

# Short Breaks Service is launched

A new short breaks service offering support to adults with learning difficulties and complex needs officially opens in Edinburgh tomorrow.

The eight bed unit at Firrhill currently provides short stays for 60 people who are offered accommodation throughout the year ranging from a few days to a couple of weeks at a time.

The aim is to offer users the opportunity to experience new surroundings and meet new people whilst at the same time giving families and carers some time on their own.

People using the service are actively encouraged to make their own choices, make new friends and social contacts, maintain and develop independent living skills. They are also given the opportunity to go on trips to the cinema, local shops, places of interest and walks.

This can help build skills and confidence for service users and for some introduces the idea of being cared for away from home, leading eventually to them moving into their own supported accommodation. Respite also gives carers a physical break from the demands of their role.

The service is therefore vital in ensuring families are supported with the demands of caring for a person with very high support needs, which keeps them together and allows for all members of the family to have time to themselves, not just the person who is being cared for.

Councillor Paul Edie, Health and Social Care leader, said: "The short breaks service provided at Firrhill provides a valuable and much-needed facility to people across Edinburgh.

“Caring for someone is a demanding, and difficult job and both the cared for person and their families can benefit immensely from these short breaks. The user can build up their social skills and independence while the carer gets a much-needed break from the tough demands placed on them.

“Without this type of support many families would struggle to carry on with the daily pressures of caring for someone in their home.”

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## **The Risk Factory**

The Risk Factory is to receive a boost from the Gas Safety Trust as they pledge to sponsor the community safety education centre for the next three years.

The Gas Safety Trust will present £2,000 to The Risk Factory tomorrow (August 24). This contribution shows just how valuable they feel the messages delivered by the centre are.

The sponsorship will go towards the house scenario, which is used to educate young people about the dangers in and around their own homes. The house scenario includes a fitted kitchen with a gas cooker, faulty combi – boiler, gas meter and audible CO alarm.

The Risk Factory has been a success story since it opened in February 2007. It is Scotland’s first purpose built, interactive community safety centre and the aim is to teach young people, how to stay safe and to help others do the same.

Inside the building, realistic settings are used to highlight safety messages. Scenarios are outlined by a dedicated team of volunteers and safety areas include a road, bus, railway line

and a building site to name but a few.

Councillor Paul Edie, Community Safety Leader, said: “It’s fantastic to see The Risk Factory receive support from the Gas Safety Trust. The centre is a great environment for children to learn about dangerous or anti-social behaviour, reducing incidents and dealing with emergencies in the future. It would not be possible to run the centre without sponsorship or the volunteers who help make the centre such a roaring success.”

Nigel Dumbrell, Head of Charitable Operations at the Gas Safety Trust, said: “One of the real dangers in the home is the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. Every year it needlessly claims lives, lives which often would be saved through some simple education and training. That’s why we’re so pleased to be supporting The Risk Factory for the next three years.”

The Risk Factory is funded by the City of Edinburgh Council, East Lothian Council, Midlothian Council, West Lothian Council, Lothian and Borders Police and Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service. It is located in a purpose built unit in Chesser and is staffed by City of Edinburgh Council employees and secondees from Lothian and Borders Police and Fire and Rescue Service.

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## Technology Event

In days gone by dreams of a paperless office were high on the wish list of most office managers the reality has turned into a business headache thanks to the exponential growth of virtual data.

Reports have estimated that 60% of IT budgets are currently

dedicated to addressing data storage issues and as our demand for fast access to information becomes accepted, it's a problem unlikely to go away in the near future.

✖ Scottish technology company Tycom, in partnership with HP, is hosting a free seminar at The Scotsman hotel in Edinburgh on Thursday 2 September, from 9.00am to 1.00pm. Speakers will include Paul Mulcahy and Juzer Halai from HP who will highlight how companies can manage data growth, reduce costs, improve performance and ensure scalability.

Robert Dalziel, Business Development Manager, Tycom said, "Managing data, adhering to compliance regulations, searching for efficient energy consumption and low maintenance costs from servers, can be a daunting and complex experience for SMEs, many of whom don't often have dedicated IT managers in place.

"Data storage is also often only addressed when a company wants to upload a new system, such as email, which leads to looking at ways to consolidate and improve servers. We want to do more with less, be able to upload new services quicker, instantly and quickly access information and be as green as possible. Our expectations to access data have completely changed but like all aspects of business, we have to stay ahead".

To pre-register for the free seminar please email [HPEvents@tycom.co.uk](mailto:HPEvents@tycom.co.uk) or for further information contact Tycom on 0141 202 0744.

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# Climate change protests

✖ The Reporter was quite amazed this morning to see the number of police vans lined up outside the RBS HQ at Gogarburn. Roads into and out of Gogarburn were closed this morning with a handful of police officers at each set of barriers, and apparently most if not all workers have been told to work from home or stay there.

There is of course much to be said for and against the actual protest. For one thing one has to have a view on extracting energy from tar sands when it is possible that more energy is used in the extraction process than the energy produced. For another it is a fact that everyone is entitled to a view and in Scotland we apparently enjoy freedom of speech.

Against is the fact that the protesters – or a small minority of them – have damaged property in breaking windows at Gogarburn. They have apparently thrown oil at the windows which some poor window cleaner will get the job of cleaning up. According to various reports eight protesters have now been arrested.

But what we at The Reporter are wondering is this.... If RBS is now largely owned by the taxpayer, and if RBS presumably is having to pay for the police presence at Gogarburn.....then that means we are paying for the huge security operation does it not?

How much is being paid for the police protection? Well we will have to ask when the event is over. And we shall.

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# Festival Theatre in September

With few able to articulate in words the horror of the 9/11 atrocities in New York, the world turned to music to express the inexpressible, and the September Concert phenomenon was born.

This year, Scotland will, for the first time, join more than 200 countries in this global day of 'music for peace' with a special evening of music, free to the public at the capital's Festival Theatre.

Headlined by acclaimed Scottish choirs, InChorus and The Lothian and Borders Police Choir, the concert on Saturday September 11 at 7.30pm will also include exclusive performances by The Gospel Truth Choir; singer and songwriter, Fish and Big Country's Bruce Watson along with son, Jamie. The event will be compered by Grant Stott from Radio Forth.

The event holds particular significance for the Lothian and Borders Police Choir due to the large number of police officers, fire-fighters, paramedics and other rescue services involved in the immediate and long term aftermath of the terrorist attacks. They have (with InChorus) been invited to represent Scotland at the same event in New York next year at the tenth anniversary commemorations at Ground Zero. Such a venture has led to ambitious 'From Queen to Manhattan' and 'From 999 to 911' fundraising campaigns to enable them to travel to the USA to sing.

Andrew Russel, Musical Director said:

"It is an honour to be hosting Scotland's first September Concert here in Edinburgh, representing our country's compassion for the lives lost in 9/11 and support for the incredible work of the emergency and volunteer services.

"We're delighted that The Gospel Truth Choir, Fish and Bruce

and Jamie Watson are giving their time and musicianship to this cause, and it will be a very poignant evening to remember.”

Both choirs will perform a ‘flash choir’ stunt in Edinburgh’s Royal Mile on Friday 27th August at 8.15pm to raise awareness for The September Concert, transforming from Fringe crowd to choir within a few bars of music.

All September Concerts are free entry, and tickets are available now from the Festival Theatre box office on 0131 529 6000.

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## **NHS Lothian Annual Review**

✘ The NHS Lothian Annual Review meeting will take place at 2.00 pm on Monday 13 September 2010 in the Board Room, 2nd Floor, Waverley Gate, 2-4 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh EH1 3EG

The Annual Review is the formal process through which the Scottish Government assesses NHS Lothian’s performance in 2009-2010.

The meeting will be chaired by Nicola Sturgeon, Deputy First Minister & Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting. At the end of the main Annual Review meeting there will be a 30 minute Public Question and Answer session, at which members of the public will have the opportunity to ask questions about health services in Lothian. It will not be possible to answer questions about an individual patient’s care or treatment at this session.

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# What's on This Week? – 23rd August

✖ The various Festivals in Edinburgh continue to attract many visitors. The photo on the left is of the Book Festival in Charlotte Square.

Today The Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce is organising The Brand of the Future event at the Edinburgh International Marketing Festival. The event starts at 10.30 a.m. at The Assembly Hall on The Mound. More details [here](#).

Billed as a quality business to business networking event [The Small Business Club](#) have organised a get together at The Royal Scots Club on 24th August.

6 Degrees of Networking are holding a [Lunch in Leith](#) on 26th August at Chop Chop.

[Power and Energy Breakfast](#) on 27th August at the Dakota South Queensferry is organised by Thrive for Business.

Not to be confused with the Chamber of Commerce – JCI Edinburgh are holding a networking event on 26th August 2010. [Links 'n Drinks](#) is being held at The Apex International in the Grassmarket – remember there are confusingly two hotels called the Apex in the Grassmarket – make sure you go to the right one!

If you want to get into Princes Street Gardens to get close to the music from The Scottish Chamber Orchestra then there will be some tickets on sale on 29th August. You have to go along to The Hub on Johnston Terrace in person at 10a.m. Further details [here](#).

Greener Leith are off on their Bawsinch Bike Ride on the 28th of August. You could join them if you want. Go to their [website](#) and find out how.

Want to do the organic vegetable thing yourself? Then there is a whole day course at Old Dalkeith Road this Saturday. More details on FEDAGA's [website](#).

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

You might want to think about entering for the Forth Rail Bridge Abseil which takes place on 3rd October 2010. You can raise money for your own chosen charity but this [link](#) takes you to the Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland fundraising website.

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## Cinema on Sunday

There is so much culture in Edinburgh at the moment but you will be forgiven for escaping to the cinema this Sunday if you go to see either of these wonderful films on offer.

✖ First at [The Filmhouse](#) they are showing The Secret in Their Eyes (El Secreto de Sus Ojos) (18) at 13.15 17.45 and 20.30

Set in Buenos Aires and directed by Juan Jose Campanella this is a story of dramatic proportions. It concerns unsolved crime from 30 years before and a recently retired prosecutor who delves into the past. The film won the Oscar for best foreign language film earlier this year. [Rotten Tomatoes](#) gives it a whopping 92% so it is the film you should not miss this weekend.

The other unmissable film is *The Illusionist* (PG) which is showing at [The Cameo](#) at 13.45, 15.45, 17.40 and 19.30. Set in Edinburgh with beautiful hand drawn images, Sylvain Chomet's film is a rather melancholy but lovely tale of the magician who might have had his day. The Cameo itself features in the film which was such a hit at the Edinburgh International Film Festival earlier this year.

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## Elsewhere launched at Book Festival

✖ The Minister for Culture, Fiona Hyslop, today launched a programme of brand new writing celebrating the best of Scottish, international and children's words and ideas at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. With the support of the Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund, the Book Festival has commissioned fifty authors to write short stories or essays, all on the theme of 'Elsewhere', which are being exclusively digitised on the Book Festival website.

Leading writers, including Michel Faber, Alasdair Gray, Ali Smith, A L Kennedy, Alan Warner, Roddy Doyle and Amy Bloom together with authors best known for their writing for children and young adults – such as Michael Morpurgo, Andy Stanton, David Almond and Margo Lanagan – will be producing their work throughout this year and next and it is intended that the final collection will be collated into an anthology in 2011. In addition the Expo Fund will support the development of the "Word Alliance" programme of collaboration between seven international Book Festivals and the inaugural programme of international author exchange, which will include appearances by Scottish writers at Book Festivals in Jaipur,

Beijing and New York in spring 2011.

Nick Barley, Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival, said “Edinburgh has always been a showcase for promoting the best of Scottish writing to the world, and the best international writing to Scottish audiences. Commissioning this series of new work is a major development for the Book Festival and publishing the pieces online offers a unique opportunity for us to reach a truly worldwide audience.

“We are also delighted to be working with a number of our fellow book festivals around the world to bring the best of international writing to Scotland, and also take some of our home-grown authors to book festivals in India, China and the USA next year.”

Attending an event at the Book Festival with Scottish writers, Denise Mina and Alan Warner (who have written pieces for Elsewhere) the Minister for Culture said, “Edinburgh’s world renowned International Book Festival welcomes the finest authors to Scotland, celebrating the very best writing from across the globe on an international stage. Our Expo Fund is shining the spotlight on established and emerging Scottish-based writers in an exciting and innovative way and showcasing our talent at International Festivals year round.”

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## **Tribute to Edwin Morgan**

Commenting on the sad news of the death of Edwin Morgan, Nick Barley, Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival said “As well as being one of the greatest British poets of the last 50 years, Morgan was also the last link to a great generation of Scottish writers than included Sorley MacLean,

Norman MacCaig and Hugh MacDiarmid. His work transcended genres, was constantly challenging and inspiring, and encapsulated all that is great about Scottish poetry and writing. His influence will continue to be felt for years to come as his words echo in the work of so many contemporary writers.”

Morgan was one of the writers attending the 1962 Writers Conference in Edinburgh where the deep roots of the Edinburgh International Book Festival were established, and this year saw the third Edwin Morgan International Poetry Prize, sponsored by the University of Strathclyde, awarded at the Book Festival last night. The Prize was won by A B Jackson for his poem Treasure Island.

Barley added “Praise for Morgan was, as always, warm and generous last night, and little did we know that this sad news would follow so soon after.”

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## Peter Mandelson at The Book Festival

✖ He’s been called many things by the British Press – Mandy; The Prince of Darkness, and more recently The Dark Lord. He was the architect behind the re-branding of New Labour, and served two Prime Ministers, but not without attracting controversy seemingly at every turn. Now, for the first time in a public event, Peter Mandelson will appear at the Edinburgh International Book Festival to discuss his recently released memoir *The Third Man: Life At The Heart of New Labour*

Lord Mandelson held a number of government positions from 1997 to 2009, including Minister without Portfolio and Secretary of

State for Trade and Industry before resigning for the first time following a home loan scandal. He bounced back to become Secretary of State for Northern Ireland before resigning for a second time following accusations of using his position to influence a passport application. A period in the political wilderness as Britain's European Commissioner followed before Gordon Brown brought him back into the fold as Business Secretary and made him a Life Peer.

Placing himself at the heart of the New Labour story and indeed of British Government over the last decade, Mandelson's memoir is billed as a frank examination of the inner workings of New Labour, and the Prime Ministerships of Blair and Brown.

Peter Mandelson will be in conversation with BBC Radio 4's Today Programme presenter James Naughtie at the Edinburgh International Book Festival on Sunday 29 August at 8.00pm. Tickets (priced at £10, £8 concession) are now available online at [www.edbookfest.co.uk](http://www.edbookfest.co.uk), by phone on 0845 373 5888 or in person at Charlotte Square Gardens from 9.30am to 8.30pm daily until 30 August.

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## Scottish Power Schools Competition

✖ Primary teachers across Scotland are being encouraged to nominate their school business for the ScottishPower Schools Best Budding Business competition.

The utility company will reward the most enterprising primary school and is looking to find out what school pupils have accomplished to date in setting up their own businesses.

ScottishPower is on the look out for school ventures which encourage youngsters to be entrepreneurial and those which show excellent promise as strong business idea.

By taking part and nominating their school project, teachers and pupils could win £1,000 for their school.

Head of SME at ScottishPower, Mark Pettican, was delighted to unveil the new initiative and is looking for as many schools in Scotland as possible to get involved.

Speaking of the launch of the new competition, he said:-

“The ScottishPower Schools Best Budding Business hopes to support young business people of the future and encourage them to think about their projects and initiatives.

“This is the first year of our competition and we are really looking forward to receiving entries and reading about all the great potential business men and women out there.

“We are delighted to be enabling schoolchildren to gain recognition for their excellent business endeavours. This is an ideal way to give confidence to youngsters to excel in business from an early age.”

All schools have to do to take part in the competition is to write a letter, in no more than 400 words, detailing a current business initiative run by pupils and highlight its achievements to date. They have to tell us about what they do, make or sell, how many pupils are involved, how the project came about and its successes.

Entries should arrive no later than Friday 8th October 2010 and be posted or emailed to Susanne Grant at The BIG Partnership, 5 Park Circus Place, Glasgow, G3 6AH or [susanne.grant@thebigpartnership.co.uk](mailto:susanne.grant@thebigpartnership.co.uk)

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# Dance for All

✖ Director Tracy Hawkes celebrates Dance For All's double anniversary this August at the venue which she now owns and where she herself originally trained as a dancer in the 1970s.

Formerly known as The Theatre School of Dance, full-time training has been offered at the school for nearly four decades and a large majority of dance teachers in Edinburgh, the Lothians and across Scotland, received their training there. Following her own classical training at The Theatre School of Dance, Tracy went on to teach and perform with numerous companies both here and abroad, including Basic Space Dance Theatre, Napac Ballet and Durban City Ballet. Tracy is a registered teacher and an Associate of the Royal Academy of Dance (ARAD) and is the only Spanish Dance Society qualified teacher in Scotland.

Tracy also met her husband, film producer Jon Hollis, whilst teaching an evening class at the Theatre School of Dance in 1981. She said: -"I admired his demi plie and we've never looked back!" Now married for 25 years with four daughters, Tracy is also celebrating the silver anniversary of the founding of Dance For All in 1985. She bought the Theatre School venue in 2000, and since then has been the artistic director of the only Scottish vocational dance college that incorporates academic qualifications within a diverse and extensive professional dance and teacher training course.

True to its name, Dance For All has offered many scholarships to exceptional students, not just on the professional course but also to younger pupils attending the general school. One such pupil, Mimi Ali-Kparah was singled out by Tracy during an interactive workshop at James Gillespie's Primary School.

Tracy said:- “I was so surprised when I learned that Mimi, then aged 8, had never had any formal dance tuition as she had such natural grace and exceptional dance ability.”

This accredited dance college has built strong alliances with dance schools throughout Scotland, frequently receiving referrals of their pupils to the full-time three year professional course.

Dance For All has been running the course in collaboration with Jewel & Esk College for ten years, affording their students access to the facilities that a large FE college provides whilst retaining autonomy as an independent vocational dance school.

The experienced and qualified faculty at Dance For All offer an HNC, HND and numerous industry recognised qualifications as well as teacher training in a wide variety of genres including classical ballet, jazz, street, urban, tap, national, benesh, Spanish, contemporary, choreography, singing, acting and musical theatre. Frequent performance opportunities & master-classes from visiting tutors are complemented by multiple contextual studies.

Former students who continued their training elsewhere have said that they appreciate that the more intimate atmosphere of DFA compared with far larger colleges, along with the nurturing ethos of its staff gives every individual the opportunity to flourish and reach their potential.

Dance For All graduates achieve the multi-disciplined training required for today's dance industry and have gone on to teach worldwide, establish their own dance schools, work both in the UK and internationally in musicals, TV, film, theme parks, cruise ships and touring dance companies.

2010 graduate Lisa Aytoun is considered one of the college's rising stars. The champion Scottish gymnast was chosen by the MOBO Awards 2009 production team to present the nomination

envelopes in a gymnastic stage dance fashion. Lisa has just been told that her gymnastic troupe for which she is also choreographer, Midlothian TeamGym, will be representing Britain in the European Championships.

Dance For All also runs over 100 weekly classes for adults, teens and children. It is a hub of expertise to dip into at any age and level, from the complete beginner to the experienced professional with classes and dance camps including the aforementioned genres as well as Yoga, Egyptian Belly-Dance, Argentinian Tango and Strictly American Ballroom. Further information can be found on their [website](#)

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# Developments at the Waterfront

by Councillor Tim McKay

Vice Convener, Economic Development, The City of Edinburgh Council

Given the current financial situation the council is looking at using a new method, Tax Incremental Finance (TIF), as an alternative way of enabling investment in infrastructure projects – in this case at the Waterfront.

The idea is that the council borrows to invest in public works, which in turn act as a catalyst for private sector investment. This then raises the value of the business rates collected. The Scottish Government guarantees the borrowing and then provides a rebate of these extra rates (which wouldn't normally go to the Council) to pay for the interest

and eventually the capital of the original borrowing – thus creating a virtuous circle.

The suggested borrowing is £84 million, phased over a number of years, which would provide for (amongst others):

A new link road between Seafield Road and Constitution Street to improve access from the east.

An esplanade between Ocean Terminal and the Water's edge – to turn the shopping centre around to face the water – so to speak.

As part of the esplanade project, a new finger pier for Edinburgh's growing cruise industry. It would also be able to accommodate the Britannia.

New lock gates at the entrance to Leith Docks to facilitate the proposed cross Forth Ferry

The economic impact analysis concludes that, even at a minimum, over 580 new houses and 175,000 sq ft of new business space would be created, as well as new hotel beds and a big increase in local tourism.

We also believe that there is an opportunity for investment in the renewables sector and that Leith and the Waterfront could be a major component in a larger investment programme for the whole of the East of Scotland.

✘ You may also have seen more publicity about the proposed Observation Wheel (Edinburgh's Eye) at the Waterfront. Contrary to rumours, this will not be paid for by the taxpayer, but it is hoped that it can be funded privately-if it could, it would be a great boost for the area.

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# Whisky, whisky all around and not a drop to drink...

Topping up at the petrol pump is about to take an intriguing twist as cars are set to be fuelled with a new super biofuel, made from whisky by-products.

Edinburgh Napier University has filed a patent for the new biofuel, which can be used in ordinary cars, without any special adaptations needed.

The innovative fuel process has been developed over the last two years by Edinburgh Napier's Biofuel Research Centre. As part of their research, the centre was provided with samples of whisky distilling by-products from Diageo's Glenkinchie Distillery. The £260,000 research project was funded by Scottish Enterprise's Proof of Concept programme.

The Edinburgh Napier Biofuel research team focused on the £4bn whisky industry as a ripe resource for developing biobutanol – the next generation of biofuel which gives 30% more output power than ethanol. It uses the two main by-products of the whisky production process – 'pot ale', the liquid from the copper stills, and 'draff', the spent grains, as the basis for producing the butanol that can then be used as fuel.

With 1,600 million litres of pot ale and 187,000 tonnes of draff produced by the malt whisky industry annually, there is real potential for bio-fuel to be available at local garage forecourts alongside traditional fuels. Unlike ethanol, the nature of the innovative bio-fuel means that ordinary cars could use the more powerful-fuel, instead of traditional petrol. The product can also be used to make other green renewable bio-chemicals, such as acetone.

The University now plans to create a spin-out company to take the new fuel to market and leverage the commercial

opportunity, in the bid to make it available at petrol pumps.

Director of the Biofuel Research Centre at Edinburgh Napier University, Professor Martin Tangney is leading the ground-breaking research. He said: "The EU has declared that biofuels should account for 10% of total fuel sales by 2020. We're committed to finding new, innovative renewable energy sources.

"While some energy companies are growing crops specifically to generate biofuel, we are investigating excess materials such as whisky by-products to develop them. This is a more environmentally sustainable option and potentially offers new revenue on the back of one Scotland's biggest industries. We've worked with some of the country's leading whisky producers to develop the process."

Lena Wilson, chief executive, Scottish Enterprise, said: "This pioneering research is testament to Scotland's world-class science base and demonstrates how Scottish Enterprise helps to transform cutting-edge knowledge into successful new high-growth sustainable businesses for Scotland.

"The Scottish Enterprise Proof of Concept Programme is successful precisely because of its high calibre projects. By proactively taking innovative ideas from the laboratory to the global market place, Scotland can continue to compete at the highest level and successfully boost its economic recovery."

Jim Mather, Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism said: "This is an innovative development, and I am delighted to see Edinburgh Napier University once again display its expertise in this field by bringing this biofuel to market.

"I support the development and use of sustainable biofuels. This innovative use of waste products demonstrates a new sustainable option for the biofuel industry, while also supporting the economic and environmental objectives of the Scottish Government's new Zero Waste Plan.

“In these challenging economic times we need to play to our strengths and take advantage of the low carbon opportunities of the future. It’s exactly this type of innovation that will help sustain economic recovery and deliver future sustainable economic growth.”

Susan Morrison, Director and General Manager at The Scotch Whisky Experience said: “Working in a tourism role to represent the Whisky Industry we are delighted that the green agenda is moving forward at such a pace, both through the Green Tourism Scheme and innovations such as this new whisky bio-fuel.”

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## **Scottish Enterprise publish Annual Report**

Scottish Enterprise has published its 2009/10 Annual Report and Accounts, and claim that the documents highlight a strong year of performance.

During the year, around 10,000 companies accessed SE support to make their business stronger and despite tough economic conditions, SE reports that it achieved all of its performance targets for the year.

This included more than 900 companies supported to work overseas, more than 2000 high value jobs created through inward investment and £82 million of private sector investment generated for research and development activity.

SE also continued to invest its £295 million budget in major new projects to help make Scottish companies, sectors and the wider business environment more globally competitive.

Recognising the constraints of public sector funding, Scottish Enterprise continued its drive to reduce costs and increase efficiency across the organisation. This has helped to generate over £25 million of savings on its management expenditure over the past two years.

This includes an ongoing commitment to reduce its senior leadership team, which has seen the reduction of 35 director posts over the past two years, generating saving of £3.5 million from our salary bill.

Scottish Enterprise will be publicising individual results in more detail when it publishes its video Annual Review on 14 September. Chairman Crawford Gillies and Chief Executive Lena Wilson will also be participating in an online Q&A forum that day.

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## **Kids not Suits loses vote – but campaign continues**

✖ At the full Council meeting today, the Lib-Dem and SNP coalition combined to vote down a proposal to move teachers from HQ into schools to relieve pressure on their colleagues struggling with P1 class sizes of up to 30 and the new Curriculum for Excellence. The vote was 29- 28, with the Labour, Conservative and Green Parties voting in favour.

In her presentation speech, Councillor MacLaren stated there were only 43 teachers flying desks at HQ, but her Director at Children & Families had stated that she had only checked three teams. There are reported to be 3,735 non-teaching staff employed by Children & Families . Kids not Suits claim that Councillor MacLaren could have easily checked the numbers by

asking the council HR department.

Campaigner Pete Gregson said:- “It is a missed opportunity – not just for us, but for the administration. Here was a chance for the elected leaders of the Council to challenge the unelected officers who run the show. Rather than look below the surface and realise that parts of senior management are not economy-minded, the SNP Lib-Dem coalition thinks it should rather protect its reputation.

One SNP Councillor said to me yesterday that he would vote against the motion because to support it would suggest the ruling group were incompetent. But there are 16,500 employees at the Council. The 29 Councillors in charge could not be expected to know what all the employees were doing. A week ago, the Administration could claim ignorance, by virtue of the fact they were unaware of mismanagement claims. But now every single one of them has visited the “Kids not Suits” campaign website. Today, they cannot claim ignorance. Today, they have shown they would rather stick their heads in the sand. When it comes to elections, do people vote for ostriches?

For those parents who voted Lib Dem in May, impressed by Nick Clegg’s election promise on class sizes, and for those who voted the SNP into office on the back of their manifesto commitments to class sizes of 18, there will be the greatest disappointment. I voted Lib Dem and I feel very let down.”

Kids not Suits have vowed to keep up their campaign to reduce class sizes.

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# Liberton & Gilmerton By-election

The following are standing for election as councillors for the ward in the by-election coming up on 9th September 2010.

Mev Brown, Independent

Bill Cook, Scottish Labour Party Candidate

Colin Fox, Scottish Socialist Party

Philip Hunt, Pirate Party Scotland

John Christopher Knox, Scottish Liberal Democrats

Richard Lewis, Scottish National Party (SNP)

Peter McColl, Scottish Green Party

Stephanie Murray, Scottish Conservative and Unionist

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## John Murray Archive

A blog by the National Library of Scotland's writer in residence, uncovering secrets and revelations from one of its most coveted archives, is proving to be an online hit.

Taking advantage of 21st century technology to share his story, playwright Peter Arnott has been sharing the fascinating tale of his work in the John Murray Archive to an internet audience.

The blog, entitled 'Playwright in the Cages', is named after

Peter's first experience of the library's prestigious John Murray Archive which was previously stored in a secure area of the library known as "the cage". His blog includes entries on a range of subjects from the first Afghan War to the personal letters of acclaimed poets such as Byron.

Peter Arnott said: "The blog is a very exciting experiment and provides an insight into my journey through a myriad of documents and items and the personalities contained within.

"The John Murray archive offers an extremely unique perspective on what people thought and talked about over the span of two and a half centuries. My blog documents the most entertaining and enlightening things that I have discovered. I hope the blog highlights what a fascinating experience researching the archive has proved to be."

The John Murray archive is a treasure trove of over 200 years of publishing history and contains stories of travel, adventure and passion. It also houses literature created by world-famous figures including Byron and his lover Caroline Lamb, Austen, Coleridge and Darwin as well as descriptions of early polar explorations which were documented by John Murray.

Emma Faragher, Education & Outreach Officer at the National Library of Scotland, added: "We have been receiving tremendous feedback on the blog – it really is wonderful that such a prolific playwright as Peter has taken the time to share his tales of exploring one of the most exciting publishers' archives in the world. The blog is playing a real part in highlighting how incredible and intriguing this archive is, by making it more accessible and hopefully encouraging people to find out more or pay our John Murray Archive exhibition a visit."

Peter Arnott's literary career began in 1985 and he has penned a number of prestigious plays, including "The Breathing House" which won Best Play at the TMA Awards in 2003.

To check out the blog visit

<http://playwrightincages.blogspot.com> – for further information on the John Murray Archive visit [www.nls.uk/jma/](http://www.nls.uk/jma/)

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## Craighall father and daughter rescued from Forth



RNLI Queensferry lifeboat on an earlier rescue in July.

RNLI/Hamish Campbell

A father and daughter from Craighall were rescued yesterday afternoon from the Firth of Forth after their dinghy overturned. A Pilot Cutter from Granton rescued both from the water and they were safely on board when the lifeboat from RNLI Queensferry arrived.

Thereafter the RNLI righted the dinghy and towed it back to Port Edgar.

The RNLI crew then transported them to Port Edgar where they recovered with a hot shower, apparently none the worse for their ordeal.

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## Assault in Stockbridge

Police in Edinburgh are appealing for witnesses after a man was assaulted and robbed in the Stockbridge area of the

Capital at the weekend.

The incident happened between 7.30am and 8am on Saturday morning August 14, near to St Bernard's Well, at Saunders Street.

The victim, who is 26-years-old, had met the suspect in Queen Street, and they had both walked to Stockbridge before the assault took place.

The suspect robbed the victim of his wallet and mobile phone, and was last seen running into Saunders Street towards Deanhaugh Street.

He is described as white, 19-years-old, 5ft 7ins tall, thin build, short brown hair, and wearing a short-sleeved white t-shirt.

A police spokesman said: 'While the victim wasn't seriously injured, he was left shaken as a result of his ordeal, and we are appealing for any information that can help us identify the suspect.

'We are particularly interested in speaking to two males who approached the victim after he was assaulted, who may have information that can help us.

'Anyone else who was in the area at the time, who witnessed the assault, should contact police as soon as possible.'

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## **Assault and Robbery in Wester**

# Hailes

Police in Edinburgh are appealing for witnesses following an assault and robbery that happened in the Wester Hailes area of the Capital.

The incident happened around 11.30am on Monday August 16 in the underpass at the junction of Calder Road and Wester Hailes Road. This is the same underpass which is leading to calls for a surface crossing on Calder Road at an anticipated cost of around £150,000.

The 17-year-old victim was walking through the underpass towards Calder Road when she was approached by the suspect, who grabbed her and stole her handbag and mobile phone.

He is described as white, in his late teens, 5ft 7ins tall, with dark hair, skinny build, and unshaven. He was wearing a khaki coloured hooded top, with black tracksuit bottoms and black trainers, with a blue sole.

A police spokesman said: "Thankfully the victim wasn't injured, however she was left shaken as a result of what happened, and we are appealing for any information that can help us identify the suspect.

"Anyone who was in the area of Calder Road at the time the incident took place, who saw anyone acting suspiciously there, should contact police.

"Similarly, anyone who recognises the description of the suspect should also get in touch."

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# Launch of check and send facility by council

Applying for British citizenship has been made easier thanks to the launch of a document “check and send” service in Edinburgh.

People who use the Nationality Checking Service offered by the City of Edinburgh Council increase the chance of their applications being approved without unnecessary delays.

Trained staff offer a one-stop shop for applicants, who previously had to either travel to South Lanarkshire or south of the border to get documents checked or risk losing original documents by submitting them directly.

Registration staff will make sure that the correct paperwork is being submitted, photocopy all documents and return the originals, check that applications are filled out properly and then send them by special delivery to arrive at the Home Office in Liverpool the next again working day.

Completed forms sent with the right documents are processed more quickly and cuts down on red tape. Having the forms and documents checked first by trained officials reduces these risks and may also cut the time spent waiting for a result.

The Nationality Checking Service is a partnership between the Council and the Home Office, with a total of 16 existing members of registration staff being trained.

The service is available to any person eligible to apply for British citizenship regardless of where they live.

Councillor Phil Wheeler, Finance Leader at the City of Edinburgh Council, said:

“People seeking British citizenship have to adhere to a strict

application system and have to pay simply to apply, so it is important that they get all of the details correct. Being able to speak face to face to trained staff here in Edinburgh will offer reassurance that they are submitting all of the relevant documents properly.

“This will also generate much-needed funds at a time when every local authority is under huge financial pressure and being forced to make cutbacks.”

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## **Major cuts considered by council**

The City of Edinburgh Council is set to consider options at its meeting in September aimed at reducing management costs and increasing efficiencies in preparation for government funding cuts. If approved, around £16m would be saved over the next three years as a first step towards the budget savings target of £90m.

The proposals, which have come from Council officers, cover management posts and ‘backroom’ functions. Information on the options is being shared with unions today with a briefing also going to all staff. It is expected that in the first instance around 300 jobs could be affected across all departments.

Any reductions in staff would be handled through a combination of options, including reducing temporary staff, leaving vacancies unfilled, early retirement, voluntary redundancy, and redeployment to vacant posts that need to be filled. Compulsory redundancies cannot be ruled out. While some of the posts will go between now and the new financial year, it may take longer for the full effect of the changes to be

implemented. A consultation process has begun with unions, and staff are currently being briefed on the proposals.

Council Leader Cllr Jenny Dawe said: "The harsh reality of the UK budget deficit requires us to confront some very difficult decisions. These officer recommendations highlight the scale and severity of the challenge. We recognise just how concerning this is for staff and we will critically examine the proposals received from directors. We will do all we can to support staff and to protect the valued and vital services they deliver for the people of Edinburgh."

The Council has taken the exceptional step of presenting these options to the 16 September meeting of the Full Council, rather than waiting for the normal budget-setting process in February, to allow more time to manage any changes. Further savings proposals are being developed which will be the subject of full public engagement over September and October before they are considered by councillors.

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## Evening Classes

Or Night School as it used to be called!

Time on your hands? Want to learn something new and meet new friends while you do it? Then why not sign up to Edinburgh's new Adult Education classes.

With day, evening and weekend courses being offered at venues across the city, there is a variety of subjects on offer this year.

Courses include computing, languages, fitness, genealogy, crafts, yoga, belly dancing, wine appreciation, gardening or

stress management.

And with new classes such as criminology, natural home remedies and Feng Shui there is certainly something for everyone.

Last year, a record number of people joined classes and the Council took over 21,000 enrolments.

Councillor Marilyne MacLaren, Convener for Education, Children and Families said: "It is great to see such a diverse and interesting programme this year, these courses are really enjoyable and can offer a real career boost. People continue to tell us how much they benefit from taking part and I am really pleased that the measures we have taken to encourage participation have yielded record numbers this year."

Also on offer are Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) courses at Higher and Unit levels run by Stevenson College Edinburgh and Edinburgh's Telford College. These can be taken as formal qualifications for work, college or university or simply for personal development or interest.

The full list of classes is at this [website](#).

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## **Power of Attorney – an essential document**

Many Scots are risking leaving their affairs in jeopardy if they become old and infirm – by not signing over sufficient authority in a Power of Attorney.

Edinburgh legal firm Gibson Kerr says that people who make a Power of Attorney but only appoint one attorney run the risk

of leaving their families and loved ones in a financial mess if they become incapacitated – as they have no back-up plan in place to cover any future emergencies.

The firm says that many Scots currently recognise the importance of having a Power of Attorney, as it allows their relatives or close friends to take control of their affairs if they become incapacitated and unable to manage for themselves.

The documents are intended to avoid lengthy and expensive court proceedings which are sometimes required in order for the family to properly manage the person's money and property if they themselves are not able to.

However, despite the awareness over the documents, Gibson Kerr says that many Scots are still risking leaving their affairs in disorder – because they only appoint one attorney, rather than two or more.

Scott Rasmusen, partner with Gibson Kerr, said: "Although it's encouraging that there are many people choosing to grant Power of Attorney to their families or friends, there are still many people who only appoint one attorney.

"This means that they are actually leaving themselves – and their affairs – in danger, as they will not have a back-up Attorney in place in the event of something happening to their first one.

"We have seen a few cases where people have granted Power of Attorney to a relative, but then that relative has been involved in an accident and died unexpectedly. All of a sudden, these people find that they no longer have a Power of Attorney in place and have to identify and agree another one before it is too late.

"If, by then, they themselves are incapacitated, there is no attorney left to act and it is not possible for the person to appoint another one.

“In some cases where the individual was already incapacitated, their family have had to go through the lengthy and costly process of going to court and trying to get control over their assets – which is precisely the scenario that they were trying to avoid by granting the Power of Attorney in the first place.”

Scott recommends having at least two joint Attorneys in place, or one Attorney with a substitute, to ensure that your affairs are secured against any eventuality.

He added: “You can appoint as many Attorneys as you like, so don’t just make one appointment and leave it at that – otherwise you will have no insurance whatsoever if something happens to that person.

“Instead, you should appoint two or more people, or alternatively a substitute attorney, to ensure you are completely covered. Then, if something happens to your original Attorney, there will be another in place to take responsibility for your affairs and money.

“The whole point of a Power of Attorney is to safeguard your affairs and ensure that someone else can run them for you if you are unable to do so yourself. It also means that your money and affairs will be intact for your family to inherit when you die.

“Therefore you should take every measure to ensure you are adequately covered, and you should consult an experienced family solicitor for the best legal advice when it comes to Power of Attorney.”

Gibson Kerr has been established in Edinburgh for more than 100 years and has an excellent reputation for providing a comprehensive service. The firm is run by husband and wife team Scott and Fiona Rasmusen, who provide expert advice on family law issues including powers of attorney, executries and wills.

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# New bar given licence go-ahead

A stylish new venue has been given the go ahead by licensing bosses.

LA White Leisure has spent more than a year securing permission to open in the heart of Edinburgh's canal side Edinburgh Quay development.

The leisure group will now transform the building formerly occupied by a previous bar venture, Embark.

Councillor Jim Lowrie Convener of planning at Edinburgh Council said: "It is superb that permission has been granted for this venture to go ahead.

"The development and the regeneration of the Edinburgh Quay area is set to take off over the next few years and a bar venue such as this will be an added bonus, providing extra footfall and much needed vitality to the area. "

LA White Leisure was founded by Rory McWhirter and a silent partner. The young entrepreneur, a Heriot Watt graduate, will run the venue with manager Rowan Milne.

He added: "It has been a long process so we're thrilled the licence has now been granted.

"It is an important moment for us, because the investment is in place, the concept is fully worked out and the design is complete.

"Now we can actually get on with the fit out and planning for a really special opening. This is going to be a bar that

surprises a lot of people.

“The overall design is fantastic and we’ll be providing some quirky and surprising extras, so watch this space.”

Work begins on the venue this week and is set to open at the end of September.

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## **Festival of Politics**

“Life is different for us, but we still have hopes and dreams just like everyone else” – that’s the message Scotland’s young carers will be taking to this week’s Festival of Politics at the Scottish Parliament.

The Princess Royal Trust for Carers (The Trust) will be running an event at the annual Festival on Thursday 19 August at 11am. The event will highlight awareness of young carers, what their lives are like and the help that is available to them – such as the services run by groups affiliated to The Trust.

There are an estimated 100,000 young carers in Scotland, caring for a family member or friend who is sick, disabled, has a mental health problem or an addiction. All are different and yet all have one thing in common – they are unpaid and as a consequence often face a life of isolation, ill-health and poverty.

At the Festival of Politics, four young carers will be talking about their lives, what it’s like to look after someone for hours at a time and how that influences school and social lives. The young carers will also be talking about the positive experiences they have enjoyed through their local

young carers' services.

Nicole is 17. She looks after her six-year-old brother Paul, who has epilepsy and learning difficulties.

Nicole says: "I've only recently started going along to my local young carers' group, but I've made lots of friends there. A lot of young carers don't know they are young carers, so that's why I'm happy to talk about my life so that more people know what a young carer is and why we need our groups."

Nicole will be joining more than 450 other young carers from all over Scotland at the third annual Scottish Young Carers Festival on 21 and 22 August at West Linton, which is organised by The Trust and funded by the Scottish Government. It gives young carers a break and the chance to talk to ministers, politicians and decision-makers about their lives and the new national young carers' strategy – *Getting it Right for Young Carers*.

Florence Burke, Director for Scotland for The Trust, adds: "We're delighted that young carers will be playing such an important part in this year's Festival of Politics at the Scottish Parliament. Spending cuts could have an impact on services for young carers which is why we want to prove how necessary the services are and how important it is that funding for them continues."

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## Recipe of the Week

This week we are back to basics again. For all you students out there here is a very easy recipe but one which will keep you going on a dark winter's day!

Take two slices of white bread and place them on a baking sheet in a hot oven. About 225degrees C is fine.

While the bread is toasting make a white sauce. Easy peasy. Melt 50g butter in a saucepan. When melted but not bubbling add 50g plain flour and using a hand whisk combine the two so that you have a yellow paste. Do not allow to stick or burn. Then still whisking add about 350ml of milk gradually and steadily. Keep whisking and it will become a thick sauce.

Then take the bread and on one slice spread with mustard and add a slice of Emmenthal or Gruyere cheese followed by some ham. Butter the other slice with just a little butter. Make a sandwich and then top with enough white sauce to cover and grated cheese. Place sandwich back on the baking sheet and grill or bake in hot oven until the sauce on top browns and bubbles.

Croque Monsieur! (and if you add a fried egg on top – Croque Madame!)

Bon Appetit.

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## Goodbye Mr. Chips

When I was a kid I used to love going to massive game shops like Future Zone and Electronics Boutique, even Game. They filled me with awe, all these different games for various systems from the Atari ST to the Philips CDi and many, many more than we see today. However these wondrous places of game retail were mainly found in cities far away from where I lived so it was the smaller shops I used to spend most of my time in, gazing at the backs of boxes, wondering what it was like to play them. The staff were always friendly and knowledgeable

but the shops themselves seemed so much less inspiring than the giants found in the shopping malls.

This was set to change though and as gaming became more mainstream the companies like Electronics Boutique grew their empires, destroying the small independent stores in a similar way that has been happening with supermarkets and coffee shops. However food and drink are far more important than gaming, so this went fairly unnoticed. As these retail chains started growing the smaller shops simply couldn't compete and as stores like Game grew their magic started to wear off. The people who worked there tended to be less interested in the wares they were selling you and as the shops got bigger the choice got smaller. Support was only seen for the latest and greatest consoles with a small section for a console or two that still had people buying enough games for it to be profitable.

With this change I began to see the independent game stores for the amazing things they were. People worked there for their love of it and were interested in what they were selling. If a game didn't work on your computer they would do their best to get it up and running, creating customised boot discs for PCs, explaining what advantages a hard drive or CD ROM would bring you and show you how you could get the most out of the machine you had rather than try to sell you something brand new.

But these shops began to die off and they have become a rarer and rarer sight over the years. However there was one name that you began to see around a country surrounded by Game and Gamestation logos and that was Chips.

Chips has managed to keep the independent store vibe whilst becoming a franchise within itself. There used to be a Chips store near where I lived and it is where my Dad bought perhaps

my favourite computer; an Amiga 500+ and I was inspired every time I went there with the incredible things the staff were able to make this machine do and the demos that would be running on the computers they had set up. As this may suggest to you, Chips has managed to survive a very long time. The first store opened in the mid 80s and another 11 followed along with 14 franchise shops and a online store. I first noticed the Edinburgh branch of [Chips](#) whilst on the bus to work and from the moment I walked in it became my favourite game shop in the city. The staff were awesome, the prices were competitive and games could be found for systems from the Xbox 360 to the Sega Master System. However all good things come to an end. Several weeks ago it was [reported](#) that Chipsworld was going into liquidation and the Edinburgh store, among many of the others would be closed.

So, now Edinburgh's best game store lies dormant and it saddens me. As much as I still like some of the bigger retail chains they really do lack the heart and charm of shops like Chips. I hope the people (in fact I believe it was person, but i don't want to leave anybody out) who worked there and at all the other branches across the country find fantastic new jobs that they love, because they deserve it. They have kept the notion of an independent game store alive, never once trying to shove junk onto customers or sell shoddy goods, never patronising, always happy to answer questions and far more knowledgeable than many of the staff I've encountered at other outlets.

When I started writing for the Reporter one of the things I was hoping to do was an article about this store. This was not the story I wanted to write.

Goodbye Mr. Chips, you will be missed.