

The Papal Visit 16th September

There is information about traffic arrangements on the Traffic Scotland website [here](#) and information about the public transport system [here](#)

The City of Edinburgh Council has information about the visit [here](#)

Information about the St Ninian's Day Parade is [here](#)

There is information about the whole visit to the UK [here](#)

So don't blame us if you don't know what is happening and get caught in traffic!

Freshers and Food

✖ The Food4life campaign starts again this month to promote healthy eating and food safety messages to young adults.

The project which is run by the City of Edinburgh Council and supported by both Scotmid and NHS Lothian, aims to raise awareness of food safety issues in young adults in Edinburgh, as well as linking food safety messages to healthy eating issues.

The key messages of the Food4life project are that food can be prepared cooked and stored in a safe manner by following a few simple rules and that cooking healthy food can be cheap easy and fun.

Stands are being run at the freshers' fayres for Heriot Watt, Napier, and Edinburgh Universities, and Telford College from Tuesday 7 September through to 14 September. Scotmid are supplying fruit and vegetables, including some tasters, and prizes for students completing a simple food safety quiz. Food4life leaflets which include tips on safe food preparation and healthy eating, and some simple delicious healthy recipes will be distributed at the fairs.

Cllr Robert Aldridge, Environment Leader, said: "We should never be complacent about food safety. If students, often leaving home for the first time, follow a few simple rules they can protect themselves and get the most from their diet. "The Council are delighted to be taking part in these public information events which aim to highlight the simple common sense steps people can take to avoid getting ill and the benefits of a healthy diet."

Malcolm Brown head of Communications for Scotmid said: "Scotmid is delighted to be supporting the Food4life campaign for the seventh consecutive year. For many young adults, going to university or college is their first time away from home and the first time they are expected to cook for themselves. The messages of the Food4life campaign are therefore vital to ensure they eat healthily and safely."

Contact details if anyone wants to receive free copies of the leaflet? If so email healthimprovement@edinburgh.gov.uk or 0131 529 3030.

Witness appeal

Lothian and Borders Police are appealing for witnesses following an alleged assault in a nightclub in Edinburgh in

the early hours of Sunday morning.

A 19-year-old man suffered a broken jaw in the incident in the Liquid Rooms, in Victoria Street, between 1-1.15am.

A 20-year-old man has been arrested and charged in connection with the incident, and was released on undertaking to appear at court at a later date.

A police spokesperson said: 'There would have been a number of people in the area at the time of this incident, and we are asking anyone who may have seen what happened to come forward.'

Women encouraged into technology

Some of Scotland's biggest businesses will, on Tuesday 7th September, launch a group to encourage more women to take a leading role in the technology sector where women account for just one in five of the workforce.

Businesses, including Cisco, Dell, IBM, HP, Scottish Enterprise and Oracle, will launch the Scotland Women in Technology group at IBM's Greenock site.

Keynote speaker, Lena Wilson, Chief Executive, Scottish Enterprise, will address the meeting under the subject of 'inspiring role models'. Eileen Brown, Chairwoman of Intellect Women in Technology group, and CEO of Amastra, a key advocate for the advancement of women in technology, will discuss the benefits of networking with the group.

The aim of Scotland Women in Technology is to attract, inspire, empower and retain women by developing a community and network to help grow women's contribution in IT businesses. It is intended the group will grow to include more females from other business in Scotland.

Nicola Sturgeon, Deputy First Minister of Scotland, and Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, is supporting the new group and said, "I support and encourage the development of women in industry and the opportunity to share experience and examples of good working practice in the promotion of issues which impact on women.

"Through good working practices, Scotland Women in Technology will contribute to, and benefit from, an efficiency and understanding of practical working which can only be a positive step for the future."

The group is the brainchild of Silka Patel, an executive assistant at Cisco. Silka was involved with a similar group in London and could see the benefits of encouraging women into technology in Scotland too.

Silka Patel commented:

"Technology businesses really encourage flexible working styles that are more family friendly and very productive. For example, my line manager is based overseas, but I can communicate and work with him effectively using technology. This has been a real benefit at the moment as I am six months pregnant!"

"This sector is a brilliant place for women to work and progress, yet we are very much in the minority. With this group we hope to encourage more women into this exciting area, to develop their skills and so maximise the contribution to our economy."

In Scotland, women still account for less than 20% of the

workforce in science, engineering and technology. This is despite the flexible working styles, career and economic opportunities this sector represents. In the UK 1.2 million people are employed in the IT workforce, so has doubled since the early 1990s, yet the representation of women has steadily declined and continues to do so.

Interestingly although females taking IT related qualifications in secondary education are low in number, they consistently outperform their male counterparts. The supposition is that if females were more inclined to participate in IT careers then the pool of talent available to IT employers might improve noticeably, with a positive effect on the economy.

The ICT industry is key to our economy in Scotland. According to eskills, fully exploiting technology is the single most powerful lever the UK can employ to achieve a wholesale productivity gain right across the economy.

Lena Wilson, chief executive, Scottish Enterprise, said: "As a nation it's important that we encourage women to raise their aspirations and really grab the exciting opportunities that exist within IT and the wider technology sector. By offering this kind of support, SWiT can provide women with the mentoring and networking opportunities as well as the confidence and skills that are needed to take on a leading role in the technology sector.

"It's networks such as these that can help women build a successful career, think globally and really fly the flag for Scottish businesses."

As well as offering networking and mentoring opportunities amongst the members, the group will reach out to schools and universities to influence young women to consider a career in IT. Mentoring will be organised to assist young females already working in the sector to raise their aspiration and be

bold in their career plans.

Almost 100 women will attend the first conference. The event will also include a panel group with executive speakers from each of the member companies.

Linda O'Donoghue, IBM Greenock Site Executive, hosting the event, said: "It is recognised that we are seeing a gradual increase in the number of women appointed to Executive positions, but still there are barriers, real or perceived, in place for women looking to grow in the their career and reach the boardroom. The Scotland Women in Technology group will encourage women to build relationships and use those relationships to drive business opportunities and their careers

Duathlon won by locals

✖ The City of Edinburgh got what it hoped for this weekend when home-town girl, Catriona Morrison, stormed to victory at the 2010 GE Edinburgh ITU Duathlon World Championships. The senior men's race was dominated by the Belgians, who finished 1-2-3 with Bart Aernouts claiming the gold.

Gwen Jorgensen (USA) made the early running in the elite women's race as expected, but dropped back to the leaders before starting the tough seven lap bike course around Arthur's Seat.

Morrison was quick to form a lead in a pack that gradually whittled down to just two riders, herself and Sandra Levenez of France. It was Morrison that did all the work until she slowed to walking pace, forcing Levenez ahead of her with two laps remaining. On the final 5km run Morrison broke away and

was never caught, with time to celebrate her fourth Duathlon world title as she crossed the line in 2:02.48.

Levenez held on for silver, to repeat her finishing position from last year, and Felicity Sheedy-Ryan (AUS) was delighted with third.

Morrison said: 'I just made her (Levenez) do some work and I was hoping that her legs were more trashed than mine. It feels pretty good to be World Champion!'



The appearance of the Belgian men's team was greatly anticipated by the crowd. The late Benny Vansteelant won here last time duathlon came to Edinburgh for the 2007 ETU European Championships, and his brother, Joerie rode straight to the front of the bike leg and formed an impressive Belgian team with Bart Aernouts and Rob Woestenborghs.

On to the final run Aernouts and Woestenborghs broke away from Vansteelant. Sportingly Aernouts stayed with Woestenborghs as he faded on the final lap, but Woestenborghs pushed him forward as they approached the finish line and Aernouts took the win. Vansteelant held on for bronze with a 36 second cushion to Spain's Victor Morales in fourth.

Despite looking like a well drilled team, the Belgian's had never trained together prior to this event, but had planned to make a decisive move on the bike leg.

Aernouts said: 'I knew the course because I raced in 2007 when I was the U23 European Champion. To come back and win in the elites is a great moment for me'

Adam Bowden was the first of the eight GE Great Britain Team men racing. He finished seventh, with Richard Hobby tenth. Other British competitor's results are below.

The GE Great Britain Team had further success in the team events, winning women's gold and men's bronze. Morrison, Katie Ingram (who finished an impressive 6th) and Sophie Coleman combined for the women's overall title and Bowden, Hobby and Gunby made up the men's medal winning squad.

In the under 23 events there was more success for Great Britain with a win for Sophie Coleman in the women's race. Coleman was the World Junior Champion in both 2008 and 2009 and demonstrated that she is just as good over the longer distance Under 23 event.

It was team mate, Lois Rosindale who had set the early pace, but a dropped water bottle on the bike leg caused her to dehydrate on the run. However, she held on for an excellent silver medal. Alice Capone of Italy was third.

Coleman said: 'I just couldn't really believe it, after such a mixed year. To be able to come back and win this title in a new age group is cool.'

In the men's Under 23 event it was France's Etienne Diemunsch who claimed gold, actually crossing the line in eighth place overall as the elite and under 23 competitors raced together over the tough course.

Britain's Matt Gunby was second, winning an excellent silver medal in 1:54.27 and Oscar Vicente of Spain was third. Gunby said: 'I was just hanging on on the bike. I was surprised how quickly I got going on the run. I got the silver which is fantastic!'

In the junior events there were wins for Sofie Hooghe of Belgium and Uxio Abuin ares of Spain. Britain's Eli Thorogood was fourth in the women's event whilst David Bishop and Sam Chambers were 12th and 18th.

RESULTS

Elite Women:

1. Catriona Morrison (GBR) 2:02:47
2. Sandra Levenez (FRA) 2:03:05
3. Felicity Sheedy-Ryan (AUS) 2:06:14
6. Katie Ingram (GBR) 2:07:10

Elite Men:

1. Bart Aernouts (BEL) 1:50:22
2. Rob Woestenborghs (BEL) 1:50:24
3. Joerie Vansteelant (BEL) 1:50:30
7. Adam Bowden (GBR) 1:53:38
10. Richard Hobby (GBR) 1:54:16

Women's team event:

1. Great Britain
2. USA
3. Japan

Men's Team Event:

1. Belgium
2. France
3. Great Britain

Under 23 Women:

1. Sophie Coleman GBR 2:15:02
2. Lois Rosindale GBR 2:15:56
3. Alice Capone ITA 2:20:41

Under 23 Men:

1. Etienne Diemunsch FRA 1:53:33
2. Matthew Gunby GBR 1:54:27
3. Oscar Vicente ESP 1:56:01
5. Ritchie Nicholls GBR 1:57:44
7. Mark Threlfall GBR 1:58:41
10. Phil Wolfe GBR 2:04:42

Junior Women:

1. Sofie Hooghe BEL 1:12:44
2. Marjon Van der wansem NED 1:13:32
3. Liis-grete Arro EST 1:16:15

4. Elinor Thorogood GBR 1:16:55

Junior Men:

1. Uxio Abuin ares ESP 1:03:52

2. Michael Gosman AUS 1:04:02

3. Jose luis Cordova MEX 1:04:08

12. David Bishop GBR 1:04:48

18. Samuel Chambers GBR 1:06:58

What's on this week? – 6th September



Undergraduate open day at Edinburgh University on 6th and 26th September. Now that it is set to become more difficult to get a university place be sure to get along and find out all you can in advance of choosing where you might want to go.

Thrive for Business have a [business breakfast](#) on 7th September at 8.00am for you early birds at The Royal Scots Club. The theme is corporate social responsibility. They are also running a [networking drinks evening](#) on 9th September at 5.00 at The Apex Waterloo Hotel with an emphasis on franchising.

Dunedin Consort & Players are performing the B Minor Mass at St Mary's Metropolitan Cathedral, 61 York Place on 10th September. You can get tickets [here](#).

The Edinburgh Bookshop has a book club which meets on [Wednesday 8th September](#) at 7.30pm at the bookshop at 219 Bruntsfield Place. They are reading China Mieville, The City and The City. This is just one of the book clubs. Get in touch

to reserve your place.

The Scottish Storytelling Centre 43-45 High Street is hosting an evening on 8th September at 7pm called [Journeys](#). This is an informal evening of storytelling and song. Audience participation! Cost £4. Telephone 0131 556 9579 for more details.

Edinburgh's Guid Crack Club meets at 7.30pm at The Waverley Pub in St Mary's Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1SY. The club usually meets on the last Friday of the month but dates vary in July and December. Entry by donation £3.00. For information contact the Scottish Storytelling Centre on +44 (0)131 652 3272

Also at The Scottish Storytelling Centre there is an event on Friday 10th September at 7pm when Jan Sutch Pickard will tell her [Stories from a West Bank Village](#). £8 a ticket. Book by phone 0131 556 9579.

Are you a parent of a child attending Portobello High School? Then you may be interested in going along to a meeting on 7th September at the school at 7.00 pm

This will be an opportunity for parents from Portobello High School and its associated primary schools to come along to see the designs, hear more about how the proposed new school will operate and to discuss related educational and management issues. There are details of the proposal on the City Council website which you can access [here](#).

Portobello and Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership meet on Wednesday 8th September when project update will be on the agenda at this meeting to be held in the Hays Business Centre

Liberton and Gilmerton by-election takes place on Thursday 9th September.

At [The Royal Botanic Gardens](#) on Tuesday. After coffee, enjoy a

walk round the new Biodiversity Garden at the Gateway with David Mitchell and hear how the planting has been designed to demonstrate how plants evolved and the diversity of plant life.

The Edinburgh Allotments Show is on this weekend. 12th September 2010 at the Southside Community Education Centre from 13.00 to 15.00. You might even get the chance to buy some stuff there! More details here on [FEDAGA's site](#).

JCI Edinburgh are holding a Links @ Lunch event on 7th September. You can find out more [here](#).

Remember the [Farmers' Market](#) this Saturday from 9am till 2pm on Castle Terrace.

Colin Montgomerie at The National Library

The National Library of Scotland welcomed a star guest through its doors recently when 2010 European Ryder Cup captain Colin Montgomerie participated in a book signing event.

The Scottish golfing great has written the foreword for The Greatest Game, an entertaining new book written by Professor David Purdie and illustrated by Hugh Dodd, which takes a humorous look at our knowledge of the game and is a must for any golfer.

During his visit Colin Montgomerie also stopped by the library's current golf exhibition, which has proved so popular it has been extended by an additional four months and will now run until March 2011.

The exhibition – which was also recently visited by Sir Sean Connery – showcases some of the most iconic items in the history of the game, with over 200 items on display including letters, diaries, photographs, account books, portraits, trophies, written club records and museum artefacts dating as far back as the 15th century.

Copies of The Greatest Game are available to buy from the shop at the National Library of Scotland on George IV Bridge, Edinburgh – a limited number of signed copies are on sale.

Makars' court – new inscription to be unveiled

✖ A courtyard celebrating Scotland's rich literary heritage is set to welcome its newest inscription this weekend.

Makars' Court, which lies adjacent to the Writers' Museum, takes its name from the Scots word for a poet and is an evolving national literary monument.

The Court already boasts stones bearing quotations from 32 illustrious Scottish writers, from Sir Walter Scott and Dame Muriel Spark to Sorley MacLean and John Buchan.

The newest stone, being unveiled at a special dedication ceremony on Saturday, is in honour of James Allan Ford CB, MC (1920 – 2009). The inscription, taken from the final chapter of Ford's 1965 novel A Statue for a Public Place, reads:

"Sing out the silence, fill for ever and ever the emptiness"

Councillor Deidre Brock, Convenor of the Culture and Leisure Committee, said: "This poignant and uplifting inscription is a

very welcome addition to Makars' Court, which is a key landmark on the Old Town tourist trail. Scotland – and not least its capital city – has produced an extraordinary number of accomplished writers and Makars' Court is an excellent way of paying tribute to them and celebrating their work."

Paul Scott, past President of the Saltire Society and lifelong friend of James Allan Ford – they were contemporaries at the Royal High School and Edinburgh University – said: "James was a remarkable character. Having survived horrendous experiences in a Japanese POW camp (where his brother was tortured and executed), he wrote five very distinguished novels, the first two on the subject of the POW camp and the final three about Edinburgh. However, this was quite a long time ago and I fear the books have been more or less forgotten. No doubt his work will be rediscovered by a whole new audience now that he is being commemorated in Makars' Court."

Makars' Court was officially inaugurated by the late Iain Crichton Smith in August 1998. The Saltire Society selected twelve writers, ranging in date from John Barbour, who lived in the 14th century, to Sorley MacLean, who died in 1996. Each writer was commemorated by a quotation selected from his or her work which was inscribed in stone and set in the paving which leads from the Mound and the Lawnmarket approaches to the door of the Writers' Museum. Twenty other inscribed stones were added between October 2000 and June 2008.

New boss at City of Edinburgh Council

The City of Edinburgh Council has offered the post of Chief

Executive to Sue Bruce following the conclusion of short-list interviews by the recruitment committee. The appointment still has to be ratified by the Council at its meeting on 16 September.

Council Leader Cllr Jenny Dawe said: "It is essential that we have the right calibre of Chief Executive for what is a difficult, but rewarding, role at the best of times. We have had a strong field and a rigorous recruitment process. Sue has emerged from that as our preferred candidate and I am confident that her outstanding knowledge, experience and leadership will be a real asset to the Council as we deal with the budgetary and other challenges we face."

Ms Bruce said: "I am delighted to be recommended to Council as the preferred candidate. I have enjoyed and valued my time in Aberdeen greatly, however this would have to be regarded as the pinnacle of my career. Edinburgh is a great city and a major European capital, and I am looking forward immensely to applying myself to the role."

Further announcements on a start date and handover arrangements will follow.

Sue Bruce profile

Sue has worked in local government for more than 30 years, beginning her career in the education field. She was appointed to the Director role in East Dunbartonshire covering Education, Social Work, Housing and Cultural Services in 2000 and then Chief Executive in 2004.

Sue took up post as Chief Executive of Aberdeen City Council in December 2008. She has focussed on the complete restructuring of services and a review of service performance, governance, accountability and financial performance. The Council satisfied the requirements of audit and inspection bodies in July 2009 resulting in the removal of special measures status.

Her qualifications include:

- * Diploma in Youth Work and Community Service, Jordanhill College of Education
- * MPhil in Government, University of Strathclyde
- * LLB, University of Strathclyde
- * Certificate in Strategic Public Sector Negotiation, JFK School of Government, Harvard

She is 54 and married. Her interests include arts, reading and gardening, and is a fellow of the RSA (Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce).

In June 2010 she was the first public sector leader to receive the Prince's Ambassador in Scotland Award (see http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Councilnews/ci_cns/pr_ambassadorSue_030610.asp for details).

GE Edinburgh ITU Duathlon this weekend

The 2010 GE Edinburgh ITU Duathlon World Championships are set to take place this weekend. World titles will be contested at Edinburgh's iconic, and very hilly, Holyrood Park – one of the most challenging courses ever used for an ITU Duathlon World Championships, as confirmed by those athletes already at the race site.

The Edinburgh crowd will be hopeful of a home win from former World and European Champion, Catriona Morrison, who lives and trains in Broxburn, a few miles away from Holyrood Park. She has scored victories on the Ironman circuit this season, including Ironman Lanzarote – where she won despite stopping to help a fellow athlete who had dangerously crashed and then

waiting forty minutes by the roadside after her chain snapped.

Morrison will have to overcome the European Champion, Ruth Van der Meijden (NED) and runner-up Katie Ingram (GBR) from the ETU Duathlon European Championships in Nancy, France (1 May, 2010). Van der Meijden was also 4th at the ITU Duathlon World Championships in Concorde, USA, last year.

The 2009 defending champion, Vendula Frintova (CZE), is not racing this year, but runner up, Sandra Levenez (FRA) will be. The women's line up also includes Gwen Jorgensen (USA), an exceptionally fast runner and one to watch. She was second earlier this year at the World University Games Triathlon.

In the elite men's event Sergey Yakovlev (RUS) starts as number one based on his current world number one ranking. Manuel Del Corral Morales (ESP) is number two and was second at the ETU Duathlon European Championships this year in Nancy (FRA).

Damien Derobert (FRA) won silver behind the USA's Jarrod Shoemaker last year in Concord. Shoemaker is not racing as he will contest the ITU World Championships Grand Final in Budapest.

Bryan Keane will carry Ireland's hopes, the former professional cyclist turned triathlete was seventh at the recent ITU World Sprint Championships in Lausanne.

Joerie Vansteelant features in a strong Belgian team. Although the distance might not suit him, the former World Long Distance Duathlon champion will be one of the best known international names at the event. His late older brother, Benny, was one of the best duathletes the world has ever known.

The GE Great Britain men's team features Adam Bowden, who has successfully converted from athletics to triathlon through British Triathlon's trigold programme and recorded a second

place finish at the 2010 Geneva ITU Triathlon European Cup (15 August).

Local Scottish athlete, Ritchie Nicholls will race for the GB Great Britain team in the Under 23 event. He is a former European Under 23 triathlon champion, having beaten Alexander Brukhankov (RUS) in 2007.

The elite races will be preceded on Friday by the elite Paraduathletes race and on Saturday by amateur athletes racing for world duathlon titles in their age group. Scotland and Great Britain will be well represented alongside athletes from Spain, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, New Zealand and the USA.

Doors Open across Scotland

Every weekend in September, buildings across Scotland open up their doors to the public for free, coordinated nationally by the Scottish Civic Trust with support from Historic Scotland. Civic societies, local authorities, heritage and building preservation trusts act as area coordinators, and are supported by many thousands of volunteers.

Sites include private homes, never normally open for visits, contemporary architecture showcased for the first time and public buildings offering behind-the-scenes tours. It is now unthinkable that this annual event could be anything other than a huge success. However, when the idea was dreamt up 20 years ago, organisers were unprepared for its popularity.

The origins of Doors Open Days go back to a trip taken to Groningen in the Netherlands during September of 1989 by John Gerrard, then the Technical Director of the Scottish Civic Trust, and his wife. They happened to be visiting on the same

weekend that the local 'Open Monument Day' was planned and were enchanted and enthralled by what they stumbled upon. "Ancient almshouses, usually kept very private, could be visited, as could the grander parts of the old university", noted John, adding "a great mediaeval church resounded to brass band music and a sense of enjoyment seemed to pervade the whole town."

Enthused by this heady mixture of architecture, civic pride and fun, John proposed to the European City of Culture organisers that Glasgow, assisted by Glasgow Building Preservation Trust, pioneered their own version. Ayr, coordinated by the Kyle and Carrick Civic Society, joined in too and so in 1990, Scotland saw the first buildings take part in 'Doors Open Days'.

Highlights from that first year included the Port Authority responsible for the docks and shipping on the River Clyde whose opulent head office contains some magnificent interior decoration. The story goes that a director, when leaving the building on the day before the open day, causally reminded the caretaker that a few people might call in and it would be good to offer them a cup of tea. By the end of the following day the caretaker had admitted around 2000 inquisitive members of the public.

Such demand from the public signalled the beginning of what is now a 20-year-old event, one which has grown and developed to include all of Scotland's local authorities. As a concept the idea has also grown, with similar events organised in September throughout Europe under the banner of 'European Heritage Days', attracting some 20 million visits each year. North America, Australia and New Zealand run comparable programmes and canny tourists and day-trippers now time their visits to coincide with local events.

This September, with support from EventScotland, there are big plans to celebrate Doors Open Day's 20th anniversary and

encourage visitors to discover the architectural and historic gems around the country.

Highlights in 2010

Emergency Centre, Mackintosh Road, Inverness, IV2 3TX (4th September, 11am-3pm)

In 1941 an underground bunker was built for the RAF. Its purpose was top secret. Unknown to the pilots of enemy aircraft – through the technology of radar – their movements were being plotted beneath this unassuming hillside. Today, and still as little known, the bunker is used as the Highland Council's Emergency Centre.

The Private Telephone Museum, 1 Burn Road, Darvel, Ayrshire KA17 0AJ (4th and 5th September, 9am-5pm)

Housed within a mid-18th century bake house, this private museum contains a unique collection of telephone memorabilia dating from the early 1900's to the present. This labour of love documents by-gone technology and developments that have changed the world. Normally open by appointment only, during Doors Open Day visitors can meet the museum's owner and explore the collection at leisure.

Finish Timing Tower, Strathclyde Country Park, Hamilton Road, Motherwell, North Lanarkshire, ML1 3ED (11th September, 10.30am-5pm)

Built in 1985 by John Payne for the 1986 Edinburgh Commonwealth Games. Located on Strathclyde Loch at the Watersports Centre, the Finish Tower is the control centre for the timing of rowing regattas at Strathclyde Park. Tours will be available which will include the press and media areas and the control room for computerised timing.

Xscape, Kings Inch Road, Renfrew, PA4 8XQ (11th September, tours at 12noon, 1,2 and 3pm)

For the first time ever, Xscape is offering behind-the-scenes tours of the Centre to give visitors the opportunity to gain

some insight how this amazing venue runs. Opened in 2006, this 4 star visitor attraction has attracted over 11 million visitors through its doors. More than 30 businesses are contained under one roof including the UK's longest indoor real snow slope and loads of other leisure activities, restaurants and shops. To book a tour report to the ground floor centre atrium.

Masonic Temple, 85 Crown Street, Aberdeen, AB11 6EX (11th September, 10am-4pm)

Your chance to visit one of the finest purpose-built buildings devoted entirely to Freemasonry in Scotland. Highly ornate and beautifully decorated, the Temple will be open all day with members in attendance to answer your questions.

Musselburgh Links, Stables Pavilion, Musselburgh Racecourse, Linkfield Road, East Lothian, EH21 7RG (12th September, 12noon-4pm)

The Friends of Musselburgh Links warmly welcome you to the new Stables Pavilion where you can find out about the 'oldest golf course in the World'. The course was mentioned as early as 1672 by Sir John Foulis of Ravelston but Mary, Queen of Scots reputedly played here in 1567.

27 Kirkcaldy Coptic Orthodox Church Link Street, Kirkcaldy, Fife, KY1 1SE (St Marks) (12th September, 1-4pm)

This Coptic Orthodox church serves a congregation made up of more than eight nationalities from all over Scotland. In converting Inverleith Parish Church in 1994 wonderful hand painted icons from Egypt were inserted in a beautiful iconostasis (icon wall) which now dominates the interior of the church, producing an incredible golden contrast to the building's simple grey exterior. The Church will be open all afternoon with special guided tours at 1.30 and 3.30. Free Egyptian cuisine is offered from 12.30 after the morning service.

The University of Dundee, various locations, tours must be

pre-booked (18th September)

Explore some of Dundee's most important academic departments while taking in some fascinating history and architecture. Discover how the Book & Paper Conservation Studios preserve their world-class collection of archives; explore Hawkhill House, the home to the University's Museum Service; and meet the scientists who work at the College of Life Sciences.

Open Gates, Glasgow various locations (18th and 19th September)

For the first time, 11 of Glasgow's allotments are opening their green doors for a weekend of activities and tours. Glimpsed from trains, hidden behind walls, between tenement blocks and in odd corners of the cit, these oases help make Glasgow a 'Dear, green place'.

ScottsLand celebrations, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park (18th and 19th September)

This year, as part of the wider ScottsLand celebrations, a series of cultural and outdoor events will celebrate 200 years since Sir Walter Scott published *The Lady of the Lake*, which he set in the heart of the Trossachs. Open sites and trails will mainly be scattered through the Trossachs and the eastern part of the National Park. In true Rob Roy country at Balquhider a unique cluster of properties will be open, including the school house, the former library, now a tea room, and the Church. The church itself was built by David Bryce 1853 and Rob Roy's grave is a much-visited feature of its graveyard. More details about ScottsLand events at www.scottsland.co.uk.

Sumburgh Lighthouse Buildings, Sumburgh Head, Dunrossness, Shetland ZE3 9JN (18th and 19th September, 12noon – 4pm)

This A-listed building was designed by Robert Stevenson. It was Shetland's first lighthouse built in 1821 with additional buildings in the 19th century and 1905, perched atop the cliffs of Shetland's most southerly point, on a vital yet dangerous shipping route. A visit to the site will include a

tour of the engine room and the fog gear. The site of the building also offers stunning views and a wealth of seabirds.

5 Melville Street, Perth (25th September, 10am-3pm)

"Vulcan Works" at 5 Melville Street is a new building combining parts of both old and new structures. The building includes artist and architect studios with workshops and a living space. The frontage has a single large contemporary window, which is planned to house artworks and installations

The Caves and The Rowantree and the Upper Vaults, 8-12 Niddry Street South, Edinburgh EH1 1NS (26th September, 12noon to 3pm)

A visit to The Caves offers an exciting opportunity to see the restoration work to the vaulted sub-structures of Edinburgh's South Bridge. Rediscovered and excavated in the mid 90's, the rooms form a series of arches underneath the buildings on South Bridge and make for a unique venue steeped in history and atmosphere. Guided tours will run throughout the afternoon and the excavator will be on hand to answer any questions.

Theatre Royal, Shakespeare Street, Dumfries, DG1 2JH (25th and 26th September, 10am-4pm)

The Theatre Royal, Dumfries was built in 1792 and is the oldest working theatre in Scotland. Robert Burns and J M Barrie were both regular attendees (but not at the same time!). It is owned by the Guild of Players who bought it in 1959, saving it from demolition and is run on a voluntary basis by the members of the Guild. The Theatre is funded entirely by Guild membership subscriptions and by Box Office receipts. It does not currently receive any grant-aid towards running costs. Last year over 60 performances were held in the theatre, including wrestling, drama, musicals, and concerts.

Edinburgh is the UK's favourite city!

✖ Edinburgh has been voted favourite UK city in the prestigious Conde Nast Readers' Travel Awards 2010.

Edinburgh scooped the top spot with high scores across the board particularly for aesthetics/architecture (93.72) and user-friendliness (90.46).

Edinburgh came second in the same awards in 2009 with a total score of 90.88 and this year took the top spot with a total of 91.76. Readers were asked to score each city out of a maximum of 100 according to criteria such as service, culture and value for money.

No stranger to accolades, Scotland's Inspiring Capital was voted as one of the world's top ten cities by travel magazine Wanderlust in 2008 as well as voted as the UK's favourite city break destination by readers of Guardian/Observer for 10 years in a row.

Kenneth Wardrop, Chief Executive of Destination Edinburgh Marketing Alliance, (DEMA), the city's promotion body said:- "Not only has Edinburgh been highly commended by the Readers Travel Awards as a great place to visit, but we were recently awarded the second spot in *Britain's best university cities* by MSN Travel and the *Best small city of the future* for inward investment by Financial Times fDi magazine. "

Council Leader, Councillor Jenny Dawe, added: "This result is great news for the city and confirms what we all know: Edinburgh is a great place in which to visit, invest, live, work and study."

“The city truly has the best of everything; historic buildings and great atmosphere, a vibrant leisure and retail offering, abundant green space, outstanding schools and universities – the list goes on. Little wonder, then, that people continue to think of Edinburgh as a must-visit location.”

DEMA’s current marketing campaign, This is My Edinburgh, runs until 31st September. Featuring a mix of real-life Edinburgh residents – from a B-boy dancer, to a Warhol-inspired model – the This Is My Edinburgh campaign focuses on the contemporary and creative sides of Scotland’s majestic capital.

Doors Open Day 25th and 26th September

✖ This is a great opportunity to see inside some buildings which you may have admired before now but been unable to get into! The Cockburn Association in Edinburgh organise the scheme. This organisation was founded in 1875 by Lord Cockburn who wanted to protect the beautiful city of Edinburgh.

There are 78 buildings in Edinburgh taking part in the scheme. Details of all of them can be found [here](#). You can also suggest buildings to be included to The Cockburn Association. The criteria for inclusion are as follows:-

- * Buildings must be of architectural, historical, cultural, or contemporary significance.

- * Sites that are normally open to the public are expected to provide additional free activities on the day, such as behind the scenes tours, talks or exhibitions relating to the history or use of the building.

- * All sites are expected to make information about the building available to the public i.e information sheets or volunteers on hand who can answer questions.
- * Admission to the building, including the provision of any additional activities, must be free.
- * Doors Open Day is strictly non-commercial and the promotion of goods and services is strongly discouraged.
- * The organisation of fairs, jumble sales and other promotional events to coincide with the open day is strongly discouraged.
- * Buildings are encouraged to open from 9am – 5pm but special arrangements can be made for small, privately owned or sensitive sites to open by free pre-booked tour only, in the evening or for a shorter period of time.

Notwithstanding that one of the criteria is that the day is non-commercial, it seems inevitable that some local architects will use this opportunity to showcase some of their most recent or notable projects. So that must be why 7 Campbell Road is included? We shall leave it up to you to decide!

Edinburgh University lecture series

A series of lectures from Edinburgh University focussing on the challenges facing the world. Distinguished speakers deliver the free lectures. Book your place online [here](#).

The lectures will be held on Tuesday evenings, from 6.30pm to

7.30pm in Lecture Theatre 4, Appleton Tower, 11 Crichton Street, Edinburgh, EH8 9LE except for the final lecture to be given by Jon Snow on Friday 19 November.

Global challenges: the perfect storm?

Tuesday 28th September 2010, 6.30 – 7.30pm

Professor Paul van Gardingen, UNESCO Chair of International Development and Executive Director: The University of Edinburgh International Development Centre.

Climate change: past, present and future

Tuesday 5 October 2010, 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Professor Gabriele Hegerl, Professor of Climate System Science, The University of Edinburgh

Climate change: the solutions?

Tuesday 12 October 2010, 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Dr David Reay, Programme Director, MSc in Carbon Management

Population: how much of a problem?

Tuesday 19 October 2010, 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Professor Roger Jeffery, School of Social and Political Science, The University of Edinburgh

One world one health – from rhetoric towards reality

Tuesday 26 October 2010, 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Professor Sue Welburn, Professor of Medical and Veterinary Molecular Epidemiology

The invisible enemy: microbes and us

Tuesday 2 November 2010, 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Professor Dorothy Crawford, Robert Irvine Professor of Medical Microbiology and Assistant Principal for Public Understanding of Medicine

Are stem cells the future of regenerative medicine?

Tuesday 9 November 2010, 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Professor Siddharthan Chandran, Director of the Euan MacDonald Centre for Motor Neurone Disease Research. Professor Charles ffrench-Constant, Chair of Medical Neurology, Centre for Regenerative Medicine, The University of Edinburgh

A changing media in a changing world – entering the golden age of journalism, or leaving it?

Friday 19 November 2010, 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Jon Snow, Journalist and broadcaster.

St Columba's Fun Run

This takes place on Sunday 26th September at Victoria Park from 10.30a.m. You don't need to be a complete marathon expert to take part. There is a child's race over 1k and adults can run, walk hop skip or jump either 2.5k or 5k.

Fancy dress is optional..the only thing you really have to do is get at least £20 in sponsorship. The idea is to raise money for the hospice.

You can get more details on the website [here](#).

You can get an entry form by emailing the fundraising team. fund@stcolumbashospice.org.uk.

Recipe of the Week 1st September 2010

BBQ Chicken

INGREDIENTS:

For the chicken

2 tables salt

2 teaspoons chili powder

1 teaspoon garlic powder

1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

2 chickens (each cut in 10 pieces, backbone removed)

2 tablespoons olive oil

For the BBQ sauce

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 chopped onion
- 4 tablespoons ketchup
- 3/4 pint low-sodium chicken broth
- 1/4 pint apple cider vinegar
- 3 oz dark brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons treacle
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander

METHOD:

For the chicken:

In a small dish, or better still a plastic bag, combine the salt, chili powder, garlic powder, and black pepper. Season the chicken on both sides with this spice mixture. Drizzle with the olive oil. Cover and refrigerate for 1 to 2 hours.

For the BBQ sauce:

Heat the olive oil in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Sauté the onions until transparent, 7 to 8 minutes. Stir in the remaining ingredients. Bring to a low boil; reduce the heat to low, and simmer, stirring occasionally, for 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 350°F and heat the grill to medium-high.

Brush the grill with oil. Place the chicken skin side down and cook 5 minutes. Turn and cook an additional 5 minutes. Place the chicken in a baking dish in one layer. Pour the BBQ sauce over the chicken. Cover tightly with aluminum foil. Bake for 45 minutes, until fork tender.

Yummy! And cheap!

New council website

✖ The City of Edinburgh Council believes it will make major savings following the launch of its new website. Scheduled to go live on 15 September, the site at www.edinburgh.gov.uk will provide easier ways for users to make payments, request information and ask for help. Anyone who accesses the council website regularly will know that it is very good but one can go round in circles if you don't quite know where to look. With 2 million unique visitors in the last 12 months it is important that the site works well.

While there is a one-off cost of £210,000 for creating the new website, there will be significantly lower annual costs for software licensing, support and hosting compared to previous systems. As well as a new website and intranet for the Council specifically, the new system also provides a 'platform' for around 200 other websites that the Council is involved in supporting. Initial savings will be around £190,000 per year with the potential for a further £100,000 annually as these other websites are moved.

Council Finance Convenor Councillor Phil Wheeler welcomed the development: "This is going to be real progress for the Council and improve markedly the experience that people have of using our website. Having seen how the site is progressing I'm confident that users will see a modern design that really works and helps them to do quickly and efficiently what they came for. The fact that we are saving money at the same time as improving what we do is exactly what we are trying to achieve in dealing with the challenges of the current budget

situation.”

Andrew Unsworth, the Council’s head of e-Government, said: “This will be a major step forward for the Council and those that use our website. While the fact that the system pays for itself through the savings is important, we also see the website as crucial in improving our customer services and we intend to achieve additional savings by encouraging contact from our customers via the web instead of mail, telephone or face to face.”

The projected savings do not take account of reduced costs resulting from increased demand for online transactions. Edinburgh residents’ usage of the web is above the UK and Scottish averages and studies have shown that costs per exchange range from £10 to £30 for face-to-face, £1 to £3 for telephone and 1p to 50p for web.

The new content management system is provided by Jadu, which is used by over 30 UK local authorities. The site promises clearer design and navigation, easier and faster access to the most popular tasks, and improved site search options powered by Google. Users will be able to register with the site, which will allow them to sign-up to receive relevant information and will make it easier to submit forms and carry out frequent transactions.

Susan Boyle to sing for the Pope

World famous Scottish singer Susan Boyle has described the opportunity to sing for Pope Benedict XVI as “her greatest dream come true.”

Speaking in a television interview recorded by the Scottish Catholic Media Office, the global singing sensation spoke of being “honoured and humbled” by the invitation.

Susan will perform three times at Bellahouston Park in Glasgow on Thursday 16 September as well as singing with the 800 strong choir at the open air Mass which will be celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI during his visit to Scotland.

The Mass will begin around 5.15pm, while in the pre-Mass programme Susan Boyle will sing the hymn “How great thou art” as well as her signature song “I dreamed a dream.” Following the final hymn at the end of the Mass, she will also sing a farewell song to Pope Benedict as he leaves the park to travel to Glasgow Airport for his flight to London and the continuation of his four day British visit.

Speaking from her home where she was rehearsing for the day, Susan said:

“To be able to sing for the Pope is a great honour and something I’ve always dreamed of – it’s indescribable. I think the 16th of September will stand out in my memory as something I’ve always wanted to do, I’ve always wanted to sing for his Holiness and I can’t really put into words my happiness,

that this wish has come true at last.”

Susan revealed that she had been approached by Cardinal Keith O’Brien to participate, adding;

“My family will be there on the day on what will be a very special day for all of us and I hope they will be proud of me.”

Speaking of her late mother she said;

“I know she won’t be there physically, but she was at Bellahouston Park in 1982 and I know she will be there again, spiritually, she will be with us.”

On the importance of her Catholic faith, Susan said;

“The Pope’s visit is a very big event for Scottish Catholics. My own faith is the backbone of my life, I pray and say the rosary each day and am very close to my religion. I am humbled and honoured by this invitation and I hope I can do my best.”

Cardinal Keith O’Brien, President of the Bishops’ Conference of Scotland said;

“I am delighted that Susan will be able to perform for the Pope, I think it is wonderful that she will have this once in a lifetime opportunity and as her Bishop I am hugely proud of her.”

Pope's visit to Scotland

The Leader of the Catholic Church in Scotland, Cardinal Keith Patrick O'Brien, is today launching the [St Ninian's Day Parade](#) - a 'grand Scottish spectacle' to welcome Pope Benedict XVI to this country next month, while also raising money for good causes at home and abroad. To launch the event, the Cardinal will be joined by the Minister for Culture and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop MSP.

The Pope arrives in Edinburgh on the morning of 16 September - St Ninian's Day - where he will meet Her Majesty The Queen at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. It is estimated there could be as many as a billion people watching worldwide. To mark the occasion, Cardinal O'Brien has invited over a thousand pipers, hundreds of school children, dozens of historical characters plus two nominated charities to greet the Pope and entertain the crowds who'll gather in the capital that morning.

The pipers will be drawn from bands from Scotland and further afield with particular emphasis on school and youth pipe bands. They will lead the parade from

Regent Road to Princes Street where they will play 'Highland Cathedral' as the Pope

travels past in the Popemobile.

· The school children are the parade VIPs - they are invited from all 14 schools

across the country named after St Ninian. That includes Catholic, Episcopalian and

non-denominational schools.

. The historical characters will chart the history of Christianity in Scotland since

the days of St Ninian himself 1600 years ago. Characters will include St Columba, St

Margaret, Mary Queen of Scots, John Knox and, from more recent times, Eric Liddell,

George Mackay Brown and Muriel Spark.

The nominated charities that will benefit from fundraising at the parade are Marie

Curie Cancer Care and Mary's Meals. Marie Curie has two hospices in Scotland –

Glasgow and Edinburgh. It also has a network of nurses working in communities

across Scotland. Mary's Meals sets up and runs school feeding projects in communities

where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education. It currently

provides daily meals for 400,000 children in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The St Ninian's Day Parade will begin at 11am from Regent Road and will march along

Princes Street concluding at 12.30pm with the arrival of the Holy Father himself in the Popemobile.

The event is free and spectators are advised to arrive in plenty of time.

Cardinal O'Brien said:-

"In centuries gone by St Ninian's Day was always a great occasion for national celebration and charitable giving.

We've now got a fabulous chance to resurrect that noble Scottish tradition by raising money for

two wonderful charities."

Fiona Hyslop MSP, Minister for Culture and External Affairs, said:-

"The St Ninian's Day parade will be a wonderful occasion as crowds gather in the streets of Edinburgh to extend the world-renowned warm Scottish welcome to the Holy Father. This is a great opportunity for all of Scotland to celebrate the positive contribution all our faith communities make to the life of our nation."

Head of Community Fundraising for Marie Curie Cancer Care, Paul Thompson, said:-

"We are delighted to have been chosen as one of the beneficiary charities for the Pope's visit.

With tens of thousands expected to turn out for both the parade and the Pope's journey through

Edinburgh, it's a fantastic opportunity for Marie Curie to raise substantial funds for the services

we provide here in Scotland".

The founder and Chief Executive of Mary's Meals, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, said:-

"The St Ninian's Day Parade promises to be a wonderful event, bringing together people from across Scotland to welcome the Pope. Mary's Meals is thrilled to have been chosen as one of the charities to benefit from the celebration and our staff and volunteers are looking forward to being involved on the day. Any monies raised by Mary's Meals will help provide school meals for hungry children in some of the world's poorest countries, enabling them to access education that will help them to escape poverty in the long term."

The Leader of Edinburgh City Council, Councillor Jenny Dawe, said

“This is a superb opportunity for Edinburgh to be seen on the world stage and to showcase the city as an excellent host of major events. While many people overseas already appreciate Edinburgh’s qualities as a place in which to work, study and holiday, I hope that some of the millions watching the Pope’s arrival in the UK are encouraged to come and see our city for themselves. It is undoubtedly a significant visit and I’m sure that the city will, as usual, rise to the occasion.”

JK Rowling – philanthropist extraordinaire

✘ The Edinburgh author JK Rowling has donated £10million to Edinburgh University to establish a research centre in the name of her late mother Anne.

The University announces the news [here](#).

The author resigned as patron of the MS Society Scotland in 2009 following a conflict with the charity’s London management and vowed at the time to donate money to a research project.

The Broughton Spurtle – Issue

186 on the way!

The next issue of the Broughton Spurtle will hit the streets tomorrow 1st September.

Content promises to be as controversial and sparkly as always..... Unscrambling of Edinburgh News reportage....

More details on their [website](#). Pick up your copy from tomorrow.

Do you know of any other community newspapers like this relating to other areas in the city? If you do then please tell us!

Attack in Edinburgh's New Town

Lothian and Borders Police are appealing for witnesses after a teenage girl was assaulted in the capital.

The incident happened around 2am on Friday 20th August in the West Scotland Street area of the city.

The 17-year-old was walking home when a male approached from behind and pulled her into West Scotland Street Lane, where she was knocked to the ground and assaulted.

The male attempted to remove the girl's upper clothing but she was able to call for assistance and several members of the public came to her aid.

The suspect then fled the scene up Scotland Street where he was lost to sight.

Detectives are now appealing for anyone who was in the area and witnessed anything suspicious to come forward.

The suspect is described as white, between 20 and 30-years-old, 5ft 9ins tall and wearing casual clothing.

A police spokesman said: 'Thankfully, the victim was uninjured and was quickly assisted by members of the public following this incident.

'Nevertheless, given the apparent sexual motivation of this assault, we are treating this extremely seriously and are urging anyone who was in Scotland Street or the surrounding areas and saw anything suspicious to come forward immediately.

'Similarly, anyone with information that can assist with our enquiries or who recognises the description of the suspect should also contact police.'

Suspicious Fire in Wester Hailes

Lothian and Borders Police are appealing for information following a suspicious fire in Edinburgh.

The incident happened around 6pm on Monday 30th August in the Wester Hailes area of the city.

A wooden building on Dumbryden Road, which is used by a local youth charity, was set alight causing massive damage.

Fire service tackled the blaze for over two hours while officers from Lothian and Borders Police assisted with road closures and maintaining a cordon.

The building's roof and interior were completely destroyed resulting in around £30,000 worth of damage.

Officers are now appealing for anyone who was in the area and witnessed anything suspicious to come forward.

A police spokesman said: 'Those responsible for this mindless act of destruction not only put the safety of the public at risk, they have also destroyed a valuable community asset and caused thousands of pounds worth of damage.

'Anyone who saw any suspicious activity in or around the building or in the Dumbryden Road area is asked to contact police immediately.

'Similarly, anyone who can assist us in identifying the suspects responsible for this fire are also asked to get in touch.'

MBE medal stolen

Lothian and Borders Police are appealing for information after a Queen's honour medal was stolen from a house in Edinburgh.

The incident happened sometime between 10am on Saturday 21st and 8pm on Monday 23rd August at an address in the Liberton area of Edinburgh.

The suspects gained entry to the rear of the property and made off with an MBE medal belonging to the elderly occupant's husband.

The medal, which was presented in 1953 for services in Africa with the Colonial Medical Service, is engraved with the recipient's name and is of great sentimental value to the

victim.

No other items were stolen during the robbery.

A police spokesman said: "This has been a callous and cold-hearted theft from the home of an elderly woman who is deeply distressed at the loss of her husband's medal.

"These honours are not usually inscribed and so this one is easily recognisable. Anyone who comes across it is asked to contact police immediately.

"Similarly, anyone with information that can assist us in locating those responsible is also asked to come forward."

Book Festival closes with tribute to Morgan

✖ The Edinburgh International Festival public programme closed last night with a moving tribute to Scotland's first national poet, Edwin Morgan who died last week. Richard Holloway chaired the final event in Charlotte Square Gardens which featured readings and personal tributes from 14 of Scotland's top poets including Douglas Dunn, Janice Galloway, Hamish Whyte, Liz Lochhead and Jackie Kay.

The 2010 Festival has featured over 750 participants from 50 countries including Nobel Laureates Joseph Stiglitz, Amartya Sen and Seamus Heaney, Poets Laureate Carol Ann Duffy and Keorapetse 'Willie' Kgositsile from South Africa as well as 10 of the 13 authors long-listed for the 2010 Man Booker Prize. Highlights of the 17 day

festival included the first appearance in Edinburgh of A S Byatt, the delivery of the Donald Dewar Memorial Lecture by ex-Chancellor Alistair Darling, exclusive pre-publication readings from Seamus Heaney, Will Self and Michael Frayn and launches of memoirs from Candia McWilliam, Vidal Sassoon and Nicholas Parsons. Amongst the international authors, Alberto Manguel, Joyce Carol Oates, Garry Trudeau and D B C Pierre were welcome additions to the programme.

Peter Mandelson spoke at his first public event to promote his memoir, *The Third Man* to a capacity audience, and closed his event with his proposed Oxford Dictionary definition of the new word 'mandelsonian' as "subtle, strategic, hard working and ultimately very loyal."

Around 200,000 people visited Charlotte Square Gardens during the Festival, to enjoy events, browse the bookshops and to relax in the sunshine. Ticket sales were on a par with 2008 with 76% of all tickets sold. A figure marginally down on 2009 which was an exceptional year.

Nick Barley, Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival, said "My first year as Book Festival Director has been a hugely fulfilling and enjoyable experience that has fittingly culminated in the tribute to Edwin Morgan in a year when we have welcomed more outstanding poets than ever before. We have built upon the core of a hugely successful festival by introducing new innovations including the UNBOUND 'festival within a festival', the Readers First Book Award and working with a range of Guest Selectors. These have been extremely well received both by authors and audience alike. I am delighted with the level of ticket sales which demonstrates that despite the uncertainty in the economy, arts and culture continue to play a vital role in people's lives."

The RBS Children's Programme enjoyed sell out events and record signing queues for Robert Muchamore, Cressida Cowell and Julia Donaldson as well as welcoming new writing from John Boyne, Garth Nix, Cornelia Funke and Francesca Simon. The RBS Schools programme welcomed over 12,000 children from primary and secondary schools across Scotland, culminating in 3,000 primary school pupils enjoying exclusive access to events in Charlotte Square Gardens today.

The Book Festival will continue on-line through the autumn and winter months with new, specially commissioned writing from Scottish, international and children's authors on the subject of 'Elsewhere', which is supported by the Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund. Video recordings featuring highlights of events with authors in the Elsewhere programme will be available for download. In addition, audio recordings of many of the events from the 2010 Book Festival will be available at www.edbookfest.co.uk from mid-September.

The 2011 Edinburgh International Book Festival will run from 13 to 29 August 2011 and the programme will be announced in June.

Capuchins at the Zoo

✖ Edinburgh Zoo's brown capuchin monkeys have had a record breeding season with six new infants joining the two groups. The youngest, born on 29 July 2010, is now just over a month old and was born to first-time mum Penelope.

The capuchins live with common squirrel monkeys in two mixed communities in the East and West sections of the Zoo's Living

Links Centre. Three youngsters were born to the group on the East and three to the group on the West. The new youngsters join a further 18 capuchin adults and juveniles in the Centre and all are still to be sexed. This will be confirmed as the new arrivals become independent and start coming off their mums' backs.

Charlotte MacDonald, Head Keeper of Primates at Edinburgh Zoo said:

"This has been a really exciting time for our brown capuchin groups – not only have we seen more births than ever but also new first time mums too. For the capuchin community it is also good for other members to see the rearing of young in the group setting which is very important for social primates. As a curious species, and just like our visitors seeing these new additions for the first time, other members of the group can't fail to be interested in the youngsters."

✘ Living Links is a field station and research centre for the study of primates, developed by the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (the charity that owns Edinburgh Zoo and the Highland Wildlife Park), and the University of St. Andrews. Living Links is home to over 50 brown capuchins and squirrel monkeys, which often associate in the wild. The Centre opened in 2008. These species of monkeys are very curious and inquisitive, making them ideal subjects to support studies about primate communication, intelligence and behaviour. As well as their indoor enclosure, the brown capuchins and common squirrel monkeys at Living Links have extensive outdoor areas where visitors can enjoy great views of them frolicking and playing on rope structures.

Found mainly in Guyana and nearby regions, brown capuchins scent mark by rubbing or "washing" their fur with their own urine. They are omnivorous, eating mostly fruits, seeds, and insects, and sometimes small lizards, frogs, or birds. They are diurnal, meaning they are active during the day, and spend most of their time in the understory and mid-canopy of the

forest. Typically weighing between 2 – 5 kg, males are larger than females.

After a gestation period of 6 months, capuchin monkeys give birth to a single baby and in rare situations twins. Young males leave their group once they reach sexual maturity. Male brown capuchin monkeys are considered sexually mature at 7 years of age. Females mature earlier and may give birth to their first offspring as early as 4 years old.

Although widespread, they are hunted for food by humans, and are often illegally captured to be sold as pets. They are also threatened by habitat destruction and populations have declined in some parts of the brown capuchins' range.

450 years after The Reformation

✖ A fascinating selection of original printed books, manuscripts and letters is to go on display at the National Library of Scotland from tomorrow to mark the 450th anniversary of the Scottish Reformation.

The Reformation can be dated to 1560 when the Scots Confession of Faith (which confirmed the abolition of the Pope's authority in Scotland) was ratified by the Scottish Parliament – now visitors will have the chance to see a copy of this iconic document first hand as one of the key exhibits.

Also central to the display will be the Bassandyne Bible (1576), the first complete Bible printed in Scotland. The church worked with the Edinburgh printer Thomas Bassandyne and merchant Alexander Arbuthnot to produce this edition of the

Geneva Bible which had been translated by English and Scots Calvinists.

Anette Hagan, senior curator of rare book collections at the National Library of Scotland, said: "Our latest display is a fantastic showcase of key artefacts relating to the Scottish Reformation, which is one of the most important events in our country's history and had repercussions reaching far beyond the dramas of John Knox's quarrels with Mary Queen of Scots.

"It marked a switch in international alliances away from Catholic France and towards Protestant England, enabling the Union of the Crowns in 1603, and established Calvinism as one of the dominant influences of Scottish life, leading to centuries of hellfire sermons – but also to a society with a strong sense of social responsibility and the highest rate of literacy in Europe."

The National Library of Scotland's latest treasures display brings together an impressive collection of items illustrating this significant period. Visitors can watch history unfold with a range of documents predating the Reformation including a papal bull issued by Pope Leo X in 1517, threatening the German monk and theologian Martin Luther with excommunication; and Archbishop Hamilton's Catechism (1552), a text outlining the Catholic Church's beliefs which is a major piece of Middle Scots prose.

The display also provides a chance to see a first edition of John Knox's most famous and controversial work, The First Blast of the Trumpet, published just a few years later in 1558. For Knox, the Bible taught that women should not bear rule over men and this text was directed against Mary Tudor, Mary of Guise, Catherine de Medici and the youthful Mary Stuart, all Catholics. The tract was originally published anonymously as Knox wanted to conceal his identity until he issued another two 'blasts', but no more were published.

Other key highlights include a tract published by the prominent Catholic cleric Ninian Winzet (Abbot and Mary Queen of Scots' confessor) in 1562, arguing against the Reformation and John Knox in particular, as well as the celebrated 'Good and Godly Ballads', a collection of popular Protestant songs compiled by the Wedderburn brothers of Dundee, probably in the 1530s.

If you would like the opportunity to view these spectacular items, and more, visit the National Library of Scotland's public exhibition space between September 1 and October 31 – entry free of charge.

Best Fringe ever

✖ The 64th Edinburgh Festival Fringe which finished yesterday has announced that at the final reconciliation an estimated 1,955,913 tickets will have been sold.

Speaking about the great successes that the Edinburgh Festival Fringe has enjoyed in 2010, Fringe Society Chief Executive, Kath M Mainland said:- “Audiences have come to know the Edinburgh Festival Fringe as the place to see every kind of art; from the most imaginative children's theatre to topical and incisive comedy and theatre which challenges audiences to discuss and re-consider their world. Edinburgh is without doubt the world's leading festival destination and audiences continued to be inspired and enthralled by the many and varied events on offer.

“I have seen and met performers from all over world from established names to those make their first foray into the industry. They have attended the Fringe for every possible reason, to make audiences laugh, think and imagine, and to get

their work seen and develop their creative skills. The Fringe Society exists to support performers, directors, producers and venues and to allow them to make their own creative choices and tell their own stories. That every person who has performed as part of the 2010 Edinburgh Festival Fringe over the last three weeks chose to be here is exactly why the Fringe is greatest show on earth."

This year's Fringe programme boasted 2,453 companies and more performances than ever before. Amongst the companies attending the festival in 2010 the range of work included new writing for theatre and comedy, performances of much loved classics and many new and returning companies.

The Fringe High Street Events team registered 662 acts from street performers to buskers and Fringe performers.

Several venues across the city the 2010 Fringe marked an anniversary. Gilded Balloon celebrated 25 years on the Fringe with Karen Koren collecting the Jack Tinker Spirit of the Fringe award and hosting 3 anniversary shows boasting world famous comedians from the venue's life on the Fringe. Assembly celebrated 30 years on the Fringe and hosted a cabaret programme at their new venue in Princes St Gardens. Bedlam Theatre also celebrated 30 years on the Fringe with a programme including Fringe First Winning **Another Someone** (*Rash Dash*). Zoo Venues saw their 10th birthday in with award winning shows including Herald Angel and Stage Awards winning **Operation Greenfield** (*Little Bulb Theatre*) and the triple award winning **Bound** (*Bear Trap Theatre Company*). Venues ReMarkable Arts at Hill Street and The Jazz Bar both won Herald Angel Little Devils for showing tenacity and ensuring the show must go on in adverse circumstances. Free comedy gained its first Edinburgh Comedy Award nominee with **Imran Yusuf's** (*Laughing Horse @ Espionage*) newcomer nomination and the Fosters Edinburgh Comedy Award was awarded to three-time nominee **Russell Kane: Smokescreens and Castles** (*Pleasance*). David Bates returned with the Famous Spiegeltent and was

awarded a Total Theatre Award for making a significant contribution to the Fringe.

Controversy, discussion and sparking debate were at the forefront this year with **Roadkill** (*Ankur Productions/Pachamama Productions, Traverse*) winning awards across the festival for its gritty and honest discussion of sex trafficking. David Benson's (*Festival Highlights, Gilded Balloon*) won acclaim for its verbatim portrayal of Jim Swire's fight for answers about the atrocity 22 years ago. **The Author** (*News from Nowhere Presents, Traverse*) saw audiences debating the Royal Court Production's theatrical style and content and the boundaries of live performance.

Programmes within the Fringe – including the second *Made in Scotland* programme, *Escalator East to Edinburgh* and *Culture Ireland's* supported shows – have seen some award winning work coming to the fore of the festival. The *Made in Scotland* programme won a combined total of 11 awards and companies have been invited to tour to Netherlands, USA and Australia. **Sex Idiot** (*Zoo*) won the Total Theatre Emerging Artist Award and **Bunny** (*Theatre Colchester, Underbelly*) and **Lidless** (*HighTide, Underbelly*) were Fringe First winners as part of the *Escalator East to Edinburgh* programme. Enda Walsh's **Penelope** (*Druid, Traverse*) won a Fringe First as part of the *Culture Ireland* supported programme.

Famous names at this year's Fringe included Clarke Peters, Gyles Brandreth, Carol Ann Duffy, Abi Titmuss, Simon Callow, Caroline Rhea, Jennifer Coolidge, Arj Barker, Paul Merton and a returning contingent from BBC Radio including Scott Mills from Radio 1 and Richard Bacon from 5 Live and Radio 4 Comedy live from the Royal Mile.

Research at the Botanics

✖ A new study documents waves of forest degradation advancing 120 km across East Africa in just 14 years. Scientists from 12 organisations in Europe, Africa and the USA showed that forest exploitation started with the removal of the most valuable products first, such as timber for export, followed by the extraction of less valuable products such as low value timber and charcoal in strict sequence. This 'logging down the profit margin' in tropical forests follows the same pattern of removal seen for fish in unmanaged oceans.

The study published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA tested an economic model that predicts the sequential removal of products from high-to-low value. Researchers visited forests at varying distances up to 220 km from Tanzania's largest city, Dar es Salaam, in 1991 and again in 2005, tracking the trees that remained. They found that waves of degradation moved, on average, 9 km a year out from the city. For example, charcoal extraction extended 50 km from Dar es Salaam in 1991, but in 2005 it was found up to 170 km from the city.



In 2005, on average, forests had 48 tree species per sample and stored 46 tonnes of carbon per hectare at 200 km distance, but this had declined to only 14 species and 5 tonnes of carbon in the forests closest to the African city.

Dr Antje Ahrends, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and lead author of the paper said, "The degradation waves have spread rapidly. Urban migration and rising demand for timber, particularly in China, are amongst the major reasons for this. By the end of the study, high value timber logging production took place over 200 km from the city. This is very likely to be unsustainable."

The ability to predict forest degradation is essential if new plans to protect forests using payments for ecosystem services are to be successful. Such schemes, like the proposed 'Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation' (REDD) being negotiated under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, may channel billions of dollars into conservation and poverty alleviation if these instruments can be shown to verifiably reduce carbon dioxide emissions from deforestation and degradation.

Co-author on the study, Professor Neil Burgess, University of Copenhagen and WWF, said "REDD would create incentives for developing countries to conserve tropical forests and to adopt low-emission strategies for sustainable development. REDD could rapidly cut carbon dioxide emissions from deforestation and degradation, which are currently responsible for 15% of total emissions from human activity".



Much logging in Tanzania is illegal resulting in major financial losses. A trade survey by TRAFFIC estimated that in 2005 some 96 per cent of harvested timber was exported illegally, losing the Tanzanian government an estimated US \$58 million of revenue. Charcoal burning is similarly mostly illegal, but carried out by local people who have no alternative means of income, and is used in towns by poor people to cook their food. Policy interventions therefore need careful tailoring to the type of degradation activity, and care needs to be taken to provide alternative income sources and prevent increasing levels of poverty in an already poor country.

Co-author Dr Simon Lewis, University of Leeds, added, "This study highlights the value of strong interdisciplinary research coupled with large-scale and long-term datasets. Both are needed if scientists are to provide the knowledge to assist managing the natural world sustainably whilst

benefiting local people.”

Children's writing competition launched

A creative writing competition for Edinburgh school children is being launched in the city.

The theme of this year's 'Green Pencil Award', which is run by The City of Edinburgh Council for pupils in P4 – P7, encourages pupils to think about “Nature on our doorstep”, celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity.

Children are asked to write about nature close to them, whether it be a back garden, school grounds, local community or a favourite place they visit.

Over 800 entries were submitted last year and the overall winner, Monica Robb from Liberton Primary School, won the prestigious Green Pencil Award Trophy for her entry 'A Greener World'.

In addition to the trophy the winner's school will also receive educational visits to Edinburgh Zoo and a local woodland plus a copy of From Another Kingdom: The Amazing World of Fungi, all prizes donated by sponsors. Twenty winners will receive various prizes at the awards evening on Friday 26 November 2010 at the Central Library on George IV Bridge.

Councillor Marilyne MacLaren, Children and Families Leader, said: “Now in its third year, the Green Pencil competition has proven to be extremely popular and the standard of writing has been excellent. This years nature theme I am sure will inspire

the children to write imaginatively and thoughtfully.

“The importance of writing to children’s education cannot be underestimated and any competition that encourages this, and which gets them thinking about environmental issues at the same time, is something that we must continue to support and promote.”

World renowned, local author Alexander McCall Smith: “This is a marvellous project from a library system of which Edinburgh can be truly proud. Given the chance, children naturally take to writing. This project combines that enthusiasm with concern over our fragile environment. I am sure the results will be very imaginative.”

Further information available [here.](#) The closing date for entries is October 15th 2010.