

British Soap Masterclass at TV Festival



The 35th annual Media Guardian Edinburgh International Television Festival announces two ground-breaking sessions that will give the public the opportunity to engage in a British soap masterclass for the first time, at Udderbelly.

Based on the MGEITF sessions, The Wonderful Wizards of Weatherfield – 50 Years of Coronation Street: A Masterclass and EastEnders at 25: A Masterclass, they will offer the general public the chance to get under the skin of two of Britain's biggest television shows.

Attended by key show talent including Katherine Kelly (Becky Macdonald) from Coronation Street, and Charlie Clements (Bradley Branning) and Scott Maslen (Jack Branning) from EastEnders, each interactive Underbelly session will allow the public to get behind the sensational plotlines and heart-pounding cliff-angers that have captured the imaginations of British homes for decades.

From Weatherfield to Walford, the famous faces will be joined by the Producers and Controllers who are responsible for bringing these much-loved institutions of British broadcasting to life, week in, week out.

The unmissable workshops will take place at Udderbelly in the heart of The Edinburgh Festival and are a must for soap fans as MGEITF pays tribute to two of Britain's best-loved TV programmes.

Tickets are available for the event on 27th to 29th August 2010 now at www.underbelly.co.uk

The Wonderful Wizards of Weatherfield – 50 Years of Coronation

Street: A Masterclass

It began with 3 women – all with different temperaments, values, backgrounds and social standing and it instantly captured the hearts of the nation. Fifty years on, and the audience are still captivated by these ordinary people leading ordinary lives. Other soaps have evolved but the DNA of Coronation Street remains the same: strong characters, family ties, brilliant writing and a huge injection of humour. Join actress Katherine Kelly (Becky MacDonald), the critic Gareth MacLean and producer Kieran Roberts to discuss the highs and lows of the wonderful world of Weatherfield.

The Eastenders at 25: A Masterclass

Join soap stars Charlie Clements (Bradley Branning), Scot Maslen (Jack Branning) and BBC Controller of Drama Production, John Yorke, in an Eastenders master class. Featuring incredible unseen footage, discover the secrets of writing, producing and directing behind one of the most successful soap operas in the world. Learn how this year the production pushed the boundaries even further, producing its first live episode. You'll be part of in-depth analysis of the story telling craft – cue drums.

Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert



Photo courtesy of Edinburgh
Inspiring Capital

The Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert will ignite the skyline

on Sunday 5 September with the traditional send-off to three weeks of cultural celebration that is the Edinburgh International Festival. The spectacular finale this year features the music of American film, performed live by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, with an impressive sky-show from pyrotechnic wizards Pyrovision. One of the largest fireworks displays in the world, the Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert was last year enjoyed by over 220,000 people in parks and vantage points across Edinburgh.

The Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert is the largest annual live music pyrotechnic display in the world with four tonnes of explosives, 12 tonnes of kit and over 100,000 fireworks to be ignited. International firework artist, Keith Webb and his team of 15 experts will take eight days to set up the display including the famous waterfall illuminating Edinburgh Castle.

Designed one month before the grand finale, the display is in constant development with the sourcing of new fireworks up to two years in advance of the performance. Pyrovision continually seek for excellence and invest in fireworks with new technologies and capabilities to integrate into the concert.

For Keith, celebrating 26 years with the Fireworks Concert, his highlight of the night is the relief of a successful show timed to perfection. He must anticipate the orchestra to precisely 2.5 seconds of their 'trigger notes' to execute the launch of the fireworks. This is the time it takes to communicate the signal, interpret it and press the right buttons to ensure a seamless routine.

Celebrated conductor Clark Rundell leads the Scottish Chamber Orchestra through a program of cinematic song from the bright lights of Hollywood.

The evening opens with extracts from Kings Row, the 1942 drama that launched the film career of Ronald Reagan. Composed by

the “Father of Film Music”, Erich Korngold, the score was fittingly used at Reagan’s inauguration to the White House in 1981.

Leonard Bernstein’s score for On the Waterfront offers the inspiration for the second movement of the night. The film starred Marlon Brando in his first Academy Award winning performance.

The evening continues with Bernard Herrmann’s score to the film Marnie. Alfred Hitchcock’s 1964 thriller starred Sir Sean Connery and is considered by some to be one of Hitchcock’s masterpieces.

Another of Hitchcock’s regular collaborators, Franz Waxman’s music for Taras Bulba provides the rousing finale to the 2010 concert. Waxman is one of the greats of Hollywood composition and was nominated for 12 Oscars over his career. Taras Bulba starred Yul Brynner and Tony Curtis.

Clark Rundell is Director of Contemporary Music and Head of Conducting at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, and Artistic Director of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic’s award winning new music group, Ensemble 10/10. He studied at Northwestern University, Chicago, USA. In addition to his frequent appearances with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Clark appeared this season with the London Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican, the English Chamber Orchestra in London and on tour as well as the BBC Philharmonic, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the Schoenberg/ASKO ensemble at the Muziekgebouw, Amsterdam, amongst others.

In 2009 the Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert was enjoyed by over 220,000 people viewing from vantage points across the Scottish capital and remains one of the biggest annual displays in the world.

Bank of Scotland has sponsored the Fireworks Concert since 1995 and their support includes the Bank of Scotland Family

Viewing Area at Inverleith Park. For non-ticket holders Inverleith Park provides an ideal viewing area, particularly suited to families with younger children. Once again the facilities there will include a large screen with a live link to the Scottish Chamber Orchestra in the Ross Bandstand. The concert is broadcast live through loudspeakers in Inverleith Park, and to listeners of Forth Radio across the city.

Caledonia

✖ The National Theatre of Scotland returns to the Edinburgh International Festival, following previous appearances with *Realism*, *The Bacchae* and *365*.

CALEDONIA, written by Alistair Beaton and directed by Anthony Neilson, will receive its world premiere at the Edinburgh International Festival on 21 August at the King's Theatre, Edinburgh, following preview performances at Eden Court, Inverness.

CALEDONIA is a story of greed, euphoria and mass delusion. It is the story of a small, poor country mistaking itself for a big, rich country. William Paterson was a financial adventurer who in the late 1600's planned to found a Scottish colony in Darien on the isthmus of Panama in Central America and turn Scotland, one of the poorest nations in Europe, into a prosperous colonial power. He invited the public to invest and within weeks a vast proportion of the nation's wealth had been subscribed. Distance, disease and a naive optimism all played their part in this ruinous episode. Within a few years, the Scots – demoralised and impoverished – gave up their nation's independent status and signed the 1707 Treaty of Union with England.

Inspired by documents, journals, letters, songs and poems of the period, celebrated playwright and satirist Alistair Beaton

has created a work that is both a tribute to heroic ambition and a darkly witty take on the deceptions and self-deceptions of rich and poor alike. CALEDONIA is directed by Anthony Neilson, the writer and director whose award-winning work for the Edinburgh International Festival has included the National Theatre of Scotland's Realism and The Wonderful World of Dissocia.

Alistair Beaton's recent plays include Follow My Leader (Birmingham Rep and Hampstead Theatre) and King of Hearts (Hampstead Theatre). His political comedy Feelgood (Garrick Theatre) won the Evening Standard Award for Best Comedy as well as an Olivier Award nomination.

Recent television films include A Very Social Secretary and The Trial of Tony Blair for Channel 4. He is also author of a number of best-selling books.

The play is directed by Anthony Neilson whose previous work as a director includes The Big Lie; God In Ruins and The Drunks for the Royal Shakespeare Company and The Death of Klinghoffer for Scottish Opera and the Edinburgh International Festival in 2005. Anthony is also an Artistic Associate of the National Theatre of Scotland for whom he directed Home: Edinburgh and wrote and directed Realism. The National Theatre of Scotland toured The Wonderful World of Dissocia, written and directed by Anthony Neilson in 2007, which won the 2007 TMA Award for Best Touring Production. Anthony's film and television credits include The Debt Collecto; Spilsbury; Deeper Still and Spooks which Anthony is the Serial Story Consultant for. Further projects for 2010 include directing a Christmas show for The Royal Court Theatre which Anthony will write and direct.

The full cast for CALEDONIA is Paul Blair, Tam Dean Burn, Cliff Burnett, David Carlyle, Alan Francis, Frances Grey, Paul Higgins, Neil McKinven, Robert Melling, Matthew Pidgeon and Morna Young.

Paul Higgins is taking on the role of William Paterson. Higgins is known for his role as Jamie in BBC TVs *The Thick of It* and Armando Iannucci's film *In the Loop*. His theatre work includes *Black Watch* (National Theatre Scotland); *The White Guard* (National Theatre); *The Tempest* (Tron Theatre Company); *Damascus* (Traverse Theatre/Tricycle Theatre/Middle East Tour); *Paul, An Enemy of the People* and *The Hare Trilogy* (National Theatre). The National Theatre of Scotland recently co-presented Higgins' debut play *Nobody Will Ever Forgive Us* (Traverse Theatre) and he is currently the Company's Pearson Playwright. Other recent film appearances include Andrea Arnold's *Red Road*.

Paul Blair appeared in Anthony Neilson's 2008 *Realism* (National Theatre Scotland/Edinburgh International Festival) and has recently worked with Steven John Atkinson on *Lidless* (High Tide Festival) and Lorne Campbell in *Carthage Must Be Destroyed* (Theatre Royal Bath). Films include Clive Barker's *Book of Blood*, David Mackenzie's *Hallam Foe* and TV includes *Dear Green Place* (STV).

Tam Dean Burn's recent theatre work includes *Year Of The Horse* (Tron Theatre Company/Edinburgh Assembly); *The Caretaker* (Citizens Theatre) and *Venus As A Boy* (Burnt Goods/National Theatre of Scotland Workshop). Forthcoming TV and film includes *Asylum* (Channel 4) and David Mackenzie's *The Last Word* (Sigma Films).

Cliff Burnett's theatre work includes *Peer Gynt* (National Theatre Of Scotland/Dundee Rep Theatre/Barbican); *Fall* (Traverse Theatre); *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hedda Gabbler*, *The Tempest*, *Moby Dick Rehearsed*, *Equus* and *The Cherry Orchard* (Dundee Rep Theatre).

David Carlyle recently graduated from Rose Bruford College where he appeared in *The Wonderful World of Dissocia*.

Alan Francis has collaborated with Anthony Neilson on a number of stage works including *The Wonderful World of Dissocia*

(National Theatre Scotland/ Edinburgh International Festival); Jeffrey Dahmer Is Unwell (Hampstead Theatre) and Penetrator (Traverse Theatre/The Royal Court Theatre). Francis is also a writer and comedian and regularly appears at the Edinburgh Festivals.

Frances Grey is known for her TV performances in Messiah I, II and III as DS Kate Beauchamp. Grey's most recent TV work includes playing Marianne McKee in River City and Mary Pace in the BBC's Garrow's Law. She has previously appeared in Anthony Neilson's Relocated (The Royal Court Theatre).

Neil McKinnon recently appeared in The Last Witch directed by Dominic Hill (Edinburgh International Festival/Traverse Theatre). Other theatre works include Curse of the Starving Classes (Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh); Of Mice and Men (Perth Theatre); Rupture (National Theatre of Scotland); The Comedy of Errors and Twelfth Night (RSC). TV and film work includes Rebus, Taggart and Hallam Foe.

Robert Melling studied at RSAMD and has previously worked with National Theatre of Scotland on The Wolves in the Walls as Musical Director. As a musician he has performed throughout the UK and Europe including venues such as the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Wigmore Hall, Academy of St Martin in the Fields, Auckland Palace Durham and extensively throughout Scotland. Robert has also worked with the Chamber group of Scotland, BT Scottish Ensemble, Paragon, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Cappella Nova and the John Currie Singers.

Matthew Pidgeon's stage experience includes recent appearances in Midsummer (Traverse Theatre/Soho Theatre); The Cherry Orchard (Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh) and Kyoto (Traverse Theatre/Oran Mor). His work with Anthony Neilson includes The Wonderful World of Dissocia; Realism (National Theatre Scotland/Edinburgh International Festival); The Lying Kind (The Royal Court Theatre) and Edward Gant's Amazing Feats Of Loneliness, (Plymouth Theatre Royal).

Morna Young is an associate artist of the Out of Darkness Theatre Company with credits including A Midsummer Night's Dream, C.R.I.E Out and Kathakali.

The Edinburgh International Festival received £200,000 from the Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund to produce this collaboration between the National Theatre of Scotland and Alistair Beaton. The Expo Fund supports new work by Scottish-based talent at all the Edinburgh Festivals.

Now in its third year, the Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund provides opportunities for exciting and innovative programming, helping to showcase Scotland's creative talent by supporting ambitious projects at all of Edinburgh's Festivals.

Listings

Venue, date and time: King's Theatre, Edinburgh on 21 to 26 August 2010. Evening perfs at 7.30pm. Matinees on Sunday 22, Wednesday 25, Thursday 26 at 2.30pm. No show Monday 23rd

Ticket prices: £12 – £27

Box Office: 0131 473 2000

Online booking: www.eif.co.uk

Accessible Performances: Captioned perf – Tuesday 24 August 7.30pm □ BSL interpreted and audio described perf – Wed 25 August 7.30pm □ Touch tour – Wed 25 August 6.30pm

Events: Edinburgh International Festival Explorations – Alistair Beaton, Tom Devine (Professor of Scottish History at the University of Edinburgh), Dr Gary Shea (Economist at University of St Andrews) in discussion about Scotland's failed foray into Colonialism on Tuesday 24 August at 2.30pm Tickets: £6.50. In association with the British Council

Edinburgh International Festival Conversations – Alistair Beaton and Anthony Neilson on Tuesday 24 August at 5pm. Tickets: £6.50

Wednesday 11th August 2010

News about Edinburgh.

✖ National Trust for Scotland which has its HQ in Charlotte Square has announced it is selling some of its properties to try and make ends meet according to [Country Life](#). This follows the strategic review by Rt Hon George Reid. You can read the text of that [here](#). Funny then that there is nothing on the NTS website to confirm this. There is a long-winded statement from the Chief Executive who seems to be keeping her job in all of this though. Apparently the Trust did not even know what it owned. What will it sell then?

You can learn about the Leith Lending Circle on the [Greener Leith](#) blog. People with skills or equipment can lend these to people who need them....like a multi-coloured swop shop...

Edinburgh Spotlight have already brought attention to the good works being done by Lynne McNicoll but we would like to draw your attention to the classes being staged today on how to make a fascinator. More details on how to join in the fun today and tomorrow at Telford College and also raise money at the same time on the [It's Good to Give Events page](#).

Assault & Robbery in Granton

Police in Edinburgh are appealing for witnesses after a 47-year-old woman was assaulted and robbed by two men in the Granton area of the Capital on Sunday, August 8th.

The incident happened in the early hours of the morning, at around 1.10am, at the junction of Boswall Square and Boswall

Quadrant.

The victim had been walking along Boswall Quadrant from Boswall Drive, and on reaching the junction she was grabbed by one of the men, while the other man grabbed her handbag and wrenched it from her shoulder.

They then made off with the handbag down Boswall Quadrant, towards Boswall Terrace. Both suspects are described as being aged between 20 and 25-years-old, and between 5ft 4ins to 5ft 6ins tall

The first suspect is described as wearing a black hooded top with the hood up, and a white motif on the front. Then second suspect was also wearing a black hooded top, again with the hood up.

A police spokesman said: "Although she wasn't seriously injured, the victim was understandably distressed as a result of her ordeal, and we are appealing for any information that can help us identify the suspects.

"Anyone who witnessed the assault, or who was in the area at the time and noticed the suspects there, should contact police immediately.

"Similarly, anyone who recognises their descriptions, or who has any other information that can help our inquiries, should also get in touch."

New Fire Chief – Merger

inevitable

✘ The new Chief Fire Officer for Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service has said he believes that a merger of the eight fire and rescue services across Scotland is 'inevitable' in the face of swingeing financial cuts facing the public sector.

In his first interview since he took up his post on the 12 July, Jimmy Campbell has laid out his vision for the future and the potential shake up that will be required if public finance efficiencies over the next four years are to be achieved.

Speaking about the uncharted waters that lie ahead he said: "We don't know at this stage what cuts will be expected in services like ours but with commentators speculating on cuts from 12% to as much as 25% we know these cuts will be significant and there is no way that cannot affect how we currently do business.

"I am seeking a national approach from the fire and rescue services' Chief Fire Officers to establish a realistic direction and course of action that fundamentally protects our frontline firefighters and maintains the quality standard of services that the people of Scotland have come to expect.

"At present we do things eight times over, eight Chief Fire Officers, eight sets of senior management, eight sets of back office support across a range of jobs, Personnel, Pays, IT to name but a few.

"If we look at the number of fire and rescue services in Scotland there must be a better way of doing things. In Wales they have already reduced the number of services they have without apparent detriment to the core services they are required to provide by law.

"I believe that it's inevitable that at the end of this four

year period of budget cuts we will not have eight Fire and Rescue Services across Scotland, they will have been merged perhaps to three, covering the West of Scotland, South East and the North.

“At present our services match the set up at local authority level and that is also reflected by the number of police forces and health boards in Scotland. Perhaps at Government level there is a need to look at a total reorganisation to find a more effective way for agencies to work together and in particular how back office services are supplied.

“There has been much good work done by the fire and rescue service in the past few years to reduce fire deaths across the country by around 25%. It is critical that any changes we make do not affect frontline services and undo this excellent record that has contributed to making Scotland a safer place to live.

“We need to start the discussion now if we are to have the time necessary to effect fundamental changes in how we continue to deliver services and deliver efficiencies at the same time.

“In Lothian and Borders 84% of our gross expenditure is in staff costs, this will be replicated in other fire services. If we are to deliver savings of some 20-25% as some suggest, sharing back room services alone will not give us the required savings.

“We need to be in a position to fulfil our duties under the Fire Scotland Act which includes a firefighting capability, response to road traffic collisions and a fire prevention role. For fire crews to carry out this work they need back office support, people to pay them, ensure they have IT support, take the calls for emergency assistance to name but a few.

“At present we don't have the answers because we don't know

what level of budget cuts to expect and we await the outcome of the spending review on October 20. The sooner we can confirm what will be taken out of our budgets the better. At present the uncertainty hangs over us all in Service. We must continue to provide the best public service we can, but remain very uncertain about the future. All we do know is that we face an unprecedented level of change.

“I still think we provide a fantastic service. In the past four years we have worked hard to continuously improve on what we do, but this good work could be undone if cuts harm our frontline service. It is very likely to have knock-on effects on some of the work we do in areas like youth engagement and the likelihood is that the youngsters that currently benefit from these type of very successful schemes will miss out. That in turn could have an effect on anti-social behaviour and more generally the relationship that exists between the service and various section of the community.

“I will be looking to work closely with other Fire and Rescue Service chief officers and with our trade unions as it is they who will play a key part in helping us to achieve a solution.”

Realistic Pilates

Want to do something useful with your weekends? Try Pilates! From Saturday 25th 2010 September Ina Schöttling will be running Realistic Pilates classes for small groups (max 4 people per class) at [Griffen Fitness](#). Realistic Pilates is a deconstructed method of Pilates, where good postural alignment and a flat tummy are encouraged through specific deep abdominal stabilising exercises. It's suitable for everyone.

The Lowdown

Realistic Pilates classes with Ina Schöttling
Saturdays 10am and 12pm, starting 25th September
Introductory offer: £60 for 6 week term, maximum of 4 people per class
The result? Stand taller and leaner.
Email getmefit@griffenfitness.com for a booking form: only 8 places!

Calendar Girls

✖ Following a sell-out, record breaking run in Edinburgh last year Calendar Girls has triumphed in the West End and possibly in the whole of the UK. Now it's back in Edinburgh for two weeks only and it is already proving to be the hottest ticket in town.

For the Scottish leg of this latest UK tour our very own Elaine C Smith will be playing Miss October, the role originally played in the film by Helen Mirren. Elaine will be joined by a an amazing new cast of the finest women including; Denise Black (Coronation Street, Queer as Folk), Jean Boht (Bread), Jennifer Ellison (Brookside), Julia Hills (2 Point 4 Children), Rachel Lumberg (Little Voice – West End) and Ruth Madoc (Hi-de-HI) and Mikyla Dodd (Hollyoaks), alongside Joe MacGann (The Upper Hand) and Bruno Langley (Coronation Street, Doctor Who).

Calendar Girls: A group of ordinary women do something extraordinary and spark a global phenomenon when they persuade one another to pose for a charity calendar with a difference! Based on an inspiring true story, Calendar Girls is quirky, poignant and hilarious.



Last time, Calendar Girls sold out in Edinburgh before it even opened so don't miss out and book today for the show the Daily Mail called 'a marvellous, uplifting night at the theatre'.

King's Theatre, Edinburgh

Mon 13 – Sat 25 September

Mon – Sat eves 7.30pm

Wed & Sat mats 2.30pm

Tickets: £14.00 – £28.50

Box Office: 0131 529 6000

www.festivaltheatre.org.uk

Chimps at Edinburgh Zoo

✖ In March, staff welcomed 11 new chimps to Budongo Trail to join the existing 11 resident chimps to create a 'super group' in the world's largest chimpanzee enclosure at Edinburgh Zoo. Now nearly six months on, and after a series of staged introductions, the complex process of integrating the two groups has been successfully completed much to the excitement of keepers.

Chimps live in complex communities led by a dominant male. Due to hierarchical groupings, keepers closely observed the status level of every chimp in the new group and correlated this to the nearest in status in the existing one. As Jo Richardson, Head Keeper at Budongo Trail reveals, individual characters and compatibility as well as hierarchal status is considered when introducing chimps:- "It is important for the success of the integration to know individuals well as chimps have a lot of group politics and social dynamics, and are an extremely intelligent and volatile species. This has been the biggest challenge and achievement for all the team at Budongo Trail so

far, as this is the largest integration of chimps we have ever undertaken.

“At Edinburgh Zoo our resident chimps have distinct characteristics and we completely understand their status in the group. But when you bring in a new group this has to be handled in the right way to ensure that no ones’ status is challenged initially as the two groups come together. So you start with those with the lowest status then gradually progress up the status ladder until you get to the highest level and those being the alpha males. This is done at the chimps’ pace to ensure all group members have a chance to settle and integrate well with hopefully minimal aggression, as chimps will sort out hierarchy and dynamics through both affiliative behavior and sometimes fighting.”

Chimp hierarchies do not have a strict “pecking order”, but are complex, fluid, flexible, and change often. Rank depends on personality as much as strength. Chimps spend hours grooming friends and family and reinforcing social bonds and allegiances. Highly intelligent, chimpanzees are the closets living primate to humans, sharing 98% of their DNA and are known to live up 60 years in captivity. Today, there are estimated to be 170,000 – 300,000 chimpanzees left in Africa, and their population is decreasing rapidly.



Photo courtesy of RZSS - on the left Kilimi (original group) and right Heleen (from joining group that arrived in March

As Jo continues: “Over the last few weeks the alpha male from the original group, Qafzeh, and his challenger, Kindia, have now been introduced to alpha male Claus from the new group. So far they have given each other a wide berth but over the next few weeks as the groups start to settle into one, it will be interesting to see how the dominance struggle between these

males plays out once the group dynamics stabilise. Already we are seeing allegiances change and strengthen as chimps from both groups start to integrate.”

Originally from Beekse Bergen Safari Park in Holland, it is hoped that the 11 new chimps will be an important part of Edinburgh Zoo’s contribution to the captive breeding programme which is now concentrating on the endangered sub-species, the Western chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes verus*).

Councils allowed to profit from renewables

RenewableUK, the country’s leading renewable energy trade association has welcomed the Government’s decision to overturn a ban on local authorities selling renewable electricity back to the Grid. The ban will end on 18th August 2010.

Monday’s announcement from energy secretary, Chris Huhne is seen by the industry as an important step in encouraging support for local renewable energy projects across the country that will help us meet our carbon reduction targets.

Gordon Edge, Director of Policy at RenewableUK said:

“This decision is very good news for councils, the environment and local communities alike. Councils have a vital role to play in the switch to a new low carbon economy and today’s announcement means they can now take full advantage of the feed-in-tariff and the Renewables Obligation to deliver long-term benefit to their communities by way of additional income. In doing so we hope to see local authorities becoming champions of renewable energy and encouraging wider support.”

Cairn Energy's Malcolm Thoms joins SEP

Leading venture capital group Scottish Equity Partners (SEP) has appointed Malcolm Thoms, Chief Operating Officer at Cairn Energy PLC, to its Advisory Board.

SEP's Managing Partner, Calum Paterson, said: "We are delighted that Malcolm Thoms has agreed to join our Advisory Board. He brings a wealth of corporate and energy sector experience. I have no doubt he will make an excellent contribution, particularly in relation to our investments in oilfield technologies but also more generally."

Malcolm Thoms said: "I am very pleased to be joining SEP's Advisory Board and look forward to my involvement with the firm. I have known the SEP team for a number of years and have a high regard for what it has achieved in building one of Europe's leading venture capital firms."

Malcolm joined Cairn Energy, one of Europe's largest independent oil and gas exploration and production companies, in 1989 and held a number of senior positions before becoming an executive director in 2000. He is also a non-executive director of Agora Oil & Gas AS, a privately-owned oil and gas exploration company focused on Norway and the UK, and a Trustee of Edinburgh Development Trust.

SEP, which operates from offices in London and Glasgow, invests in early stage and emerging growth companies across the UK, focusing on IT, healthcare and energy-related technologies. SEP has helped to create many of the UK's most successful early stage technology companies including Wolfson and CSR, as well as oilfield services company MTEM which was

acquired by Petroleum Geo-Services.

SEP's current portfolio includes several leading-edge companies in the energy services sector including ARKeX, a pioneer in geophysical services www.arkex.com; Fotech, which has developed innovative monitoring and surveillance solutions for oil and gas wells and pipelines www.fotechsolutions.com; and Deep Casing Tools, whose technology delivers major benefits in the construction of oil and gas wells and geothermal wells www.deepcasingtools.com.

10 Dates with Mad Mary

Yes you would have to be mad. To want to go out on a date with Mary, a freshly released 25 year-old former prisoner. But she managed to get 10 people to date her in quick succession girls, so there's hope for you all yet! The plot is that she is going to a wedding and needs a date so as not to lose face in front of the bride.

✖ Mary is played to perfection by Caoilfhionn Dunne. Sometimes a bit of a tomboy, always a bit feisty and often a little melancholy. The fact that she is Irish lets her get away with some pretty bad language of course which is part of her charm at the same time. The best line....oh shall we tell you....Yes we have to! The name of the shop where the bride goes to buy her dress is ...wait for it.. "Bride Sally Bride" – get it? You almost expected the nine-piece band from The Commitments to strike up behind her at that point!

Quite how one person can remember all the words in the right place at the right time is a little beyond The Reporter... Remembering the milk at the supermarket even when it is written on a list is hard enough. And there were a lot of

words for Dunne to remember. Fast-paced and riveting. This is a show you do not want to forget about. So go get your tickets for Mad Mary today. The show is on at the Pleasance/Jack Dome which is in Bristo Square not at The Pleasance – so you can't say we didn't warn you. www.pleasance.co.uk



[CALIPO THEATRE COMPANY](#) (Ireland) Presents

10 Dates with Mad Mary A Romantic Comedy (sort of)

By Yasmine Akram Directed by Darren Thornton

Featuring Caoilfhionn Dunne as Mad Mary

Set Design: Kieran McNulty Lighting Design: Sarah Jane Shields

Costume Design: Suzanne Keogh Sound Design: Jack Cawley

Pleasance Dome/Jack Dome, 1 Bristo Square, Edinburgh Wednesday 4 August to Sunday 29 August 2010 At 5.20pm daily (no shows on Monday 16 or 23 August)

It's also interesting to know what the director himself thinks about it. So here's what Darren Thornton has to say:-“At the beginning of the process Yasmine [Akram] and I talked about movies more than theatre, about our shared interest in ‘old school’ romantic comedies. The kind of movies Billy Wilder made, we spoke about how romantic comedies had become rom-coms, these awfully dull and lifeless consumer fantasies that are churned out by major Hollywood studios every other week. We decided that we wanted to do a theatre show for the female audience that go to these kind of movies and end up being as disappointed as we do. A theatre show that had kind of a cinematic quality – like an old-fashioned romance, but with a modern urban hero at the centre of the story - a female lead who was the antithesis to the usual ‘Bridget Jones’ types – and so we created Mary - a foul-mouthed, temperamental, small town rebel. A girl who's just been released from prison and is coming home to a town she no longer recognizes, where all her friends have grown up and she's been left behind.

The writing process was very intense, I think we began rehearsals with half a draft and then the rest of the play was

written in the three week rehearsal block, sometimes this can be really dangerous, but for this production, it seemed to work in our favour, it gave the show a frenetic raw energy and made for a visceral performance. All of the crew got behind the process, creative decisions were made in the moment, and all of the elements came together for our first opening in Drogheda in December of 2009. Since then the show has played successfully in Project, Dublin in January and February of this year, and Edinburgh will be the first time it plays to an international audience, which we're keen to see, because the show is filled with 'small town' colour, our small town – Drogheda – and we're eager to see how an audience outside of Ireland will respond to it.. if Mary will endear the audience in the same way she did in Ireland.. we're confident that she will."

Tuesday 10th August 2010



A round-up of Edinburgh related news.

Floral tributes have been placed in Dundas Street where a young woman fell to her death at the weekend in what appears to have been a tragic accident according to [Deadline](#).

A man has been stabbed in Wester Hailes – leading to a murder enquiry. [BBC online](#) reports.

Incoming boss at Edinburgh airport says that parking charges for kiss and fly drivers are here to stay, according to [The Scotsman](#).

[NHS Lothian](#) is warning of a worrying rise in legal high cases

appearing at hospitals in the city according to [BBC online](#).

Turning point in renewable energy development as councils are handed the power to sell electricity from wind farms and other schemes which they approve. [The Scotsman](#) reports with a lovely photo from East Lothian artist Sally Gammell.

Alex Salmond's recent trip to China has proved fruitful according to [The Scotsman](#) which reports that the result has been £2.4m of investment for Scotland following the trade mission.

You still have time to sign up or get yourself invited along to an event organised by [The Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce](#) on Wednesday night at The Henderson Gallery. Informal networking with drinks and dinner while at the same time you can admire the exhibition by former Stone Roses guitarist John Squire.

The funfair on the Meadows may or may not happen this week – it all depends on a last minute licence ruling due to be heard on Wednesday at 2pm. [The Scotsman](#) has the story.

[The Broughton Spurtle](#) reports on the local venues which the [Yakety Yak cafe](#) has chosen as a meeting and chatting place....in a variety of languages!

Crown Estate awards Four Demo Sites for Wind Farms

The Crown Estate has announced that four companies have been awarded offshore wind demonstration sites – and one of these is in the Forth estuary.

The awards follow an application process conducted in response

to the UK offshore wind industry's need to demonstrate new offshore wind turbines and other technologies in the marine environment. These demonstration projects will play a key part in addressing both technical and cost challenges, to facilitate construction further from shore and in increasing water depths.

An agreement for lease has been awarded for each of two sites in England to:

- * Gunfleet Sands extension – DONG Energy Gunfleet Sands Demo (UK) Ltd, whole owned subsidiary of DONG Energy, for testing up to two next generation offshore wind turbines

- * Blyth Offshore Wind Demonstration site – National renewable energy centre Ltd (Narec) for a 100 MW grid connected site to test and demonstrate up to 20 next generation offshore wind turbines and associated infrastructure.

Exclusivity agreements have been awarded for two sites in Scotland to:

- * Methil Offshore Wind Farm – 2-B Energy to demonstrate 2B-Energy's two offshore wind turbines

- * European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre – Aberdeen Offshore Wind Ltd, a company owned 75 per cent by Vattenfall and 25 per cent by Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (AREG) to test and demonstrate up to 11 next generation offshore wind turbines and other technology in Aberdeen Bay.

The agreements for lease or exclusivity agreements enable the companies to take their proposals through the planning and consenting phases. Exclusivity agreements have been used in Scotland to allow the companies to begin initial survey and consultation processes for their sites while the Scottish Government conducts a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for offshore wind within Scottish territorial waters.

Rob Hastings, director of marine estate at The Crown Estate said: "Technical innovation is essential to cutting offshore wind costs. Awarding the four demonstration sites supports the growing UK offshore wind industry's efforts to demonstrate new offshore wind turbines and other technologies in the marine environment. We are pleased that this is another positive step to help further grow the UK's capacity for secure offshore wind energy."

In May 2009 The Crown Estate launched a process of engagement with industry on offshore wind technology demonstration site needs. Applications for sites were received in early December 2009. Due to the demonstration nature of the projects they are each limited to less than 100 MW.

Turbine manufactures and other technology companies wishing to demonstrate at these sites should contact the companies directly for more information.

Titian on tour

✖ More than 140,000 people have seen Titian's Diana and Actaeon since the painting's tour of Scotland commenced in May this year.

The 16th century masterpiece is currently on display at the recently refurbished The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum, where it was viewed by almost 2,500 people during the exhibition's opening weekend. The painting has already been on show in Glasgow and Aberdeen in celebration of the first anniversary of its acquisition for the nation.

Culture Minister Fiona Hyslop visited the McManus Galleries today, during a visit to Dundee as part of her summer tour.

She said:

“Having been acquired for the nation, it is absolutely right that Titian’s Diana and Actaeon is made available to as wide an audience as possible. I am delighted the tour is proving such a success. Diana and Actaeon is an exceptional and powerful work of art and it is fantastic to see it being enjoyed by so many people across Scotland.

“Dundee is renowned as a city of many discoveries and the refurbished McManus Galleries is a fitting venue for visitors to experience first-hand the delights of this world-class masterpiece.”

Dundee City Council Leisure, Arts and Communities Convener Councillor Bob Duncan said:

“We are delighted to be hosting this prestigious national acquisition within the newly restored McManus. It is important that we bring the very best to the city to complement the nationally recognised collections we hold on behalf of the citizens of Dundee and indeed the nation. The National Galleries are to be congratulated on this initiative of bringing this work to the people of Scotland.”

While in Dundee as part of her summer tour programme, the Minister also visited the D’Arcy Thompson Zoology Museum at the University of Dundee, which is marking the 150th anniversary of the birth of Dundee’s pioneer of life sciences, Professor Sir D’Arcy Wentworth Thompson.

Ms Hyslop said:

“Professor Sir D’Arcy Thompson was one of the intellectual giants of the modern age and his scientific discoveries made a valuable contribution to our understanding of the world. It is important that we remember and celebrate Scotland’s great minds and innovations. So, I am glad to see Dundee marking this anniversary and telling the story of this great man.”

Titian's Diana and Actaeon was acquired for the nation by the National Galleries of Scotland and the National Gallery in London in February 2009 for £50 million with contributions from the Scottish Government, The National Heritage Memorial Fund, The Monument Trust, The Art Fund (with a contribution from the Wolfson Foundation) and through public appeal.

Diana and Actaeon is on display at The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum until 5 September 2010. Admission to the exhibition is free. The painting has also been on display in Aberdeen and Glasgow.

A series of exhibitions and events are being held in 2010 to mark the 150th anniversary of Professor Sir D'Arcy Thompson's birth, in a collaborative project between the University of Dundee and the University of St Andrews.

Holyrood saves money on publishing costs

The Scottish Government has reduced its spend on publishing services by half, it was announced today.

The savings – a total of £5 million over three years – represent a 50 per cent reduction in spending on the Design, Print, Publishing and Associated Services (DPPAS) contract since 2006-07, exceeding the Scottish Government's own savings target.

Spending on print alone was down by £2.8 million as the Scottish Government increased the number of web-only publications – up by 34 per cent in 2009-10. There were further savings on design, distribution, reprints and

promotional items.

✘ Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth John Swinney said:

“The work of Government should always aim to secure the best value for the taxpayer, while delivering the highest standards. The Scottish Government has taken a lead in securing greater value for the public purse and I would encourage the wider public sector to do the same.

“These significant savings exceed substantially our target savings under the previous contract. And in the current economic climate, when budgets are being squeezed by Westminster cuts, there is even greater urgency to achieve efficiencies wherever possible. Our challenge is to continue to build on this achievement under our new Framework contract.”

The total reduction in spend by the core Scottish Government since 2006-07 was 51 per cent – reduced from £9.8 million to £4.9 million.

The DPPAS contract ended in April 2010, when a new Framework contract came into effect.

Copyright – the small print..

✘ On 12 and 26 August 2010, Paul Motion, Partner with bto (formerly Glasgow firm of solicitors Brechin Tindall Oatts) and Solicitor Advocate, will appear again at Fringe Central in Edinburgh to present two free seminars for performers and managers.

These interactive events were originally suggested by artist

management clients whom bto represents. The seminars were well received in 2009.

On 12 August at 10:30, Paul will explore the basics of copyright law in a session called 'Stealing Ideas Unravelling Copyright'. This is a non-legalistic introduction to copyright law, which will identify what can and cannot be protected, with emphasis on performing arts issues.

In 'Small Print Big Problem?' on 26 August at 14:00, Paul will deal with the basics of contract law and consider termination/compensation issues which artists, promoters and venue managers may encounter.

Paul said: I was delighted to be asked back to the Fringe. Last year's shows were a bit of a shot in the dark. We were worried that legal topics might be rather dry. However, with an audience of creative people there was always plenty of intelligent banter. This year we have a better idea of the issues people want to hear about and we'll try to tailor the presentations accordingly".

Tickets for the events can be obtained at the door (Venue Fringe Central) or booked online at:

Stealing Ideas Unravelling Copyright:

<http://www.edfringe.com/whats-on/events/stealing-ideas-unravelling-copyright>

Small Print Big Problem?:

<http://www.edfringe.com/whats-on/events/small-print-big-problem>

Building sites are dangerous

❌ Building sites are not adventure playgrounds...That is the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) message to parents and children as school holidays get well underway in Britain.

HSE is encouraging parents to warn their children of the dangers of playing on them, after one child died and 25 were injured on construction sites in 2008/09. Dozens more children are seriously injured on sites every year.

Companies are being reminded that sites should be secure, with good fencing to prevent public access and with regular checks carried out.

Philip White, HSE's Chief Inspector of Construction, said:

"Without proper precautions, construction sites are dangerous places for those who work on them day in day out, never mind the risks to children who simply see them as exciting playgrounds and don't understand the dangers.

"Of course we want children to make the most of their summer holidays by enjoying the outdoors, but building sites are not the place to do it. We need parents to help this message hit home.

"Construction managers should check their sites are secure, and in areas where children live and play they should ensure that risks to children are properly controlled."


Members of the public concerned about the security or safety of a construction site can call HSE's InfoLine on 0845 345 0055. Information is also available at www.hse.gov.uk/construction

Tortoises on the loose



The Scottish SPCA has been caring for two runaway tortoises at the charity's Edinburgh and Lothians Animal Rescue and Rehoming Centre and staff are hoping to reunite the stray pets with their owners.

We think the tortoises have escaped as a result of recent warm weather, where owners may have been leaving them out in gardens to enjoy the sunshine and some exercise.

One is a small male Horsefield tortoise, nicknamed Clover, which was found straying in Woodlee Park in Alloa on 18 June and the other is a large male Hermann's tortoise, who has been called Dandy. He was found wandering along Hillview Road in Edinburgh on 23 June. 

Senior Animal Care Assistant Lora Booth said, "We are seeing a lot of stray pet birds and tortoises coming into our care at the moment and we think it's due to their owners letting them out for some exercise during the warm weather.

"Pet birds are often let out of their cages to fly around indoors, but if a window or door has been left open then they'll easily escape.

"Likewise, with tortoises, owners may be letting them out into the garden to enjoy the sunshine and some exercise, but they are surprisingly agile and can easily dig their way under a fence or find a gap in a hedge.

"These tortoises are in good health and condition so we're pretty sure their owners are missing them.

“We’re inviting anyone whose pet tortoise has recently gone missing to give our animal helpline a call on 03000 999 999. If no-one comes forward to claim these guys then we’ll be seeking good homes for them.”

Young Photographers Wanted



Golden Flight by Ryan Edwards

TV presenter Matt Baker has urged budding photographers to send in their pictures to win a three-day break with a world-famous animal snapper and £1,000 worth of kit.

The RSPCA has issued a final call for entrants to its Young Photographer Awards (YPA) 2010 before the September 6 closing date.

BBC Countryfile and former One Show presenter Matt, who is one of the 12 judges, said: “I can’t wait to see the great entries that have been submitted for this year’s competition.

“It has been a fantastic summer to be out and about so I am looking forward to seeing lots of sunny and happy pictures of pets and wildlife and meeting the winners at the awards ceremony in December.”

Winners and runners-up of four separate categories will pick up new cameras, while the person considered the overall champion will go on the three-day break during the annual deer rut in Bradgate Park, Leicestershire, with Wildlife Photographer of the Year Danny Green.

The competition is open to anyone aged 19 or younger, and is split into Under 12s, 12-18 Years, Pet Personalities and the

Olympus Portfolio, which requires five images linked by a common theme.

Finalists will be invited to a glitzy awards ceremony at HM Tower of London on December 10.

The winners of the Under 12 and 12-18 categories will attend a photoshoot at an RSPCA centre with award-winning photographer Andrew Forsyth.



Last year's winner Ryan Edwards with judges Matt Baker and Danny Green

Last year's overall winner, Ryan Edwards, of Woodbridge, Suffolk, joined Andrew at the RSPCA's East Winch wildlife centre to photograph the release of rehabilitated seals back into their natural habitat.

YPA has become a recognised launch pad for aspiring photographers to showcase their work, gain recognition from industry professionals and be rewarded for their talent.

More details of prizes and rules are available at www.rspca.org.uk/ypa, which is also where entrants can upload their photos for the competition. Postal entries must arrive by 5pm on August 23.

Mental Wellbeing Awards

A charity that aims to prevent young people committing suicide has launched an award scheme to promote positive mental health on UK university campuses.

The Papyrus Award for Mental Wealth initiatives offers students and staff £300 to run wellbeing campaigns, particularly during freshers' week when new students have a high risk of emotional distress.

Ten awards are up for grabs to fund sports events, film festivals, volunteer schemes or any other ideas to encourage university-goers to improve their mental health.

Papyrus is working with non-profit organisation Mental Wealth UK, who will run the scheme. Submissions can be made during August 2010, November 2010 and February 2011, and the 10 awards will be spread out between these three periods.

Amy Llewellyn, Papyrus youth involvement co-ordinator, said: "Papyrus is very pleased to support this excellent initiative by Mental Wealth UK.

"Increased understanding of mental health on campus, especially when students and staff are empowered to make it happen, is fundamental to the prevention of student suicide."

Eddy Pinkney, director of Mental Wealth UK, said: "As a new national student-led organisation we are delighted to have the support of Papyrus, a UK leader in suicide prevention.

"This award plays a key part in our strategy for building a nationwide network of student-led mental health and wellbeing initiatives."

The first deadline for applications is September 3, and full terms and entry forms are available at www.mentalwealthuk.com/papyrus.html.

Students and staff from any university in England, Scotland and Wales can apply individually or as a group.

Papyrus is a national charity dedicated to the prevention of young suicide, offering support and practical advice to young people worried about themselves and others concerned about a

young person they know. For more information go to www.papyrus-uk.org

Mental Wealth UK is a new non-profit organisation for student mental health and wellbeing, aiming to amplify the student voice and create a nationwide network of student-led groups.

Further details can be found at www.mentalwealthuk.com

What's on This Week? – 9th August

✖ Probably too much to mention.

But if you want our pick of what is happening in Edinburgh then here it is:-

Standard Life will publish their half year results on Wednesday.

On the same day (Wednesday) during The Festival there will be storytelling at The Fringe at The Storytelling Centre on the High Street. It starts at 7pm and the tickets are £4.00. More details [here](#).

On 14th August The Book Festival opens and each day at 4.00 there will be a Story Shop. More details on the City of Literature [website](#).

The National Museum of Scotland joins forces once again with Live Music Now Scotland to liven up your lunchtime.

Sit back and enjoy the music of some of Scotland's most talented musicians – for free!

Drawing on the Lewis Chessmen for inspiration, the programme stretches from Norway to the shores of Lewis. From fiddles and flutes to ballads and brass, why not join us everyday during the festival for an uplifting lunchtime.

Each concert takes place at 12:45 and lasts 45 minutes, with the exception of the Fringe Finale, which takes place at 14:00 and lasts for 90 minutes. More details of this and many other events on the National Museum [website](#).

At The Queen's Hall there are four shows tonight including the delightfully named [The Burns Unit](#) at 7.30. This is an eight piece Scottish-Canadian band. You can get the full Festival brochure [here](#).

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

Monday 9 August 2010

✖ Edinburgh is now fully in the grip of the Festival. The streets are thronged with tourists and festival goers.

A brief look at the news around Edinburgh:-

A woman has died after apparently falling from a balcony in Dundas Street in the early hours of Sunday morning. [STV News](#) has more. And [The Daily Record](#) also reports that a man was killed in a fall from a flat in Leith last night. It is believed he may have fallen from the roof.

Sainsburys in Rose Street was evacuated on Friday following a leak from a fridge in the basement.

The Pope is to be handed over from Lothian & Borders Police to

their colleagues in Strathclyde at Harthill Service Station....so that the motorway can stay open according to [The Daily Record](#). Would telling us now perhaps mean that there will be more of a traffic jam than there might otherwise have been?

[The Edinburgh Evening News](#) has a story about Malcolm Irving who has taken photos of all the police boxes in Edinburgh for a new book....

Meanwhile the Festivalling season goes on....

There was a procession of pipers on The Royal Mile on Saturday heralding the start of the 60th Tattoo. On Sunday The Festival Cavalcade took place in Holyrood Park. It used to follow a route along Princes Street but for the second year in a row has avoided the tram-ridden area. There are some photos on [STV News](#).

[pepez@flickr](#) has some great photos from the Mela Festival this weekend.

Adam Hills, the brilliantly funny Australian comedian, has loaned Honker, a soft toy given to him by a fan for his baby daughter, to 10 year-old Lenny until Tuesday evening. The point is that Lenny (who almost stole the show tonight at The Assembly Hall (which is on The Mound – not in George Street) where he was persuaded to be a ventriloquist's dummy for a while) will show Honker around and take photos for Hill's own website. [Edinburgh Spotlight](#) has the story.

Forward Prize nominees appearing at Book Festival

✖ Four of the six poets on the shortlist for The Forward Prize for Best Collection, announced this week, will be appearing at the Edinburgh International Book Festival this summer. Although tickets for Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney have sold out, tickets to hear Robin Robertson, Jo Shapcott and Sinéad Morrissey are all still available.

Don Paterson, the internationally renowned Scottish poet, has worked with the Scottish Poetry Library to select some world renowned poets for the programme, including Simon Armitage and Pulitzer winner Paul Muldoon, plus, of course, the four Forward prize nominees.

Ruth Padel, who chairs the judging panel for The Forward Prize, will also be appearing at the Book Festival and has selected a series of events looking at family relationships. She will be in conversation with Lyndall Gordon exploring the tensions within Emily Dickinson's family, and with Fatima Bhutto and Fay Weldon who share the way in which a parent's loss affected their understanding of the world. John Burnside and David Vann discuss sons' relationships with their troubled fathers.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival runs from 14 to 30 August in the beautiful Charlotte Square Gardens in the heart of the city, and this year welcomes over 750 writers, poets, politicians, artists, photographers and journalists from 50 countries around the world. With Nobel Laureates, Booker, Costa, Pulitzer and Turner Prize Winners, Poets Laureate and over 40 debut authors, the Festival provides an opportunity for audiences to engage with the world's leading authors, thinkers and opinion formers.

Off to Sunny Spain for your retirement?

But beware: your UK state pension might not rise in the future, unlike your friends back home, who might enjoy double the level of state pension after 20 years

Edinburgh's Standard Life has revealed the top retirement hotspots outside the UK¹.

These are: 1st Spain; 2nd France; 3rd USA; 4th Canada; 5th Ireland

Andrew Tully, Senior Pensions Policy Manager, Standard Life commented: "Retiring abroad is a dream for many people but without careful planning and advice, things can potentially go wrong very quickly."

If an individual moves abroad permanently, any increases in their UK state pension will only apply if they are living in an EU country (including Gibraltar and Switzerland), or a country with a reciprocal social security agreement with the UK².

Where the individual is living outside these countries, the amount of UK state pension they will receive each year is frozen at the amount initially paid when first claimed (or if the pensioner emigrated more than one year after payment began, at the rate in force when emigrating). Popular retirement countries outside these reciprocal agreements include Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa.

Tully continued: "One significant consideration before you move is to think about your state pension and what, if any,

reciprocal agreement is in place. If there isn't a reciprocal agreement in place, then you need to be very careful your retirement income is sufficient to cover your living costs over a long period of time. Over a 20 year retirement, your basic state UK pension could halve³ in real terms if a reciprocal arrangement is not in place."

If you are considering retiring abroad in the future, but are wondering if your retirement savings will be sufficient, Standard Life has launched www.getarealitycheck.co.uk, where you can check if your plans are on track.

Top tips for retiring abroad

1. Seek independent financial advice before making plans about future pension provision or transferring your pension overseas.
2. Check what reciprocal basic state pension agreements are in place with the destination country, if any (check with the [Department for Work and Pensions](http://www.dwp.gov.uk)).
3. Inform your social security office, HM Revenue and Customs, and the Department for Work and Pensions when you move and provide your contact details abroad.
4. You can get a forecast of your state pension by completing a BR19 form or go to www.thepensionservice.gov.uk. If already overseas, complete form CA3638 or call The International Pensions Centre on 0191 218 7777.
5. Check your state pension age (SPA). For women, the SPA is rising from 60-65 between 2010 and 2020, with further rises to 68 currently expected to take place by 2048, although the coalition government may accelerate these changes.
6. Find out about welfare rights abroad. Some UK benefits are not payable outside the UK, others apply only in the EU or in countries which have agreements with the UK.
7. Tell your bank, building society and any other financial

institution that you have a policy or agreement with them and are moving abroad.

8. Contact your local council to let them know when you are leaving and leave a forwarding address.
9. Find out more about healthcare costs in the country you want to move to.
10. Inform your GP and dentist you are moving, and consider private healthcare.

For further tips, please go to:
http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/BritonsLivingAbroad/BeforeYouGo/DG_4000018

Cash for Portobello

Portobello Town Centre has been given a major revamp following £769,015 of investment from the Scottish Government and the City of Edinburgh Council.

Last year the Council put in a bid to the Scottish Government's £60 million Town Centre Regeneration Fund for the regeneration of Portobello High Street. The bid was called 'Building Stronger Town Centres in Edinburgh: Portobello' and was supported by various local partners including Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce, Edinburgh Business Assembly and the Portobello and Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership. The bid was successful and Portobello was awarded £582,015. A further £187,000 was contributed by the Council.

Pavements, crossing points, street furniture and lighting along the High Street have all been enhanced and improved. More bike racks have been put in to encourage people to cycle. New 'navigational' signage marks places of historical interest and gives information about Portobello as well as pointing

visitors in the direction of the nearby promenade. Works started in October 2009 and have recently been completed.

Cllr Tom Buchanan, Convener for Economic Development, said:

“These improvements have made an enormous difference to the area. Portobello is a thriving community with many independent traders and small businesses contributing to a bustling atmosphere. The high street is now greatly improved and I’m sure this will attract more visitors and shoppers, while enhancing the area for businesses and residents.

“This is also a great start to the Council’s ‘Building Stronger Town Centres for Edinburgh’ programme and has really shown what a difference investment in Edinburgh’s Town Centres can make.”

These improvements also tie in with the city-wide Urban Centre Programme, which seeks to improve and promote local shopping centres.

Joyce Heath is a partner in the business Mike’s Tackle Shop which is on the High Street. She said: “The pavements look really great now and they are a nice light colour. The work was done in a fast and efficient manner and the workers made sure our customers could always get access to the shop. I’m really pleased with the results and I hope they paving stones remain as clean.”

Annual Doors Open Day

✖ A bit of advance warning here. This event takes place on the weekend of 25th to 26th September. It is an opportunity to see buildings and homes you might never otherwise see. A

chance then to really appreciate some of the architecture in Edinburgh and see behind the scenes of some of Edinburgh's public buildings.

Organised by The Cockburn Association which claims to be Edinburgh's Civic Trust, protecting the city and its buildings from change.

Some information on the Cockburn Association website, although this is a website in need of some TLC and updating. Their last newsletter is from 2009....

Conservation work in Queen Street

Another Edinburgh World Heritage conservation scheme is now underway at the corner block of 63 & 65 Frederick Street and 38 Queen Street. Work will consist of stonework repairs to chimneys and the front elevation,

✖ During the 1860s No. 38 Queen Street was the home of George Patton, a senior figure in Edinburgh's legal establishment who was also the focus of a political scandal.

Patton rose through the ranks of the legal profession to become Lord Advocate in 1866, but in the same year he was also elected MP for Bridgewater in Somerset. Allegations of bribery at his election led to calls for an inquest, and faced with mounting pressure he committed suicide. At the time the scandal was described as, "unparalleled in the history of the Scottish judicial bench." They hadn't heard of expenses then....

Edinburgh International Marketing Festival

Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce and The Scotsman have been hunting for a 'Brand of the Future'; an emerging business with the potential to take the market by storm. Six exciting new Scottish businesses have come through to compete in the live 'Dragons' Den' style final which will be one of the main events at the first ever Edinburgh International Marketing Festival.

The winner, who will receive £8,000 worth of business and marketing support, will be selected by an expert panel of marketing industry professionals and business advisors led by Bill Jamieson, Executive Editor of The Scotsman.

The event will take place in the magnificent setting of the Assembly Hall on the Mound, Edinburgh on Monday 23 August at 10.30am to 12 noon, hosted by television and radio personality, Simon Fanshawe. The panelists are Tom Holmes, creativebrief; Graham Birse, Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce; Helen Hourston, The Gate; Simon Farrell, Tayburn; Nicki Sturzaker, Big Partnership and Cameron Thomson, Angels Den.

Tickets for the event are offered to Edinburgh Chamber members at a discounted rate of £8.00 and are available online at www.assemblyfestival.com or by calling 0131 623 3030.

For full details of the Edinburgh International Marketing Festival line-up of events go to: www.eimfest.com


Weekend news 7 August 2010

The beautiful photograph of the mother and three children on the [BBC online](#) website hides a tragedy of enormous proportions. This is Theresa Riggi who has now been charged with their murder. She is in hospital in a serious but stable condition.

There is to be an investigation into the collision between the Norfolkline Ferry and a prawn fishing boat just off St Abbs Head on Thursday evening following which one 16 year old boy is missing presumed dead. [BBC online](#) reports.

Royal Bank profits for the first half of the year are £1.1bn. The [BBC's](#) Robert Peston offers his opinion on what he sees as a slow recovery.

[Cameron Rose](#) Councillor for Southside and Newington tells us that the University is the Festival's biggest venue provider.

 The Fringe has started. This weekend the [Mela Festival](#) is on in Leith. We recommend you get out and do something! Where else is there so much creativity in one place at the moment?