring for the hosts, with Leonard missing his first, fairly long range kick, but scoring with another two to draw Edinburgh to within a point at 25-26, before, late on, the referee carded Llanelli's Davies for a ruck infringement in the 22. Sean Cox, captain on the night, choose to go for the kick rather than the lineout and again, Leonard came up with the goods. 28-26 to Edinburgh with 15 minutes of the match left.

The final period was littered with penalties for each side until, with two minutes to go, a bit of home team ruck mis-handling left Rhys Priestland with a relatively easy shot at goal. Job done and 29-28 to the Scarlets.

And that was it, game over. A better overall performance from

Edinburgh, with far fewer handling errors, but loose tackling 'gave away' at least two of the tries. So, still a 'work in progress', but they are building the makings of a very good team and the arrival of South Africa's Izak van der Westhuizen can only help matters. With both Scottish teams having the 'burden' of being National side feeder teams removed, the potential is now there to progress up the order. Only if they can nail the tackles, though...

Web – <http://www.photoboxgallery.com/jlp-photography>

Two things you need to know today



Dusherra – Tonight at The House @42

Dusherra will be celebrated for the 18th year running in Edinburgh on the 28th October 2012. Scottish Indian Arts Forum (SIAF) is grateful for the sponsorship and support of The City of Edinburgh Council and Scottish Hydro for this years' event.

The organisers say that they are proud that they have managed to keep the festival free for its visitors. [More details here.](#)

Douglas Robertson offers tango this evening. Bit racy for a Sunday!

He says:-“Tango fans and lovers of great Latin music should put the above date into their diary as that’s when [Tanino Duo](#) land at the House. For the uninitiated Tanino is a two-piece outfit combining the superlative talents of Fernando A. Sanchez on guitar and Santiago Álvarez on chromatic harmonica. These guys are coming all the way from Argentina to play at the House (and other UK venues of course) and we couldn’t be happier. They are both highly trained experts in tango and Argentinian folk music who promise a fabulous listening experience. For those of you who like to dance we’ll make room for that too.”

Contemporary Japanese Textiles Exhibition Opens at Dovecot



A contemporary Japanese Textiles Exhibition has opened in the Dovecot Studios, Infirmary Street until 24 November 2012. The designs are by Nuno Textiles, whose designer, Reiko Sudo, is at the forefront in the creation of new innovative cloths made from things like fishing line and telephone wires. Sustainability is at the heart of Nuno’s designs and in the materials that it uses with the help of cutting edge technology.

Ms Sudo has been in the company for the last 25 years and is renowned in Japan as well as in many other parts of the world. Nuno works with textile producers to create designs that reflect the importance of cloth for protecting and adorning the body as well as creating social wellbeing.

This exhibition is well worth a glance if you have a spare thirty minutes. Viewers can feel some of the fabrics from the dresses which are displayed on the walls. A large part of this is a real education and shows what can be done.

If you have an interest in textiles and fabrics, this exhibition is not to be missed.



Preview: Haddow Fest is on this Sunday

✖ Edinburgh is bracing itself for the return of the city's annual Haddow Fest tomorrow.

Over 50 artists take part in the one-day music festival, with a mixture of unsigned and established acts set to play across six of the city's best venues.

Haddow Fest is now entering its third year and is organised by local band The 10:04's, with the boys pulling off a major coup by bagging The Crips to top the bill. The Wakefield three-piece will be playing the headline slot at HMV Picturehouse (21:30), with the band having recently picked up a Q Award as well as receiving huge critical acclaim for their last album.

Stevie Bolton, singer and guitarist in The 10:04's, told The Edinburgh Reporter about his excitement at securing the band:- "The Crips are the band who probably influenced us more than

anyone when we started. We all had different influences but The Cribs were the middle ground, they were the band that we all liked and whose music we could relate to, so collectively there's probably no band on the planet we'd rather share a stage with.

"We've tried to get them every year since Haddow Fest started so to have them play this year is amazing."

Other venue headliners include new-rave luminaries Hadouken! (The Bongo Club) and popular Glasgow four-piece Kassidy (The Liquid Rooms).

Bolton is also confident that Haddow Fest has the potential to go on to even bigger and better things in the future. "We'd like to keep growing in quality year after year. We don't want to just do the same thing with the same bands time after time.



"Edinburgh has a lot of great venues that we haven't used yet like the Corn Exchange, Usher Hall, Playhouse so there's plenty to expand into if the right bands are available. It would still be a festival very much centred around new Scottish music whatever venues we use."

Bands will be performing from 13:30 at The Caves, Whistlebinkies, The Bongo Club, The Liquid Rooms, Maggie's Chamber and in the evening at HMV Picturehouse.

Tickets will be available to buy on the day from the official bus in The Three Sisters courtyard or in advance at . All tickets must be exchanged at The Three Sisters bus for a wristband or at HMV Picturehouse from 18:30.

<http://haddowfest.co.uk/>

<http://www.facebook.com/haddowfest>

Big Country in Hard Rock Pinktober Triumph

✖ Legendary Scottish Rock band Big Country played an acoustic gig at Edinburgh's Hard Rock Cafe on Thursday night in support of Pinktober which is raising awareness of Breast Cancer and saw all proceeds raised going to the Caron Keating Foundation.

The Line-up Bruce and Jamie Watson, Mark Brzezicki, Mike Peters and recently recruited former Simple Minds and Propaganda bassist, Derek Forbes, played a full set in front of 200 people who were all there to see Big Country, but also to raise funds for Pinktober.

The band came on stage to thunderous applause and cheers from a crowd that were appreciative from the start, and Big Country seemed to feed off this as they burst into Harvest Home. What followed were some absolutely classic Big Country numbers such as Chance, Fields of Fire, Wonderland and of course the rousing 'In a Big Country' among other great songs like 13 Valleys, Fragile Thing and a brilliant Porrohman. The crowd lapped up every note and every word the band threw at them.

Hard Rock staff had done a great job in pulling off such an event, even if it was for one night only.

I admit to being a massive Big Country and Alarm fan, so I felt privileged when I got the chance to speak to Bruce and Jamie Watson and Mike Peters, as well as Hard Rock Director Brant Coulter who had flown over from Chicago to see his heroes perform.

This is what they all had to say.

[Interview with Brant Coulter Hard Rock Cafe Director and huge Big Country Fan.](#) by [Basher1969](#) on [Mixcloud](#)

[Interview with Bruce and Jamie Watson](#) by [Basher1969](#) on [Mixcloud](#)

[Interview with Mike Peters](#) by [Basher1969](#) on [Mixcloud](#)

It was a fantastic night and thousands of pounds were raised for The Caron Keating Foundation.

<http://www.bigcountry.co.uk/>

<http://www.thealarm.com/>

Edinburgh Napier University Media Mondays to discuss Savile and BBC

✖ The BBC's handling of investigations into shamed presenter Jimmy Savile will come under the spotlight next week as part of a [new series of public talks](#) at [Edinburgh Napier University](#).

Val Atkinson, a former deputy Head of News and Current Affairs at BBC Scotland and Ray Snoddy, former Media Editor of The Times, will discuss the corporation's fight for its reputation at the university's Merchiston Campus on Monday 29 October 2012.

The special event will be held from 1-2pm in Room H5 of Merchiston Campus, and is part of the university's recently launched [Media Mondays series](#).

The public talks will see well-known members of the media debating the big issues of the day and are free and open to

all.

Lined up for later this year are the journalists who broke and led on the story behind the demise of Rangers – BBC Scotland investigative reporter Mark Daly and Alex Thomson of Channel 4 News. They will appear at Merchiston on 19 November 2012.

They will be joined in the coming months by STV's head of programmes, Alan Clements, on 5 November 2012 at Merchiston, and Newsnight presenter Kirsty Wark on 3 December 2012 at the university's Craighouse Campus).

Other speakers planned for later in the year include BBC lawyer Rosalind MacInnes, who will give a tour of Scottish media law on 26 November 2012.

Broadcast journalism lecturer John Mair, who created the Media Mondays series, said:- "This is precisely where Edinburgh Napier needs to be – slap bang in the middle of contemporary big questions in the media.

"The Savile story has dominated headlines and the BBC now finds itself in the midst of a deep crisis over Savile and the human and reputational fallout stemming from his sexual proclivities. Monday's session will look at where the corporation goes from here."

Diane Maclean, Head of Journalism at Edinburgh Napier, added:- "The Media Mondays series gives our students as well as the public the opportunity to listen to and meet the masters of the trade of journalism.

"We have a long history of training journalists at Edinburgh Napier and we want the university to be a cradle of public debate around all the big media issues in the lead up to 2014 and beyond."

For more information about the Media Mondays series please contact John Mair on 07785

378156, email j.mair@napier.ac.uk or
visit www.screenacademyscotland.ac.uk/mediamondays

Mental Health Information Day event in Edinburgh

Mental health event to raise awareness in Edinburgh

An interactive event aimed at raising awareness of mental illness and the stigma surrounding it will take place in Café Camino in Edinburgh on Monday 29 October 2012 from 1.30pm – 4pm.

The Mental Health Information Day has been organised by NHS Lothian in partnership with Health in Mind, Advocard and Edinburgh Carers Council.

Carers and people who have been affected by mental illness are invited to come along and find out more about the services available to them, talk to staff and learn how to manage their condition.

Jane Sutherland, Lead Occupational Therapist, NHS Lothian, said: “I would urge people to come along to this event and find out more about what services are available to them.

“The purpose of the day is to assist in raising awareness of mental illness and to reduce the stigma which still surrounds it. Participants will have an opportunity to talk to a wide range of staff from various projects including NHS Lothian and social work colleagues.

“There will be nurses, a psychiatrist, a psychologist and occupational therapy staff, all happy to discuss things in

relation to mental illness.”

As well as getting your fitness checked on a rowing machine, thanks to Edinburgh Leisure. The event will also offer an alternative therapy taster session, including massage.

There will also be an opportunity to get information on benefits and education opportunities.

Linda Irvine, Strategic Programme Manager, Mental Health and Wellbeing, NHS Lothian, said:- “This is an excellent event for people who want to find out more information about what is available to them within their local community.

“The event will also help to build stronger links between services and service-users and I would encourage people to come along on the day and find out more.”

Major road disruption on A90 to continue into weekend

UPDATE:-Lothian and Borders Police can advise motorists that disruption on the A90 Northbound, near Cramond Brig, is less than initially feared.

Following a collision earlier today fuel leaked onto the road. As a result a localised traffic management system is in place and is expected to remain in place over the weekend.

In due course, resurfacing work will be required on the roadway

Earlier today the police issued this notice:-

Lothian and Borders Police are warning motorists of significant road disruption on the A90 Northbound, near Cramond Brig, following a road collision.

At around 10am today a coach struck a piece of debris, causing its fuel line to sever and fuel to leak out onto the road.

Major resurfacing work is now underway and is anticipated this will continue over the weekend.

This will impact upon the flow of traffic along the A90 during this time.

Motorists are urged to avoid the road if possible and consider alternative routes.

Giant Poppies alert!



Giant red poppies have been painted on the famous grass pyramids at Junction 3a on the M8 motorway to celebrate the 2012 Scottish Poppy Appeal.

A team of ground staff from the Scottish Rugby stadium, Murrayfield, have painted three poppies, each measuring 10m x 10m, on the front of three of the seven pyramids near Bathgate, owned by the nearby Pyramids Business Park. The stunning red emblems will be visible for the next few weeks to raise awareness of the Appeal, run by veterans' charity Poppyscotland.

Following the success of the initiative in 2011, Poppyscotland

decided to display the poppies again this year in order to enable as many people as possible to see the iconic emblem during its key fundraising period.

Ian McGregor, Chief Executive of Poppyscotland, said: "When we introduced the poppies on the pyramids last year we received a tremendous response. Having poppies in such a prominent position on Scotland's busiest motorway meant that thousands of drivers saw them every day. It was so successful that we decided to do it again in 2012. Importantly, it raises awareness and support for the Scottish Poppy Appeal, which brings in vital funds to enable us to provide essential support to Scotland's Armed Forces community."

A Scottish Rugby spokesman added: "Our ground staff are very experienced and they were up for the challenge of painting on to a surface slightly steeper than the pitch at Murrayfield! We were delighted to get involved in this initiative to support Poppyscotland and raise awareness of the 2012 Scottish Poppy Appeal in a way that will create a stunning visual impact."

Poppyscotland uses money raised from the Scottish Poppy Appeal to provide year-round support to veterans and their families in Scotland, who may find it hard to make the adjustment from military to civilian life, struggling with issues such as finances, housing and employment.

The paint and machinery to apply the poppy design to the pyramids has been provided at a discounted cost by Linemark UK.

Lothian Buses introduce greener buses



Lothian Buses plc announced the introduction of five new single deck vehicles on the East Lothian Buses 113 service today.

Displaying a distinctive new livery, which takes its inspiration from the former Eastern Scottish Bus Company, the buses are not only green on the outside but green underneath too. Featuring a modern Euro V emissions standard exhaust the buses emit considerably lower levels of air pollutants than the buses previously used on the route. They are also more fuel efficient meaning that the carbon footprint of the route will be much lower. Lothian Buses were recently been voted Best Large Green Company of the year at the 2012 Scottish Green Awards, and these buses are a further step towards the company's ongoing commitment to delivering environmentally friendly public transport.

Ian Craig, Managing Director of Lothian Buses, commented:- "After four months in operation, we are delighted to be able to build on the current service we provide by making improvements for our customers. Our investment in new vehicles for this route shows our continued commitment to the people of East Lothian and to the local environment."

The essential rural service also benefits from an improved timetable, which will include the introduction of an earlier morning journey from Pencaitland, an extra evening journey from the Western General Hospital and evening journeys extended to the West End from Fredrick Street. With the re-

opening of the East End the service now provides a faster link to the city centre via Waterloo Place and Regent Road.

Ian Craig added:- “We are delighted with growth on the route over the past few months and hope that the service 113 will continue to meet the needs and requirements of the local community.”

The launch of the new vehicles took place at the historic Winton House in Pencaitland, East Lothian.

Iain Gray, MSP for the East Lothian constituency, said: “The investment in new vehicles and a new livery is a welcome sign of the commitment Lothian Buses is making to East Lothian and to the communities of Pencaitland and Ormiston in particular. I am sure that the new buses will be warmly welcomed by passengers and I am also pleased to see the addition of an earlier journey in the morning from Pencaitland. I know there has been demand for such a journey and I am delighted that Lothian Buses has responded to that. Those of us old enough to remember the old county bus colours will feel a pang of nostalgia as these buses travel through East Lothian.”

For full information on the East Lothian Buses and timetables please visit www.eastlothianbuses.com

Photo Rob McDougall

Five things you need to know

today



Breakfast networking – Tonight in a cinema near you – Tonight at The Usher Hall – Tonight at The Filmhouse – Tonight at the Queen's Hall

No Excuses Chooses breakfast networking event takes place on Thursday 1 November, 8-9.30am. Places are limited, so if you would like to attend, please RSVP as soon as possible, to make your booking.

The format is informal networking between 8-8.30, followed by two speakers between 8.30 and 9am. One of the speakers provides tips from their area of business expertise and the other tells attendees about their business or the company they work for. Next it's a brief introduction round, followed by more informal networking, until 9.30am.

They promise that they have great speakers lined up for the next event and you would also be very welcome to be a speaker at a future No Excuses Chooses – please just register your interest by emailing info@noexcusesedinburgh.com.

Venue details will be confirmed to all RSVPs and the group will be meeting at a stylish city centre location. Attendance is free to members. The cost to visitors is £5 in advance or £10 on the day if attending for the first time. Otherwise it costs £10 in advance or £15 on the day.

The latest Bond offering directed by Sam Mendes opens in the UK today. Skyfall stars Daniel Craig, who some say is the best Bond ever. We would love you to write your own reviews of the film using our Submit a Story section which you will find [here...](#)

And just in case you have forgotten to pre-book the seats for you and all your friends here is the trailer to keep you going meantime:-

The RSN0 plays Sibelius tonight at The Usher Hall. [More details about tickets here.](#) There is a pre-concert talk at 6.45pm with conductor Thomas Søndergård in conversation with Ursula Heidecker Allen (RSN0 Violin).

Meanwhile tickets for a concert featuring Scottish singer, Emeli Sandé, go on sale today from 9a.m. The concert is in April 2013.

Today's photo of Emeli Sandé was taken at Edinburgh Castle by photographer John Bryden during the Olympic Torch relay concert.

Room 237 at the Filmhouse – A must-see for any film-fanatic, this promises to be an insightful documentary. “*Room 237* dissects Stanley Kubrick’s *The Shining* in amazing and unexpected ways, looking at a host of conspiracy theories around secret codes and messages supposedly hidden within the film.”

Find more details and screening times [here](#).

Scottish National Jazz Orchestra, directed by Tommy Smith with Brian Kellock on piano tonight at the Queen’s Hall. This is what they say on their website:-

“[Edward Kennedy Ellington](#) was a unique contributor to 20th century music. Composer, pianist, band leader – he reached out and touched a worldwide audience in a fashion that may never

be equalled. His music was evocative and emotional, richly textured in mood, lyrical simplicity through to dense complexity. There were songs and suites, tone poems and the blues.

Ellington's legacy is vast, covering six decades and all types of jazz composition. Scottish National Jazz Orchestra – winners of Best Jazz Ensemble at the 2012 [UK Parliamentary Jazz Awards](#) – have chosen a variety of pieces spanning Ellington's output with which to pay their respects.

This concert will include works like *Happy Go Lucky Local*, *Sepia Panorama*, *Concerto For Cootie*, *Overture from The Nutcracker Suite*, *Sunset & The Mocking Bird* and *Le Sucrier* from *The Queen's Suite*, *Never No Lament* and five movements from the *Peer Gynt Suite*.

Pre-concert Talk, 6.45 pm (free to ticket holders): Members of the SNJO discuss Ellington's work and legacy." [Tickets here.](#)

Stop Climate Chaos demonstration at Scottish Parliament today



Get your Act together!

From Climate Act to Climate Action demonstration at Scottish Parliament took place earlier today.

Campaigners gathered round 'Alex Salmond' outside The Scottish


Parliament calling on him to 'Get his Act together!' on climate change. This is in response to news that the first emissions reduction target set under the 'world-leading' Scottish Climate Change Act has been missed. You can find out more about the work of Stop Climate Chaos [on their website.](#)

In the photo are (from left): Gail Wilson, Kieran Taylor and Joanne O'Neil with John Sharp as 'Alex Salmond'.



Photography from: Colin Hattersley Photography
– colinhattersley@btinternet.com – www.colinhattersley.com –
07974 957 388

Opinion – Ian Murray MP on Salmond, the SNP and the EU

 The last couple of days have demonstrated something fundamental with the question of separation – the SNP can't answer the fundamental questions about Scotland's future.

Ripping up the most successful social and political union in the world cannot be justified if the First Minister cannot be trusted and the SNP cannot answer basic questions.

I have been told time and time again by various elected members of the SNP that Scotland would remain in the EU at separation, and that would mean that there would be no

obligation to take the Euro and all the other conditions of accession. But how would they know this if they have no legal advice?

Let's, for this purpose, give the First Minister the benefit of the doubt in the sense of the Ministerial code, but there are a number of things that do not add up even if we are generous to him:

1. If the First Minister was abiding by the Ministerial Code why did he tell Andrew Neil from the BBC that he had sought advice from his legal officers? This, in itself, breaches the very code he is now hiding behind.
2. Why spend thousands of pounds of tax payers money in Court to prevent The Scottish Government from having to say whether any advice actually existed when it didn't, even after the Information Commissioner said it should be released? They could have just said nothing existed.
3. How can the Ministerial Code even come into play if nothing has been asked for?
4. Why make wild assertions about a separate Scotland's relationship with the EU if they didn't know? This is a similar situation with the Scottish Government claiming a seat on the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee if they kept the pound – but they haven't asked. Removing nuclear weapons from Scotland before joining NATO – but they haven't asked. Setting up a new national broadcaster via a licence fee but keeping all of the best BBC programming – but they haven't asked.

The evidence and Treaties of the EU are clear. The remaining United Kingdom will be in the EU as currently stands, and Scotland will have to apply to become a member. That application will be determined alongside the obligations of membership, which is written in the Treaties, that Scotland will have to take the Euro and will have to abide by the Schengen principles. Countries that are currently going through this accession process are having to abide by these

conditions.

That leaves 2 scenarios – a “separate” Scotland in the Euro with fiscal and social perimeters dictated by Berlin and Paris or a “separate” Scotland not in the EU so a foreign country to the rest of the UK and Europe with visas required to visit Newcastle. It just doesn’t make sense.

SNP MSP Jamie Hepburn said on national television that I had said that a separate Scotland would be in the EU – another blatant deception from the SNP. What I actually said was that I would think the EU would not block Scotland from being in the EU. This was in direct response to a question about a future separate Scotland applying for membership. Mr Hepburn has yet to apologise.

The First Minister, the SNP and Jamie Hepburn MSP have been disingenuous with the Scottish people on this issue, and it doesn’t bode well for the kind of campaign towards the 2014 referendum. The Scottish people deserve full disclosure of all the information to enable them to decide Scotland’s future. This episode shows that the Scottish Government cannot be trusted as they’ll make it up if they don’t like the answers.

Ian Murray is Labour MP for Edinburgh South. [He has a website](#) and issues a regular [electronic newsletter](#).

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RSNO win Arts and Business Scotland Awards



Scotland's national orchestra takes both honours in 'First in a Lifetime' category

The Royal Scottish National Orchestra's (RSNO) relationships with the corporate community were commended at the annual Arts & Business Scotland Awards ceremony yesterday evening at the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh. The Arts & Business Scotland Awards celebrate the best business and arts partnerships, and the RSNO won one category, was commended in the same category and was shortlisted for two further awards.

The RSNO both won, and was commended in, the *First in a Lifetime* Award, sponsored by Creative Scotland, for "a partnership that has aimed to take the arts to people and places where it doesn't normally go, or created arts opportunities for people who would not normally be engaged". The category win was for the Orchestra's partnership with TOTAL E&P UK Limited, Capital Solutions, Loganair and NorthLink Ferries in connection with its Out and About week in Shetland back in March. It was also commended for its partnership with Glasgow Airport for the impromptu performance of Ravel's *Boléro* in 2011. The Orchestra was shortlisted in two further categories.

The success follows the critically-acclaimed start to the Orchestra's 2012:13 Season and the arrival of new Music Director Peter Oundjian, as well as the recent launch of the high-profile Astar project, which will see every child born in Scotland over the coming year receive a specially-created recording featuring Scottish songs, nursery rhymes and children's favourite classical works to help new parents

communicate, play and rest with their new arrivals. This CD will mark the start of an offer from the RSN0 to form a relationship with these children throughout the rest of their lives.

RSN0 Chief Executive Michael Elliott: *"It is hugely gratifying to receive recognition for all the hard work and dedication our organisation has shown to bring about these projects. Our time in Shetland in March was an outstanding success, as was our flashmob performance at Glasgow Airport.*

"Another first, the Astar project, which we launched earlier this month, also has the potential to bring our music to tens of thousands of new families across Scotland.

"Without the support of our key partners we would not have the scope to challenge the boundaries of what arts organisations can achieve. It is testament to the strength of our corporate relationships that we have the ability to be bold, innovative and creative in sharing our passion for music."

The RSN0 has a history of recognition with the Arts & Business Scotland Awards. Since 1988 the Orchestra has received seven awards and been commended or highly commended fourteen times. In 2008, former RSN0 Chair Tom Thomson received the coveted Arts & Business Scotland Award for Leadership and in 2006 the Orchestra's partnership with TOTAL E&P UK Limited was recognised by receiving the Arts & Business Scotland Brand Identity Award.

Bollywood actor honoured by

Edinburgh Napier University



Bollywood star Sharmila Tagore is being honoured for her outstanding contribution to Indian cinema by a Scottish University.

The award-winning star, who is the great grand-niece of acclaimed Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore, is to receive an Honorary Doctorate of Arts from Edinburgh Napier University.

Sharmila will join leading figures from the worlds of foreign affairs, business and education to collect the award at a ceremony on Thursday 25th October at The Usher Hall.

The honour comes just months after the University's [Institute for Creative Industries](#) opened The Scottish Centre for Tagore Studies (ScoTs), the first centre of its kind in the UK dedicated to Rabindranath Tagore's legacy.

With a glittering career spanning six decades, Sharmila has won National Film Awards and Filmfare awards, the equivalent of The Oscars, for her performances and last year picked up the Special Award for Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema from the International Indian Film Academy.

The acclaimed actress will receive her honorary degree alongside around 1000 Edinburgh Napier students who are set to graduate at the autumn ceremony.

The other Edinburgh Napier University honorary degree recipients are:

- **Anil Kumar Anand:** former Consul General of India in Edinburgh. He will receive an Honorary Doctorate of the University.
- **Geoff Day:** Director of Communications for Mercedes-Benz

USA and former BBC journalist. He will receive an Honorary Doctorate of Business Administration.

- **Robert Rankin:** former Deputy Dean, Edinburgh Napier University. He will receive an Honorary Fellowship.

✖ Sharmila Tagore said: “It is indeed a privilege to be conferred an Honorary Degree by Edinburgh Napier University. It recognises the significant influence of Indian Cinema on the global cultural arena and the small role that I have played in its history. As we celebrate a hundred years of Indian Cinema, this is both a happy and humbling moment.”

Anil Anand said: “I am deeply moved and humbled to receive this honorary doctorate from such a prestigious educational institution. It is an overwhelming gesture which I am very proud to accept.”

Geoff Day said: “My years at Edinburgh Napier University gave me the foundation in business, social and life skills to be able to have built my career in the UK and now in the USA. I couldn’t be more proud to receive this Honorary Doctorate from a great University with great staff and the best students!”

Robert Rankin said: “I was surprised and delighted to be awarded an Honorary Fellowship by Edinburgh Napier University. It’s both a pleasure and an honour to round off my time at the University in this way.”

Professor Dame Joan Stringer, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Edinburgh Napier University, said: “We are very pleased to be able to recognise figures who have made such significant contributions to the fields of culture, foreign affairs, business and education. Their achievements and passion are an inspiration to our students.”

New photo exhibition by Albie Clark at the Institut français d'Ecosse

The Institut français d'Ecosse hosts a new photos exhibition showcasing the work of Albie Clark for the Institut's Festivals 2012 programme.

The various Edinburgh festivals say a lot about the vitality of the cultural scene in Scotland, featuring artists from all over the world as well as talents living right next door.

As an institution deeply rooted in the Scottish cultural landscape, the Institut français d'Ecosse has always participated in the festivals' excitement, as a supporter and a venue.

In the summer 2012, the Institut hosted theatre shows (more than 160 performances), film screenings, talks, social events and parties for the Festival Fringe, the International Festival, the Book Festival and the Fashion Festival.

Edinburgh-based photographer Albie Clark spent spent hours in the nooks and crannies of the Institute's building to capture the images – on and behind the stage – of a vibrant and very French festivals venue before it all vanished.

From 15 November to 19 January 2013

Institut français d'Ecosse, 13 Randolph Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7TT

Mon – Fri 9.30 am – 6.30 pm

Sat: 9.30 am – 1.00 pm

Admission free

A catalogue is published to accompany the exhibition and introduce a generous selection of Clark's photos, with

introductions by Fiona Hyslop MSP, Jonathan Mills, Nick Barley, Kath Mainland and Vincent Guérin 44 pp / £10

For more information, please visit <http://www.ifecosse.org.uk/changement-de-decor> or call 0131 225 5366

Submitted by [Vanessa Bismuth](#)

