

# Delhi here we come!

The athletes who will represent Scotland at next month's Commonwealth Games in Delhi were named today.

Scots will compete in 16 of the 17 sports disciplines in India. The oldest is 72-year-old bowler Willie Wood, at the Games for a record eighth time, and the youngest is diver Grace Reid, aged 14.

The Delhi Games will be held between October 3 and 14. Glasgow is to be the host city in 2014.

Sport Minister Shona Robison said:

"I wish all the athletes selected to represent Team Scotland at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi the very best of luck. All of these athletes have reached this point through sheer hard work, dedication and commitment and are an inspiration to us all.

"The 2010 Games is a perfect platform for our athletes to demonstrate their talent and ability on the international sporting stage. The Games will also provide experience for those who have aspirations to compete for Scotland in front of a home crowd when Glasgow hosts the Games in 2014. I am looking forward to going to Delhi to support the team and I'm sure I will witness some outstanding performances."

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## 450 years since John Knox

✖ Joint plans to mark the 450th anniversary of the Reformation were unveiled by the Church of Scotland and Scottish Government today.

The main national focus will be on Wednesday November 3, beginning with a conference, organised by the Joint Commission on Doctrine, followed by an ecumenical service at St Giles' Cathedral and then an evening reception hosted by First Minister Alex Salmond in the Great Hall of Edinburgh Castle.

The day-long conference, 'The Scottish Reformation 1560: Marking the Legacy, Imagining the Future', opened by the First Minister and addressed by Professor Tom Devine, Rev Dr Alan Falconer, Rev Dr Alison Peden, Professor Paul Murray and the Very Rev Dr Sheilagh Kesting.

The Kirk is also planning a touring exhibition, alongside the release of hundreds of years of Kirk Session minutes which will provide a valuable insight into the Church's development and a mine of information for historians and genealogists.

It was 450 years ago tomorrow (August 17, 1560) that the Scottish Parliament approved the Scots Confession written by "the Six Johns", including John Knox.

Fergus Ewing, the Scottish Government's Minister with responsibility for faith communities, said:

"The Reformation was one of the most important periods in Scotland's history, and one that helped shape the character of our nation and its people to this day.

"We have been working with the Kirk to ensure the 450th Anniversary is appropriately remembered. The Scottish Government fully appreciates the work of the Kirk across Scotland, and internationally, as well as all our varied faith communities for their roles in helping our nation to become One Scotland.

"The First Minister is delighted to be hosting a reception at Edinburgh Castle. This will recognise and celebrate the contribution the Kirk has made to Scottish life, the legacy of the Reformation of universal education leading to the

Enlightenment and to celebrate the modern, diverse, multi-faith, multicultural Scotland to which we all aspire.”

Right Reverend John Christie, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, said:

“The Reformation was a key event in Scotland’s history and the opportunity afforded by the 450th anniversary to reflect on its far-reaching legacy is to be welcomed.

“Earlier this year the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland commemorated the Reformation during a special open session which placed it in its historical setting as well as reminding us of the place which the Reformation had in the religious and cultural life of Scotland.

“The planned commemoration with the Scottish Government not only allows us to remember the past, it also challenges us all as we strive together to create a society where justice and peace, with hope and love, are the foundations on which to keep building for the future.”

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## **Success of Community Renewables Fund – les jeux sont fait**

To access public money is always a bit of a lottery but the success of the Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) means that it is closing to new applications following unprecedented demand, it was announced today.

The CARES scheme, delivered by Community Energy Scotland, has already helped over 300 community groups invest in renewable

technologies like solar panels, biomass and wind turbines since opening in May 2009, with a further 300 expected to benefit by April next year.

Energy Minister Jim Mather said:

“The Community and Renewable Energy grant scheme has been extremely successful in helping communities generate their own green energy, cut carbon and stimulate the market for renewable technologies.

“Since CARES was launched last year the demand from community groups wishing to invest in renewables funding has been unprecedented with over 600 groups set to benefit from £13.5 million of funding. The scheme, part of this Government’s move to treble the budget for community renewables and microgeneration has boosted our growing low carbon industries. As a result, the scheme is now facing financial pressures.

“We remain committed to driving local ownership of energy and in doing so, securing wider community benefits. Building on this success of CARES, we have commissioned a feasibility study to look into early stage financing for renewables projects which will be carried out by the Scottish Agricultural College in conjunction with Community Energy Scotland. That will report back in September and we will look at future options for funding as part of the budget process this autumn.”

The Scottish Government established CARES in April 2009, with a total budget of £13.5 million over financial years 2009/10 and 2010/11, with the aim of maximising community benefits from renewables and increasing local ownership of energy. This reflected a manifesto commitment to treble funding for community and microgeneration. CARES has two elements: a network of development officers, located across Scotland, offering free advice, and grant support of up to £150,000 for technical studies and installation of renewable equipment.

This announcement only impacts on new applications. Subject to normal checks on eligibility, all projects currently going through the system and supported by development officers will be funded.

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## Floating windfarms....

First Minister Alex Salmond today met Statoil, a Norwegian based oil company, to discuss the possibility of developing the world's first floating wind farm in Scotland.

The company has identified two potential sites, one off the coast of Lewis and one off Aberdeenshire that could be suitable for a pilot park, testing the concept of their Hywind floating turbines further.

Statoil has already constructed a full scale prototype Hywind unit, anchored 10 kilometres offshore at Karmøy in Norway. The floating wind turbine is performing beyond expectations and has delivered power to the grid since September 2009.

The next stage of the project could involve constructing between three and five Hywind units to document the commercial potential of the concept.

Scottish Development International and Marine Scotland have been working closely with Statoil to support the current feasibility studies for such a project in Scotland, which could open the doors to the development of full-scale floating wind farms in deep water.

Statoil will be visiting Scotland again next month to investigate the potential of these possible sites further.

The First Minister is currently in Norway, undertaking a

series of high profile Ministerial and industry engagements to strengthen economic and energy links with Scotland's North Sea neighbours

First Minister Alex Salmond said:

"Scotland has unrivalled marine resources and, with massive offshore wind potential, we are leading the way in the generation of clean, green energy from the sea.

"Our waters are estimated to have as much as a quarter of Europe's potential offshore wind energy and we are perfectly positioned to develop the technology that will power this remarkable renewables revolution.

"We are working to maximise the huge benefits that offshore wind can bring to Scotland – estimated to be around £30 billion worth of investment and up to 20,000 Scottish jobs, while cutting emissions and delivering energy security.

"It is critical that we exploit every opportunity – a recent study suggests that harnessing just a third of our practical resource off our coast by 2050 would generate enough electricity to power Scotland seven times over.

"Scotland has is already pioneered the development of deepwater offshore wind with the highly successful Beatrice Offshore Wind Demonstrator in the Moray Firth which enabled the UK Round Three and Scottish Territorial Waters offshore wind sites to be offered in water depths up to 60 metres.

"The Hywind II wind farm project would see a Scotland-Norway collaboration push the boundaries of deepwater offshore wind beyond the 100m mark and open up vast areas of the world 's oceans to the development of wind energy for the first time.

"Today's meeting with Statoil was very positive, building on Scottish Development International's ongoing engagement with the company. This is exciting technology and I was extremely

interested to hear more about the ongoing success of Hywind, and about Statoil's future plans for the project.

"I also highlighted with Statoil the wider opportunities in marine energy through our #10 million Saltire Prize, one of the largest innovation prizes ever, which has been designed to stimulate global interest and advance the international development of wave and tidal energy generation."

Scottish Development International interim Chief Executive, David Smith, said:

"Scottish Development International is pleased to be working to secure further investment from Statoil into Scotland in the shape of their Hywind II floating turbine array project. The future global market for this technology will be enormous and this project offers the opportunity for Scottish and Norwegian companies to work together to develop a cutting edge system capable of lowering the cost of offshore wind development and delivering clean sustainable energy worldwide."

A major international conference focused on maximising the multi-billion pound opportunities presented by renewable energy and other low carbon developments will be held in Scotland on September 28 and 29. Organised by Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce, with the support of the Scottish Government and Scottish Enterprise, the conference will provide a unique forum for Government, international finance, utilities and developers to engage directly on investment opportunities.

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# Judicial Appointments Board

The Cabinet Secretary for Justice today announced the appointment of a new member to the Judicial Appointments Board for Scotland.

The new member is Dr Michael (Mike) Ewart.

Mike has a First Class Honours degree from Cambridge and a DPhil from York University. He joined the then Scottish Office in 1977 where his career began in the Education Department. In 1991 he became Deputy Director of the Scottish Courts Administration and guided the Scottish Court Service to Agency status, becoming its first Chief Executive in 1994. In 1999 he returned to the Education Department first as Head of Schools Group and from 2002 as Head of the Education Department. From April 2007 until November 2009 he was Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service. Mike is now Director of the Scottish International Education Trust and a Board member of Scottish Ballet; neither role is a Ministerial appointment.

Mike's breadth of experience, ability and knowledge of the judicial system will complement and strengthen the current Board.

This appointment will run for four years from August 9, 2010 to August 8, 2014.

This post is part-time and attracts a remuneration of £290 per day for a time commitment of 20 to 30 days per year.

Mike does not hold any other public appointment.

The Judicial Appointments Board for Scotland was established by Ministers in 2002; and it became an independent advisory non-departmental public body on June 1, 2009. The Board has statutory responsibilities under the Judiciary and Courts (Scotland) Act 2008. The Board's role is to make



recommendations to Ministers for appointment to the office of judge, sheriff principal, sheriff, and part-time sheriff as well as other judicial offices set out in the Act.

There are 10 Board Members: three judicial and two legal members (a Judge, a Sheriff Principal, a Sheriff, an Advocate and a Solicitor) and five lay members including the lay Chairing Member.

The lay Chairing Member is Sir Muir Russell, KCB FRSE.

These Ministerial public appointments were made in accordance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Scotland's Code of Practice.

All appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for appointees' political activity within the last five years (if there is one to be declared) to be made public. There is no political activity to be declared.

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## Curriculum for Excellence

Thousands of school children across Scotland are starting to head back to school from today – the first term in which Curriculum for Excellence will be in practice in secondary schools.

Cabinet Secretary for Education Michael Russell marked the term with a visit to Cardinal Newman High School in Bellshill, a front-runner in introducing the new curriculum, where he witnessed the new learning and teaching approaches in action.

Mr Russell said:

“The modern world is changing rapidly and what Scottish employers are looking for from job seekers is evolving at the same rate.

“Our young people will need to be creative, resourceful, flexible, confident and responsible to succeed in the new global economy.

“Curriculum for Excellence is designed to do exactly this by bringing a new focus on the skills we want pupils to develop and changing the way they’re taught to maximise the opportunities to build these skills.

“I know that teachers have been working hard to prepare for Curriculum for Excellence and I’ve already seen some fantastic examples of the type of imaginative teaching that will be its hallmark.

“Cardinal Newman High School is ahead of the curve in embedding the new approach and I was delighted to see so many examples during my visit.

“There is a great deal of support available for teachers, schools and local authorities to help them make the most of Curriculum for Excellence, including new films of the curriculum in action from the Scottish Government and tailored support where requested from HMIE as promised in my ten point plan.

“As well as a new curriculum, let’s also remember that thousands of young children are going to school for the first time this week. I would like to wish them – and the many thousands who are returning – the very best of luck for the coming year.”

Isabelle Boyd CBE, head teacher of Cardinal Newman High School said:

“I was delighted to welcome the Cabinet Secretary to Cardinal

Newman High School at the start of session 2010-11. He was able to experience first hand our vision and values and how these create a curriculum offering real choice. As a school we continue to take every opportunity to develop and enhance learning that improves outcomes for our young people. Teachers, pupils and families get opportunities, experience success and that in turn generates more excitement for learning.”

Support available for teachers, schools and local authorities includes:

- \* New films of CfE in action which have been produced by the Scottish Government to be launched shortly
- \* Tailored support where requested from HMIE
- \* Learning Teaching Scotland’s web refresh and Support campaign for practitioners and curriculum planners
- \* The Scottish Qualification Authority’s development work on CfE qualifications
- \* The new National Assessment Resource.

The Engage for Education website is an online public participation project to enable people across Scotland’s education community to engage directly with the Scottish Government about the issues important to them.

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## Monday 16th August 2010



Photo courtesy of Edinburgh  
Inspiring Capital  
Edinburgh news.

The great weather brings out the best of Edinburgh and all just at the right time when the Book Festival is getting underway in Charlotte Square. Read our [article](#) about the crowds who visited the festival at the weekend.

The Reporter went to [The Tattoo](#) on Saturday and it was one of the slickest events we have ever seen. The Imps motorcycle riders are amazing. The youngest at only five was a real wee daredevil. If you can beg steal or borrow a ticket then do! The sight of a Tornado coming over the Castle Esplanade is one thing – but when you are in the slipstream and they turn on the afterburners it is quite another sight and sound! We are still recovering from the shock of it. Our Tattoo photos will go up on Flickr later.

All you want to know about the shows at Edinburgh Fringe can be found on [Edinburgh Spotlight](#).

[Greener Leith](#) report the campaign growing in Lochend to get justice for Simon San who was murdered last week. Meanwhile four teenagers are due in court today in connection with the death of the delivery driver.

Robert Melvin has been charged with the murder of Martin Hughes who was killed last week in Wester Hailes.

Police have been searching in Argyll over the weekend for Suzanne Pilley but the search has ended without success. [STV News](#) has more.

And the plans to turn premises in York Place into a kind of hostel have been abandoned according to [The Broughton Spurtle](#).

And finally according to The Broughton Spurtle there have been some nocturnal goings on in Bellevue Road where things that go bump in the night have instead gone missing....garden bench turns into planters...read more [here!](#)

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# Edinburgh International Book Festival opens to crowds



Photo courtesy of Edinburgh  
Inspiring Capital

The Edinburgh International Book Festival opened on Saturday to record crowds and capacity audiences for most events. Christos Tsiolkas, one of the ten authors longlisted for the 2010 Man Booker Prize who will be appearing in Charlotte Square Gardens over the next 17 days, opened the Festival when speaking about his book, *The Slap* while Philip Pullman debated the nuances of *The Good Man Jesus* and the Scoundrel Christ with the former Bishop of Oxford, Richard Harries in a keynote event chaired by the former Bishop of Edinburgh, Richard Holloway.

The Book Festival started a little earlier than normal with BBC Radio 4's Today Programme broadcasting live from Charlotte Square Gardens to an audience of 5 million across the UK. Presenter Jim Naughtie was joined by a range of guests including former Chancellor Alistair Darling, who will deliver The National Library of Scotland's Donald Dewar Memorial Lecture at the Book Festival on Tuesday 17 August, and James Robertson who launched his new epic novel, *And The Land Lay Still*, at an emotional event last night. Darling admitted that things had been 'close to the brink' when he received a phone call from the Royal Bank of Scotland to say that the bank was going to fail in two hours, and asking what he was going to do about it. Commenting that he had a high pain threshold, "Which was just as well given what's happened over the last three years," Darling denied that there was a rift between him and

Gordon Brown.

☒ Over 17,000 people visited the gardens to attend events and enjoy the sunshine including the former PM, Gordon Brown, who brought his son to see the Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy. Actor Dominic West was also spotted and Ian McDiarmid, who played the Emperor in Star Wars, appeared playing the part of Frank Sinatra in an event with Andrew O'Hagan. O'Hagan, who was also accompanied on stage by Suzanne Bertish and Andrew Hawley, announced that a film adaptation of his book, *The Life and Opinions of Maf the Dog, and of His Friend Marilyn Monroe*, will shortly go into production starring George Clooney as Frank Sinatra and Angelina Jolie as Marilyn Monroe. It is not yet known who will be playing Maf the dog.

The Book Festival continues until Monday 30 August with appearances still to come from Nicholas Parsons, Vidal Sassoon, Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen, A S Byatt and Man Booker Prize winners D B C Pierre and John Banville among many others. Tickets for events are available [on-line](#), in person at Charlotte Square Gardens from 9.30am to 8.30pm daily until 30 August, or by phone (0845 373 5888).

[googleMap name="Charlotte Square Garden" description="Book Festival" width="400" height="400"]Charlotte Square Edinburgh[/googleMap]

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## What's on This Week? – 16 August 2010

Alastair Darling is giving the [Donald Dewar Lecture](#) on 17th August which you are possibly too late to get ticket for unless you are prepared to wait in the returns queue in the

Charlotte Square garden.

[Thrive for Business](#) are holding an after works drinks event on 19th August at the Apex Waterloo Place.

At [The National Museum of Flight](#) Libbie Escolme Schmidt, ex-BOAC stewardess and author of Glamour in the Skies: The Golden Age of the Air Stewardess will be talking to visitors and signing copies of her book on 19th August.

[Life Laundry Day](#) – brilliant concept! – on 21st August at the Edinburgh International Climbing Arena at Ratho. Get your life goals sorted out.

You have a couple of weeks left to see the Jupiter Artland project just outside Edinburgh. [Edinburgh Spotlight](#) has a feature on the revamping of the gardens at Bonnington House on the outskirts of Edinburgh.

You could be having dinner on Tuesday night in the company of Edinburgh hairdresser, Charlie Miller at the Premier Series Dinner at The George Hotel organised by [The Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce](#). Highlights from his career are promised.... If you are too late to book then there are other dinners in the future.

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

Midmar Allotments are holding an Open Day on 21st August from 14.00 to 17.00. You can find out more on the FEDAGA's [website](#).

☒ Now here is a good idea if you are a dog-lover – even if you don't have a dog yourself you are invited to join the Meet-up group Bark in the Park. They go for walks together – with dogs! Their Meet-up page is [here](#) and their next meet is on 21 August 2010 at Gore Glen Country Park just south of Edinburgh.

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# Class sizes attacked by parents

Edinburgh parents have welcomed the news that a solution will be proposed at the full Council Committee on Thursday to curb the size of early years classes – and it will not cost the Council a penny.

Labour and Tories have joined forces to submit a motion at Thursday's council meeting, the day children start back at school. The Greens said they will also support the motion.

It is claimed that Edinburgh P1 classes are too big and apparently the Convener of Education, Children & Families has told the press that her department is overstaffed, over-managed and needs to become more efficient.

The motion asks the department Director, Gillian Tee, to look into solving both problems by transferring back-room staff, who are qualified teachers, into the front line.

The motion refers to schools where the number of classes have recently been cut, leading to larger early years classes. One such school is Roseburn Primary. A parent there welcomed the news. "It's great that our councillors finally have a chance to solve the twin problems of bloated classes and a bloated bureaucracy at a stroke. Teachers are flying desks in HQ whilst their colleagues are struggling to introduce the Curriculum for Excellence in classes way above the guidelines. If the Council move back-room staff to the front line, kids all over the city will benefit. For years the department has been cutting schools at the expense of building an empire at Waverley Court."



The motion sets the ball rolling, by asking Gillian Tee to provide a report detailing two things: a) class sizes in all Edinburgh's P1-P3 classes and b) which of her non-school employees are teachers- and which ones might need refresher training should a decision be made to deploy them back to the classroom.

The motion reminds councillors of The Scottish Government's pledge to reduce class sizes in P1-P3 to 18 and the desire to cap class sizes at 25 for early years. Over 2,000 of the 3,868 pupils starting in Edinburgh's P1 will be in classes over 25, according to an FOI request and a statement from Councillor Marilyne MacLaren earlier this year.

Last week parents launched a campaign calling for cuts to be made to bureaucracy and for managers to be sent into classrooms. The "Kids Not Suits" campaign criticises the city council for failing to tackle the education department's massive back-room costs at a time when school budgets are being cut and class sizes in many schools are rising.

The anonymous online campaign was launched by a parent whose child will be starting P1 in a class of 30 at Roseburn Primary School in a fortnight.

He said "Six months ago we were told Sammy would be going into a class of 23 – then the Council cut a teacher from the school and all the parents are very unhappy about the change. As well as the 30 children going to P1, there are 7 starting school who are joining 15 older P2 kids in a composite class. Children have been separated from their chums after they've spent the last two years together at nursery. Because we are a teacher short, all the lower primary classes are being reorganised up to P4 and they'll all be packed like sardines. Friends are being split up all over the place. It's daft.

Other schools have big classes too. Here's a chance for 6,000 early years children from all across Edinburgh who are in

classes over the guidelines to get the most out of school.”

According to recent Government statistics, Edinburgh ranked 6th worst out of 31 Scottish Councils on P1 class sizes in 2009, the last year for which figures are available.

The parent is hoping that any citizen across the city who is unhappy about the large class sizes and a top-heavy bureaucracy will help the campaign by asking their councillors to support the motion at the full Council meeting on August 19th.

Last week Council chiefs hit back at the campaign, saying that “a huge majority of our resources go directly to schools, with a relatively small amount funding back-office services.”

Research has shown that Children & Families has 524 staff involved in back-room services and management. The figure excludes the other 3,310 who are not teachers but work directly with children, such as community centre and nursery staff, psychologists, residential care officers and social workers.

Of these 524 staff, 190 are managers. Said the Roseburn parent “I think many of these people are ex-teachers. Councillor MacLaren said back in March that over 50 of her schools would have P1 classes over the guidelines. So if even just 10% of these back-room staff were moved back to the classrooms that would mean one more teacher for every one of these schools. It would make a huge difference for early years pupils.”

The parent has outlined 12 ways to sort out Children & Families problems and cut it down to size by learning from other Council departments and cutting duplication with them.

These are detailed on the Kids Not Suits website at [www.roseburn32.plus.com](http://www.roseburn32.plus.com) where residents can find out how to lobby their councillors to support this week’s motion.

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# New dementia centre

A new dementia service has opened in the grounds of the former Eastern General Hospital in Edinburgh.

The new Seagrove Centre, run by North Edinburgh Dementia Care, will provide vital services to those with dementia.

The new purpose-built centre has recently been successful in securing funding from the City of Edinburgh Council for the next five years.

Around 108 service users from the area will be able to attend a variety of activities and programmes at the day care centre each week and it will be open every day apart from Sunday.

High quality care will be provided, which will support people with dementia and their carers following diagnosis.

It will also improve responses to the illness and provide alternatives to hospital admission.

The NHS has been a major partner through the development of the service – providing the previous accommodations within the Eastern General Hospital and looking to continue its support within this new centre.

Councillor Norman Work, Vice Convener of the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee, said: “It is fantastic to see this new centre spring to life and I would like to say congratulations to everyone who has had a part to play in the development of this new building.

“Not only will it provide great facilities and services for service users, it will also be a lifeline for their families too. We are looking forward to working with our partners in

providing a high quality service.”

Dunedin Canmore Housing Association supported the project by providing new equipment for the centre.

Susan Napier, Business Development Director of Dunedin Canmore Housing Association, said: “We are delighted to have been able to provide this brand new facility for the Seagrove Centre, who have provided an invaluable service in this area for many years. We look forward to working closely with them to continue helping the local community.”

North Edinburgh Dementia Care was originally founded in 1988 when it identified the need for services for people living with dementia and their carers in the local area.

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## **START in St Andrew Square**

✖ Scottish Business in the Community (SBC) and Essential Edinburgh have announced the national launch of project START, an initiative established by HRH The Prince of Wales to promote and celebrate sustainable living.

Together with partners, Start will be launched in Scotland with a festival, Start in St Andrew Square, from Saturday 4 – Monday 6 September, to encourage individuals to make a Start with sustainable living and demonstrate the benefits from developing sustainable behaviour.

The festival will include a wide range of activities including cooking demonstrations, fashion shows and workshops, exhibits and events showcasing how everyone can cut down on waste and conserve natural resources at home, in the garden and at work.

Start is the next phase of the sustainability journey that

originated with The Mayday Network in 2007. The Network was as a result of HRH's call to business to take action on climate change and is now an established movement of almost 2,800 UK businesses progressing along the low carbon and resource-efficient journey towards a sustainable future. Start aims to inspire and support individuals to help them lead more sustainable lives.

Jane Wood, Chief Executive of Scottish Business in the Community said: "Scottish Business in the Community and the Mayday Network are delighted to launch project Start in partnership with Essential Edinburgh.

"Through clear, concise language and advice Start aims to make the move to sustainable living as simple as possible. Start in St Andrew Square will demonstrate the very best examples of sustainable practice in Scotland, and show how we can all make positive changes right now to lower our impact on the environment."

Tom Campbell, Chief Executive of Essential Edinburgh said: "The business improvement district is already a member of the May Day network and we're pleased to be working with SBC on the Start initiative. St Andrew Square is a great place to launch Start and we're sure it will attract lots of people into the BID area."

The launch of Start will also see the opening of the Start Living space in St James centre. Start Living will provide information, advice and interactive support on sustainable lifestyle choices and assist the steps taken by individuals to make that Start.

Start will be officially launched on Monday 6 September 2010, Start St Andrew Square will run from Saturday 4 September – Monday 6 September 2010.

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# Weekend news 14th-15th August 2010

A teenager is being hunted for the murder of a delivery driver according to [The Sun](#). Simon San was killed outside his family's takeaway business in Leith on Wednesday night and was taken to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary where his life support machine was turned off on Friday morning.

Two males have been arrested and charged in connection with an alleged fraudulent fundraising account linked to the St Margaret's School in Edinburgh.

The pair, aged 17 and 18, are scheduled to appear in court at a later date.

Two men have been arrested and charged under the Misuse of Drugs Act after police recovered a large quantity of drugs from a car in Midlothian.

As part of Operation Erase – an ongoing operation to target drug dealing in East and Midlothian – officers stopped a Vauxhall Vectra on the A720 City Bypass.

Drugs believed to be cocaine with an estimated value of £25,000 were then seized. The pair were due to appear in court in Edinburgh on Friday.

The Princess Royal celebrates her 60th birthday on Sunday 15th August.



Photo courtesy of Edinburgh  
Inspiring Capital

The Reporter is off to the Tattoo on Saturday night! We will tell you all about it on Sunday.

Over this weekend there is of course a lot to see and do in Edinburgh. There is the [Foodies Festival](#) at Holyrood Park from Friday till Sunday.

Meanwhile Patrick Harvie MSP is at sea – literally! He is somewhere in the Atlantic without wifi or the internet on a ship bound for the UK. You can read more on his [blog](#).

And a couple of other festivals start today – [The Book Festival](#) and the official [Edinburgh International Festival](#) started officially last night... Have fun!

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## Liberton and Gilmerton by-election

Voters in the Liberton and Gilmerton ward in Edinburgh have until 25 August to register to vote or apply for a postal vote for the by-election on 9 September. A vacancy has been created by the resignation of Cllr Ian Murray who was elected to the UK Parliament in May.

To register to vote or apply for a postal vote people should contact The Electoral Registration Office on 0131 344 2500 or by visiting [www.lothian-vjb.gov.uk](http://www.lothian-vjb.gov.uk)

The polling stations, which will be open from 7am to 10pm, will be:

- St John Vianney RC Primary School, Ivanhoe Crescent
- St Gregory's Church Hall, Bellenden Gardens

- Liberton Kirk Halls, 30 Kirkgate
- TA Centre, 126A Alnwickhill Road
- Gracemount Leisure Centre, 22 Gracemount Drive
- Liberton Northfield Church Hall, 280(A) Gilmerton Road
- Goodtrees Neighbourhood Centre, Moredunvale Place.
- Valley Park Community Centre, 37 Southhouse Road
- Gilmerton Community Centre, 4 Drum Street

The election will use the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system where voters rank candidates in order of preference rather than using a cross. Voters can give a rank to as many or as few candidates as they like.

The results of the by-election will be announced on 10th September.

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## **Balerno market square completed**

A new market square is the centre piece of a £250,000 revamp to Balerno after a major cash injection from the City of Edinburgh Council. The ceremony for the re-furbished Balerno Main Street starts on Saturday 14th August at 11a.m. and the ribbon will be officially cut by Tom McCall, the longest-serving member of Balerno Community Council at 11.25a.m.

The square forms part of the improvements carried out to Main Street under the Council's Urban Centres Programme (UCP) which aims to improve local shopping centres by making them more



accessible and vibrant.

Other changes include the reconstruction of the main road, upgrades to surfaces with Caithness stone slabs and granite setts, new street furniture and new street lighting.

In another major change a new Traffic Regulation Order is now in place which allows traffic wardens to issue parking tickets to any vehicles entering or parking in Main Street that are not blue badge holders or delivery vehicles.

Taking pride of place in the Market Square is the winning entry in a competition for pupils of Dean Park Primary School who were tasked with coming up with a design to celebrate the history of Balerno.

Jema Robertson of Primary 5/6 was the winner and her design now takes pride of place in the Market Square embedded within a Caithness stone slab. She also received a framed plaque of her design.

Balerno Main Street was selected by the Council and Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership as a priority streetscape project that could benefit from UCP investment.

Funding of £100,000 came from the UCP was topped up with £150,000 from other Council funds. Consultation then followed with Balerno Community Council, local businesses and residents about the proposed improvements.

Councillor Paul Edie, said: "This investment will make a real difference to thriving centres such as Balerno who have a real sense of pride in their community.

"The changes to Main Street make it more attractive to shoppers and tourists and the new vehicle restrictions will reduce congestion. I am sure residents and local businesses will give a huge thumbs up to the upgrades."

Tom McCall, of the Balerno Community Council, said: "The whole

area is looking really smart and because Main Street is, in planning terms, a conservation area it needed a higher environmental standard than elsewhere which it has achieved.”

The UCP was made up of £1.2m which was to be divided between each of the six neighbourhood partnerships. The South West Neighbourhood Office and Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership split the money between Balerno and Calders.

Work started in Balerno in March 2010 and was completed four months later.

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## **Government action on benefit cheats welcomed**

Edinburgh based data management specialist, Data Discoveries has strongly backed the Government’s latest proposal to crack down on benefit cheats.

The firm has seen the extent of the problem at first hand as they have been working with local authorities to combat benefit fraud for people falsely claiming single person discount on council tax.

People falsely claiming single person discount alone costs genuine council tax payers an extra £5 on to their bill each year and can cost local authorities up to £100 million a year.

David Aitken, Technical Director of Data Discoveries said: “We wholeheartedly support the Government’s plans to more stringently verify claims and offer a range of options that appeal to those who seek alternatives, or additional insight outwith recent credit check proposals. Benefit fraud is a

massive problem for local authorities throughout the UK. With an estimated 300,000 people falsely claiming Single Person Discount alone, it's time the Government tackle this issue head on.

"We recently worked with one middle-sized local authority to look into this problem. From the 36,000 records the council gave us of people claiming single person discount, we identified 6,000 suspect cases. Of these cases, 80% of the people corrected their discount applications on the first written request for an update in their circumstances. This produced a staggering £500,000 in discount application reversals.

"Benefit fraud is theft and it's the genuine council tax payers that have to foot the bill. Information we use is publicly available or has been collected with the consent of individuals, for wider use. By carrying out such checks, Councils are simply ensuring that only those entitled to benefits, get them."

David Aitken continued: "It's imperative that the Government sends a clear message that they are taking these prevention measures to protect the public purse."

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## **Tenant's Deposit Scheme**

Controversial government plans for a mandatory deposit scheme would not do enough to protect tenants' money according to experts at Edinburgh's Cullen Property.

The plans could see landlords governed by dispute resolution obligations and forced to pay rent deposits into named tenant accounts in an attempt by the Scottish Government to address

the estimated £3.6 million of tenants' money allegedly unfairly held in Scotland each year.

But Steve Coyle, operations director at Cullen Property, believes this is not enough and that landlords and property management companies need to do more to ensure that tenants' money is protected from the outset.

He says: "These government plans will not protect tenants' money because any individual or company that currently withholds deposit money illegally will simply adapt their policies and practices to continue doing so. Indeed the worst offenders won't even sign up to the TDS schemes in the same way in which unscrupulous landlords haven't signed up to the landlord registration scheme either.

"We are all for being fair, open and transparent and being able to prove any deductions is the best way of doing that but this appears to be yet more regulation where the good landlords who it's not aimed at will support it, and the bad ones who it should be targeting will simply ignore it, probably without any recourse from the powers that be."

Cullen Property has established a best practice method of dealing with tenants' deposits to avoid disputes arising in the first place, and is unusual in insisting that the tenant(s) is present at the check-out of the property, so that any discrepancies can be dealt with on the spot. Cullen Property also carries out regular property inspections to ensure that any damage is dealt with immediately, thereby preventing problems worsening.

Mr Coyle adds: "In the 13 years we have been in business we have never been involved in a small claims procedure so we are confident that our deposit procedure works effectively and fairly for both tenant and landlord. This saves our landlords the potentially costly and time-consuming process of becoming involved in a small claims action, while ensuring that our

tenants have a good experience renting from us.

“The tenant(s) is made aware at the check-out of any charges to be made, so there are no nasty surprises when they have their deposit returned, which is always within 14 days of the end of their lease date. And if the tenant(s) disagree with anything, we personally review each case and make a fair decision on the outcome.”

Cullen Property offer the following tips to tenants:-

1. Request an inventory: looking after your deposit starts when you move into a new property. A detailed inventory avoids confusion over which items the property is equipped with
2. Check the inventory: ensure everything listed on the inventory is actually in the flat and in proper working order to avoid having to replace items you weren't given in the first place
3. When preparing to move out, put yourself in the new tenant's shoes – how would you like your new flat to look when you move in?
4. Once you know your moving out date, contact utility companies and the council to ensure your payments are up to date and avoid surprises when your final bill is prepared. Provide a forwarding address to the company and the landlord to avoid delays in returning your deposit
5. Assess whether any repairs are needed and contact trades people in good time before your lease ends to arrange repairs. Check with your landlord for approved companies
6. Consider painting any walls, doors or skirting boards that may have been damaged during your tenancy. If you live in a traditional property with extremely high ceilings it may be worth asking a professional painter and decorator
7. Remove all personal belongings from the flat as you may be charged by the landlord if they have to organise a

removal

8. Ensure the property is spotless before you hand it back to avoid the landlord hiring potentially expensive commercial cleaners. Pay special attention to carpets, windows and cookers
  9. Return all keys you initially received. If several of you were sharing a property, ensure everyone leaves their full set of keys before the flat is returned to the landlord
  10. It may sound obvious – be sure to meet the landlord for the handover as this is the best time to talk through any issues on the spot and resolve them
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## **Disabled man in wheelchair attacked**

Lothian and Borders Police are appealing for witnesses after a disabled man in Edinburgh was pushed onto a road by youths.

The incident happened around 4.15p.m. on Wednesday 11th August in Dundee Street.

The male, who suffers from cerebral palsy, was on his own near the Fountain Park Complex when the two boys approached his electric wheelchair and switched it off.

The youths then pushed the man and his wheelchair onto the road before fleeing the scene.

Members of the public assisted the victim and removed him from the road before police were alerted.

Officers are now keen to speak to anyone who was in the area and witnessed the incident to come forward.

The youths are only described as white, nine or ten-years-old and wearing jeans a t-shirts.

A police spokesman said: 'What these boys did was not only extremely cruel and insensitive, but incredibly dangerous.

'We are keen to speak to anyone who was in the Dundee Street area and saw anything suspicious to contact police immediately.

'Similarly, anyone with information that can assist us in identifying the youths responsible is also asked to get in touch.'

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## Renewed search for Suzanne Pilley

Lothian and Borders Police investigating the suspected murder of Edinburgh woman, Suzanne Pilley are launching a large-scale search of the area around the Argyll Forest this weekend. Despite this action [Miss Pilley's father](#) has voiced his concern that her body may never be found.

Volunteers from Arrochar, Lomond, Oban and Tweed Valley mountain rescue teams will join search teams from Lothian and Borders Police, in a mass effort to try and trace Suzanne Pilley's body. Strathclyde Police are providing logistic support.

Up to 100 people in total will be involved, with searches focussing on the Glencoe area.

Detective Chief Inspector Gary Flannigan said:

“To undertake a search like this is very unusual in such challenging terrain, and it’s a first for Lothian and Borders Police to have the assistance of mountain rescue teams from all over Scotland.

“Since Suzanne was reported missing, searches have been based on national advice and guidance on the most appropriate techniques for covering such a vast area of varied terrain.

“The search this weekend is no different, with expert advisors pinpointing the areas to be covered.

“We are very grateful for the support of the mountain rescue volunteers who are giving up their time to assist our inquiry. Their specialist knowledge will be a valuable resource for us to draw on this weekend.

“We also acknowledge the logistical support we have had from Strathclyde Police.”

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## **Fringe First at The Traverse**

The Traverse Theatre has received three Scotsman Fringe First awards for shows in its 2010 Festival season.

The three winning plays in the opening week of awards include DC Jackson’s My Romantic History, Speechless by Linda Brogan and Polly Teale, and one of the Theatre’s off-site shows, White by Andy Manley, which is performed at Scottish Book Trust.

✖ The programme in the Traverse studio space, Traverse Two, has a focus this year on the best new writing. D C Jackson’s My Romantic History, directed by Lyndsey Turner, is already almost sold out for its festival run, and embarks on a



UK tour following its World premiere at the Traverse. The show is produced by the Bush Theatre and Sheffield Theatres in association with Birmingham Repertory Theatre. Glasgow writer D C Jackson's previous plays include Matinee Idle, Drawing Bored, The Wall and The Ducky. He is currently under commission to the Royal Court Theatre and the National Theatre of Scotland and Borderline Theatre.

Also in Traverse Two, Speechless is a new play inspired by the best-selling book The Silent Twins by Marjorie Wallace. Co-produced by Shared Experience (Jane Eyre, War and Peace) and Sherman Cymru (Deep Cut) Speechless tells the extraordinary true story of identical twins June and Jennifer Gibbons. The play was written by Linda Brogan and Polly Teale, who also directs, and will follow its hit festival run at the Traverse with a run in Cardiff. The show has also been shortlisted for an Amnesty International Freedom of Expression Award.

Over at Scottish Book Trust, Andy Manley's beautiful play White has been delighting young audiences. The production by leading children's theatre company Catherine Wheels is their first for very young children, and has drawn together the creative talents of Andy Manley, Ian Cameron and Shona Reppe. Gill Robertson's acclaimed production will continue to run until August 29th.

Booking for all shows on [www.traverse.co.uk](http://www.traverse.co.uk) / 0131 228 1404

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## Legal Firm at The Fringe

✖ “Stealing Ideas – Unravelling Copyright” proved to be a hit at solicitor Paul Motion's Edinburgh Fringe show on 12 August. Numbers were up on last year and audience questions ranged from musical parodies, to new play scripts and

choreography copyright issues.

“Stealing Ideas – Unravelling Copyright” isn’t the only ‘fringe’ benefit” legal firm Brechin Tindall Oatts – known as bto – is associated with. bto client Daniel Sloss, a rising young Scottish star of stand-up comedy, has been given his own television pilot show. “The Adventures of Daniel” will air on BBC online as of Monday 16 August and transmit on BBC3, Monday 23 August at 9.30pm.

Daniel Sloss is currently performing at The Edinburgh Fringe in “My Generation” at The Pleasance Dome, 6.40pm, 10 – 30 August. He was referred to bto by his agent MZA whose legal work is already handled by bto.

“Young Sloss already has a BBC3 sitcom pilot in the bag, and, if he continues improving at this rate, he will prove unstoppable” said the Daily Telegraph critic on 10 August 2010.

Paul said: “I’m delighted today’s show went well for us. It makes a change to be ‘performing’ instead of advising performers! I can’t claim to entertain quite as well as Daniel does, nor to pull in the size of audience his shows attract. I am delighted his talent has been recognised with the TV pilot which is well deserved. I’ll watch it and maybe pick up some tips since I’m presenting “Small Print – Big Problem?” at Fringe Central on 26 August: it’s quite a challenge to make contract law entertaining.”

Tickets for “Small Print – Big Problem?” can be obtained at the door or [online](#)

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# Cinema on Saturday

We always rather forget about The Odeon on Lothian Road as a cinema to visit, but had cause to go recently and it was rather nice!

So this Saturday you could go to [The Odeon](#) to escape the crowds in the city, the rain or anything else you are running away from.

3D Step Up 3 (12A) is showing at 20.20 This is street dancing gone wild. And in 3D! ONLY 48% so far on [Rotten Tomatoes](#) but nonetheless the lack of plot is made up for by the dancing. Hope you've held on to your 3D glasses.

The other 3D film showing here is 3D The Last Airbender (PG) at 16.00. This film is only opening on Friday 13th so no real feedback yet. Based on a Nickleodeon series but does not look wildly exciting!

3D Toy Story 3, Inception, Knight and Day, The A-Team and Karate Kid are also showing but we have covered them all before in previous cinema recommendations. Yes if you haven't seen Toy Story yet – go today!!

Finally you can also see The Sorcerer's Apprentice (PG) at 15.45 and 20.30. Another recently opened film – only this week in fact so not much feedback. But it has Nicholas Cage...and Alfred Molina. So really it has to be good...but only \$57.1m at the US box office tells its own story we fear.

The good thing about The Odeon is that you can go to [Illegal Jacks](#) across the road for a burrito or a fajita[[googleMap](#) name="The Odeon Cinema" description="Lothian Road" width="400" height="400" directions\_from="true"]Lothian Road Edinburgh[/[googleMap](#)] when your film has finished! Open from 12 noon every day.

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# **Scottish Ambulance Service – major incident response boosted**

The Cabinet Secretary for Health & Wellbeing, Nicola Sturgeon, visited the Scottish Ambulance Service on Wednesday and met the specially trained teams who deal with large scale and hazardous incidents.

Investment of £4.3 million over the last three years has allowed the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) to significantly enhance its capabilities for counter terrorism and major incidents. The SAS has developed three Special Operations Response Teams (SORT) in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen, comprising 106 specially trained paramedics and ambulance technicians.

The teams are now trained and equipped to work inside the inner cordon alongside police and fire and rescue services at large scale hazardous incidents. They have all completed an intensive training course that enables them to operate in chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives (CBRNE) incidents and other accidents that involve hazardous materials. A further 500 staff across Scotland have been trained in standard CBRNE/Hazmat response procedures.

The training includes additional clinical skills, risk assessment, forensic awareness and decontamination procedures. It covers the use of specialist personal protective equipment including self-contained breathing apparatus. Additional training in water rescue techniques means that ambulance staff can play a key role in flooding incidents.

The training has been supplemented by a wide range of specialist equipment, including state of the art forward command vehicles and unique six-wheeled all-terrain vehicles, designed specifically for use by the SAS.

Nicola Sturgeon, Cabinet Secretary for Health & Wellbeing, said:

“It is important that all emergency services in Scotland are prepared to deal with large scale, hazardous incidents wherever they occur. The Scottish Ambulance Service is at the forefront of the country’s emergency response and I am pleased that the Scottish Government has funded expert training for three teams of paramedics and technicians who are now equipped to play an enhanced role in assisting patients during any serious incident.”

Pauline Howie, Chief Executive, Scottish Ambulance Service said:

“Our SORT personnel are highly trained so that they can provide best quality clinical treatment to patients at the scenes of major incidents. The training and new equipment, such as breathing apparatus, means they can now go into toxic or hazardous environments. The ability to work inside the inner cordon alongside other emergency responders will result in quicker access to patients and a much higher level of clinical care and triage at the scene.”

David Garbutt, Chairman of the Scottish Ambulance Service Board, said, “I am delighted that the combination of new equipment, training and skills now provides a much closer integration of SAS personnel with other emergency services at major incidents. It is a significant development of our role and comprehensively supports the Scottish resilience strategy.”

The three Special Operations Teams are managed by the SAS’ National Risk and Resilience Department. When the teams are not training, exercising and working with other partner

agencies, they support day to day emergency operations, responding to 999 calls.

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## Motorway victim identified

Lothian and Borders Police have now confirmed the identity of the woman who died after being struck by vehicles on the M8.

She is 19-year-old Elizabeth Coulter from Whitburn.

Miss Coulter had been walking on the eastbound carriageway of the motorway when she was struck by a minibus and thrown into the westbound carriageway, where she was struck by a number of vehicles.

She was pronounced dead at the scene and the road was closed in both directions for approximately six hours while police carried out enquiries.

Police continue to appeal for anyone who was on the M8 and witnessed the collision to come forward immediately.

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## Thursday 12th August 2010

The Glorious Twelfth. Hope you've had your grouse today...

Lothian and Borders Police have a positive lead in the murder case in Wester Hailes according to [BBC online](#).

The father of three children found dead in a flat in Slateford last week has spoken of his paralysing grief following the

news. [Channel 4 has video.](#)

The Green Kitchen, a Chinese takeaway in Raeburn Place has been closed with immediate effect following an inspection by health inspectors reports [The Scotsman.](#)

Frank Skinner has pulled out of his chat show claiming a lack of guests – notwithstanding that one of them was the great Barry Cryer....more on [Chortle.](#)

[Cameron Rose](#) reports that St Margaret's School which went into liquidation earlier in the summer has been put up for sale.

[The List](#) has details of an interesting event at The Out of the Blue Drill Hall on Dalmeny Street which is part of the Edinburgh Art Festival. An interview with the subject of a portrait and the artist. Also they have a very good search facility which allows you to look for things to do today or tomorrow or any other day and put in a start time and an end time – really useful! They also bill the [Drama Workshop](#) which is taking place at The Merchants' Hall on Hanover Street for 5 to 14 year-olds. Oh and if you are up early enough you could go along to the [Yoga Garden](#) in Bristo Place.


The North Canongate Infant School may become a new literary centre according to [The Scotsman.](#)

And [STV News](#) tells us the story of why clearing will not work this year when university applications have increased and the places are already taken.

And to end your recommended reading today, we would urge you to take any opportunity to read the articles in The Huffington Post but this one by [Bianca Jagger](#) mentions Edinburgh investment management business [Martin Currie...](#)

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# US call for medical evidence

The US Senate Committee has called for the Lockerbie  Bomber's medical records to be released. According to the Scottish Conservatives, the SNP Government has been refusing to do this for a year now.

**Annabel Goldie MSP**, Scottish Conservative Leader, says:

“The Salmond and MacAskill soundbites are now hollow and meaningless. We need facts.

“Even before he was set free, Scottish Conservatives argued that there had to be independent and compelling evidence of a probable three month prognosis before the SNP could even consider releasing Mr Megrahi, yet no such evidence has been produced. The SNP Government continues to keep the medical reports secret. It is disingenuous for the SNP to say they will respond to the US Senate Committee's request ‘in due course’ when we know they have consistently refused to release this evidence for almost a year now.

“The prison doctor was the only person prepared to give a three month prognosis, but he has admitted that no cancer expert was willing to do the same. This begs the question of just what the four NHS specialists did say. Every day that the SNP refuses to publish their evidence, suspicions only grow that the prison doctor's opinion was not supported by the cancer experts. Until we see that evidence, we do not know.

“The US Senators have a justifiable interest in the Megrahi release, as they represent US families devastated by the Lockerbie atrocity. Will Alex Salmond live up to his promise of last year to ‘fully cooperate’ with international inquiries, or will he continue to hide behind a cloak of secrecy surrounding the medical files?”



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# Freefall – The Traverse

✖ A sudden shock, and a man's life flashes before his eyes. In an intense rush of extraordinary images and tangled memories, he attempts to reconnect the events that have shaped him.

Winner of two Irish Times Irish Theatre Awards 2009 for Best New Play and Best Director.

The UK premiere of The Corn Exchange's award-winning Freefall by Michael West is being staged at Traverse Theatre, Cambridge Street Edinburgh from Friday 6th August (preview) to Sunday 29th August as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2010.

If you go to see nothing else this Festival time then make time to see this play. It is the most inventive piece of theatre The Reporter has seen for a long time. The main character is in his pyjamas for the hour and a half he is on stage – which you are allowed to completely forget about as you are drawn into the tale of one man's life from all angles. In the same way although he has a son, Jack, it is not essential that the son actually makes it on stage at all!

From the creative team behind Dublin by Lamplight (Winner Best Ensemble, Stage Awards 2005), The Corn Exchange return to the Traverse with this humorous and compassionate study of an ordinary life.

Freefall was a hit in its premiere run in the Dublin Theatre Festival 2009 and went on to win Best Director and Best New Play at the Irish Times Irish Theatre Awards, as well as receiving nominations for Best Actor (Andrew Bennett) and Best Supporting Actress (Ruth McGill).

Directed by Annie Ryan and featuring Andrew Bennett, Declan Conlon, Damian Kearney, Ruth McGill and Janet Moran, Freefall is about seeking family and the pivotal moments of kindness

that have made a decent man.

❌ Freefall was initially inspired by the amazing story of renowned neuroscientist Dr. Jill Bolte Taylor – A Stroke of Insight, as told on TED.com.

[The Corn Exchange](#) is one of Ireland's most acclaimed theatre companies. Its award winning productions have toured the UK, USA, France, the Netherlands, and Australia. Previous work includes: Everyday, Dublin by Lamplight (Traverse 2005) and Foley (Traverse 2001) by Michael West, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof by Tennessee Williams, Mud by Mariá Irene Fornés (winner Best Production Irish Theatre Awards), Lolita adapted by Michael West, and Car Show.

Freefall also played the New Plays from Europe Festival in Wiesbaden Germany in June this year, the Galway Arts Festival in July, and will play at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin this November.

Supported by Culture Ireland

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## Clear about nuclear?

❌ UK Energy and Climate Change Secretary Chris Huhne has been branded 'brazen and dishonest' after insisting that he was never an opponent of nuclear energy.

Claiming that he has never changed his stance on atomic power, Mr Huhne said "My views have always been misunderstood...we are on course to make sure that the first new nuclear power station opens on time in 2018."

However, in contrast, a press release on [Mr Huhne's website](#) quotes the Liberal Democrat saying: "Our message is clear, No to nuclear, as it is not a short cut, but a dead end."

In another statements on his website, Mr Huhne says: "Ministers must stop the side-show of new nuclear power stations now. Nuclear is a tired, tested and failed technology and the government must stop putting time, effort and

subsidies into reviving this outdated industry.”

Commenting, SNP Westminster Energy spokesperson Mike Weir MP said:

“The way Chris Huhne has reversed his position on new nuclear is brazen and dishonest. From being unequivocal in his opposition to atomic energy, he has now become a cheerleader and champion for it.

“This is yet another example of how the Liberal Democrats cannot be trusted – they said one thing in opposition, but do the complete opposite in government.

“Chris Huhne well knows that nowhere in the world has a nuclear reactor been built without public money, and it is highly unlikely that any new reactors can be built in the UK without massive public investment.

“The Coalition government claim that there will be no public investment in new nuclear, but at the same time are planning to put a floor on the carbon price in an effort to make nuclear financially viable. This is nothing less than a hidden public subsidy.

“Nuclear energy has in the past swallowed vast sums of public money, and the clean up of its past mess continues to cost the taxpayer dearly. There is absolutely no case for continuing to pour public money into this bottomless pit. We should be looking to developing clean green energy to provide a safe and sustainable energy future.”

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## Hospitals at risk

✘ Scottish Labour’s Jackie Baillie has said that hospitals are being put at greater risk of infections, such as C. Difficile and MRSA, after it emerged that more than 100 cleaning posts have been cut by the NHS in the past year.

According to Freedom of Information requests submitted by the Labour Party, four out of Scotland’s 14 health boards have cut cleaning jobs, despite promises by the SNP of 600 new jobs

across the country.

In her speech to the SNP Conference in Glasgow, in April 2009, Nicola Sturgeon announced that she was giving health boards an additional £5.4 million, which she said would employ more hundreds of hospital cleaners.

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde has cut 65 cleaners jobs over the past year. Forth Valley is eight down on last year, Fife has shed nine jobs and Dumfries and Galloway is down 20.

✘ Shadow Health Secretary **Jackie Baillie** said:

“These figures make me angry.

“The SNP Government is forcing health boards across Scotland to make savings in frontline services, but hospital cleaning must be protected if we are to stand a chance of beating superbugs like C. difficile and MRSA.

“Nicola Sturgeon stood up at the SNP conference in Glasgow and promised hundreds more hospital cleaners. Instead, what we are seeing is cutbacks in hospital cleaning.

“There is no doubt that when NHS boards cuts cleaning then infection rates go up and patients get ill.”

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## Fatal road collision on M8

Police are appealing for witnesses after a 19-year-old female was killed in a road collision that happened on the M8 on Tuesday night.

The incident happened at around 11pm, around a mile west of the Hermiston Junction.

The victim had been walking on the eastbound carriageway of the motorway when she was struck by a minibus and thrown into the westbound carriageway, where she was struck by a car.

Ambulance crew pronounced her dead at the scene. The road was closed in both directions for approximately six hours while police carried out enquiries.

Inspector David Milne, from the Road Policing Unit at Lothian and Borders Police, said: "An investigation is underway in order to establish the circumstances of this tragic incident, and we want to hear from anyone who has information that can assist our enquiries.

"We are appealing for anyone who was travelling eastbound or westbound on the M8 between Claylands and Hermiston Gait between 10.15pm and 11pm, who may have witnessed the collision or noticed any persons walking on or near to the M8, to come forward.

"Similarly, we want to speak to any pedestrians who may have been on the Gogar Station Road bridge over the M8, and saw the victim from there.

"We are considering the possibility that other motorists may have hit the victim as they travelled west on the M8 at around 11pm, after the initial fatal collision.

"They may have been unaware of striking her at the time, but may now suspect otherwise. If so, we would also urge them to get in touch."