

# Appeal for witnesses

Lothian and Borders Police are appealing for witnesses after a woman was robbed in the Leith area of Edinburgh on Saturday evening (July 31).

The 37-year-old had walked from Cadiz Street onto Assembly Street about 6.45pm when a man approached her from behind, nudged her in the back and demanded her purse. She immediately handed it over, and the man ran off towards Elbe Street. A man who was passing by tried to chase the suspect, but lost him when he got to Elbe Street.

The suspect is described as being white, in his 20s, around 5ft 8ins – 5ft 10ins tall, of slim build with messy mousy brown hair. He was clean-shaven, spoke with a local accent, and was wearing a grey-coloured hooded top.

A police spokesperson said: 'We are appealing for anyone who may have been in the area at the time, and may have seen what happened, to come forward.'

'In particular, we are keen to trace the passer-by who came to the woman's aid, and chased the suspect.'

'We would also be keen to hear from anyone who recognises the description of the suspect, and who may be able to help.'

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## Letter from Alex Salmond

This is the text of the letter which the First Minister has now sent to Robert Menendez, the US senator who is demanding that Scottish Ministers attend a senate hearing in the US to discuss the release of Abdelbaset Ali Al-megrahi from prison

in Scotland on compassionate grounds.

*Dear Senator Menendez*

*Thank you for your letter of 29 July.*

*I have made clear in my letters to you and to Senator Kerry that the Scottish Government's decision to decline your previous invitation for the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Dr Fraser to attend a hearing in the US was based on principle rather than on any issue of practicality.*

*The most appropriate way for us to assist the Foreign Relations Committee is to provide a statement of the position of the Scottish Government, as I have done, and to answer any questions that the Committee may have in writing, as we have also done.*

*Scottish Ministers and public officials are properly accountable to the Scottish Parliament and not to other legislatures. It is difficult to envisage circumstances in which serving members of the US Government would agree to appear as witnesses in hearings or inquiries held by the legislature of another country, and there are many high-profile and indeed current examples of the US Government declining such invitations.*

*Your letter again seeks to link BP with the decision made by the Scottish Government to grant Mr Al-Megrahi compassionate release. No-one has produced any evidence of such a link because there is none. We have said repeatedly that there has never, at any point, been any contact between BP and the Scottish Government in relation to Al-Megrahi. The statements we have made on this issue are entirely clear and consistent.*

*It was with concern that I watched you attempt to insinuate such a link on BBC Newsnight on 30th July by citing a letter from Conservative Party peer Lord Trefgarne, the chair of the Libyan British Business Council, to Justice Secretary*

MacAskill last year. This was one of approximately one thousand representations received by the Scottish Government last year, including many from the USA. You have this letter because the Scottish Government published this last year as part of our comprehensive issue of documentation related to the decision. That being the case, you must also have seen the reply from Mr MacAskill, also published, which stated that his decisions would be "based on judicial grounds alone and economic and political considerations have no part in the process". In order to avoid any suggestion of misrepresentation, I trust that you will include that fact in future references.

BP's admitted lobbying on this issue referred to the Prisoner Transfer Agreement (PTA) and with the UK Government. As you must by now be aware, the Scottish Government opposed this agreement from its inception, a position that we have maintained publicly and privately since. Indeed, I revealed the existence of the proposed PTA to the Scottish Parliament in a statement on 7 June 2007. It is perhaps to be regretted that our warnings about the circumstances in which this agreement came into being found no response at that time from the UK Government, the then opposition in the UK Parliament, or indeed from the United States Senate.

Finally, you and some of your Senatorial colleagues, have suggested that the Scottish Government have sought to pass responsibility to others for the release of Al-Megrahi. That is simply not the case. Secretary MacAskill took the decision following the precepts and due process of Scots law and jurisdiction – the same jurisdiction which over a period of some 20 years led Scotland to play the leading role in investigating, trying, convicting and incarcerating Al-Megrahi. We do not resile from our responsibility in making that decision.

The point we make is a different but a quite simple one. Please do not ascribe to the Scottish Government economic or

*commercial motives for this decision when there is no evidence whatsoever for such a claim.*

*If you wish to investigate commercial or indeed other motivations surrounding this case, then call the former UK Ministers and Prime Ministers who were involved in proposing, negotiating and then signing the PTA and, of course, where there is a public record of admission that business and trade, along with other issues, were factors. In this light your decision not to proceed with the draft invitation to offer evidence to former Prime Minister Blair, who actually signed the proposed PTA in May 2007, seems puzzling.*

*These people, of course, may have had, and indeed in some cases have conceded, motivations other than justice considerations. However, they did not take the decision on Mr Megrahi.*

*I am copying this letter to Senator Kerry.*

ALEX SALMOND

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## **Green rubbish...**

A new green scheme that recycles food waste has been launched.

The Commercial Food Waste Collection Service, run by Keenan Recycling, creates BSI accredited compost from items such as leftover food, coffee grounds, cups and paper towels collected from businesses and restaurants in the North East.

First Minister Alex Salmond officially launched the scheme. He met staff taking forward the environmentally- friendly service at the Aberdeen offices of Shell Upstream Europe, one of

around 30 businesses already taking advantage of the scheme.

Keenan Recycling, which is based at New Deer in Aberdeenshire, already recycles green waste from a number of Scottish local authorities and food waste for Aberdeen City Council.

The Scottish Government published its Zero Waste Plan last month. It sets out key actions and new targets to tackle the near 20 million tonnes of waste produced in Scotland every year.

The plan focuses on transforming waste into a valuable resource which can be used to make new products, generate renewable energy, heat and fertiliser with the potential to create over 2,000 jobs.

The Government plans to introduce legislation requiring mandatory food waste collections by 2013, leading to savings for local authorities. This will increase the quality of other waste that can be separated and recycled for value.

Mr Salmond said:

“The Scottish Government is committed to creating a cleaner, greener Scotland where waste is recycled to create valuable resources, supporting our economy and protecting our natural environment.

“Keenan Recycling’s exciting new service is a significant move in the right direction. It produces a valuable resource from food waste, reduces the amount of waste being sent to landfill and cuts down greenhouse gas emissions.

“We have made good progress towards becoming a zero waste society, but we still throw away enough rubbish to fill an Olympic-sized swimming pool every ten minutes and this has to change.

“If all of the food waste currently produced in Scotland was captured and treated separately, it could generate enough

energy to power a city almost the size of Aberdeen.

“Our ground breaking Zero Waste Plan aims to change the way we view the things we throw away. We have set ambitious new targets to recycle 70 percent of all waste with a maximum of five percent sent to landfill by 2025. Using waste as a resource will deliver climate change benefits, create employment opportunities and support a thriving low carbon economy.”

Grant Keenan, Managing Director of Keenan Recycling, said:

“We are delighted that the First Minister is supporting the Commercial Food Waste Collection service as it is a major step to reduce landfill waste in Scotland and particularly in the North-east. Many companies already recycle the usual cans, plastic, cardboard and paper but food waste is the final piece in the recycling jigsaw.

“Our collection service can be used by a variety of companies and we are already working with a number of firms in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, including large oil companies, waste management companies, hotels, colleges and shopping centres.

“Businesses using the new service can help the environment, increase recycling rates and it’s a huge leap towards the target of zero waste to landfill.”

Steve Harris, Head of Communications at Shell in Aberdeen, said:

“Shell believe business should care about the society in which it operates. Around our operations we strive to be sensitive to the environmental contribution we can make. We are therefore delighted to be among the first to join this pioneering scheme.”

Howard Jonas, Operations Director of Enviroco Limited, said:

“Enviroco have been providing waste management services to

Shell for over 10 years. Our team of waste assessment specialists ensure that every waste stream that Enviroco either handles or manages is routed in accordance with strong environmental principles. Our key account managers have worked proactively with Keenan Recycling to bring this new service to four Shell sites in early 2010.

“Ensuring that our customer’s waste is routed in a sustainable manner, with full regard to the waste hierarchy and proximity principle, means that we not only improve environmental performance but also support local businesses whenever we can.”

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## **Freedom of Information at The Edinburgh International Festival**

✖ The Scottish Information Commissioner is to explore the impact that the FOI ‘right to information’ has had in Scotland at event, ‘Freedom of Information – What Difference Has It Made?’ taking place on 21st August 2010.

At the event, part of the Scottish Parliament’s 2010 Festival of Politics, Kevin Dunion will discuss what has been achieved by FOI since it came into force in 2005. He will be joined by a panel of people who have successfully used FOI to make a difference in their own communities and beyond. Announcing the event, Mr Dunion said “this Festival of Politics event at the Scottish Parliament provides an excellent opportunity to reflect on the successes of FOI, and to hear first-hand from some of the people who have benefited directly from the FOI ‘right to know’.

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# Information Commissioner – 1000 decisions!

✖ Freedom of information in Scotland has reached a new landmark as the Scottish Information Commissioner publishes his 1000<sup>th</sup> decision, ordering the Scottish Government to release information about the meetings of its Council of Economic Advisers (CEA), and to carry out further searches for relevant information.

The decision deals with a request made by a journalist from a Scottish national newspaper, for information about the costs and administrative arrangements for the first five meetings of the CEA – the group of economists and industry figures that advises the Scottish Government on economic affairs.

In his ruling, the Commissioner finds that the Government failed to put forward an appropriate justification for the non-disclosure of data, while also failing to confirm to him that officials had appropriately searched for all relevant information.

Publishing his decision, Kevin Dunion, the Scottish Information Commissioner, said:

*“I have now issued a substantial body of rulings in the five and a half years since Scotland’s freedom of information laws came into force. This 1000<sup>th</sup> case is not untypical. Around two thirds of my decisions find in favour, or partially in favour, of the applicant.*

*“By now, all public authorities should be fully aware of their duties when responding to FOI requests. They should understand*



*the need to present clear arguments when they decide to withhold information and those arguments should stand up to scrutiny in the event of an appeal. Where, as in this case, a public authority fails to make an appropriate case, I will order the release of information. With all this experience behind us, I expect authorities to get their responses – to FOI requesters and to me – right first time.”*

The Commissioner requires the Government to release the withheld information by 6 September 2010.

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## Post Me To The Fringe

✖ A man from Brighton will set out to arrive in Edinburgh like no one else will do in 2010.

Ever wondered how your letters land on your doorstep in the morning? Will Armstrong will discover how your post does it. On 4 August he will plant himself in a box and post himself from Brighton to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe to understand what some of the 84 million daily letters go through to get from A to B.

Arriving at 6pm, 4 August, on the Royal Mile, taking with him only a can of slim fast, one or two pocket-pee-bags and a flip-cam to capture the moment, this journey won't be 'first class Virgin' for the first time postee.

Of course most post arrives overnight however the package will take anything up to 10 hours to arrive. This will subject the student's resilience in dealing with cramped conditions and darkness compared to that of a boxed animal and will have to overcome the anxiety of being locked up from Brighton to Edinburgh.

Will Armstrong's associate in crime, Matt Bonner, is indeed taking his own extreme methods to get to Edinburgh, using only public buses. He will have a few essential possessions, his guitar and a multitude of bus tickets, how long will it take? Matt has 6 days to get to Edinburgh; will all his buses come at once? Will Matt Bonner make it on time for the start of the show on 6 August?

The show will foretell the tales of wisdom and plight bought by both posting and busing it. In a documentary set to show you how not to do it, highlighting the effort of all Fringe goers and performers alike.

**Will Armstrong** – *'A future Fringe entertainer – though he may be wishing for some Houdini-like skills'* THE SCOTSMAN

**Matt Bonner** – *'Matt is a brilliant writer, has fantastic vocal capabilities and can really get the crowd going'* – BRIGHTON CALLING

*10% of all profits will be donated to Born Free, to un-cage animals.*

***Post me to The Fringe***

*Festival Fringe 2010*

*Written and performed by Will Armstrong and Matt Bonner*

*Venue: Espionage, Lizard Lounge (Venue 185), Victoria Street*

*Time: 13.00 (40 minutes)*

*Dates: 6-20 August (**Arrival date, out of the box, 4 August, 6pm**)*

*& Assembly Rooms, 10pm, 23 August, Edinburgh International Marketing Festival*

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# Streetcar

✖ Streetcar, now part of Zipcar Inc. the world's largest car club provides fast, easy access to a network of vehicles parked across Edinburgh, Glasgow, London and the UK. With their 24/7 on demand fleet and simple online management system, they offer to meet your business needs, however big or small. So whether you need one car or twenty, morning or afternoon, every day or every now and then, Streetcar fits the bill.

## **How does it work?**

Once you have a business account with them, your employees can book cars and vans by the hour and unlock them 24/7 using a smartcard. As the account owner, you can easily keep track of employee usage using a simple online system, and manage costs with itemised monthly invoices.

## **On demand access to cars and vans 24/7**

With online booking and independent access, your employees can book and use cars and vans whenever they need, for as long as they need, without worrying about representatives or office hours.

## **A fleet that grows with you**

Your business has access to a virtual fleet of cars and vans in over a thousand UK locations. So whether you have a short-term increase in demand, or long-term growth, the Streetcar fleet is as big or as small as you need it to be.

## **Easy access to key management information**

With their simple online system, you have access to the information you need to easily monitor usage and control costs.

## **Dedicated account manager**

They provide a dedicated account manager to help you with any

account or invoice queries you may have, so that you always have the answers you need, quickly and reliably.

### **Reliable and low carbon travel option**

The Streetcar fleet is made up of new, low-emission VWs and BMWs that are regularly checked by the maintenance team, so you have the confidence that your employees are safe, and that your business is green.

### **Saving your business money**

Using Streetcar means zero waste for your company as you only pay for the exact number of miles travelled and the exact time booked. Our rates include comprehensive insurance, 24/7 breakdown cover, 30 miles of petrol on shorter trips and all fuel on longer trips (subject to conditions).

### **The easy way to drive**

Streetcar provides your employees with a simple, convenient, walk-up-and-go solution to car and van access. No paperwork, no hassle, just a car when you need it.


### **Opening a Streetcar account is simple**

A quick phone call is all it takes. Employees can then request to join the account, sign up online and get a brief call-back to confirm their details.

Open an account today at [www.streetcarforbusiness.com/register](http://www.streetcarforbusiness.com/register) or call them on 020 3004 7816.

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# **LGBT      Mental      Health      & Wellbeing**

-  A specialist health service is being piloted in Lothian, to help reduce the mental health inequalities experienced by

lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people.

The LGBT Mental Health and Wellbeing Programme will provide access to specialist mental health service, specifically aimed at addressing the needs of people in Lothian's LGBT community.

By increasing access to specialist mental health services, it aims to improve mental health in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and reduce the risk of self-harm and suicide.

The programme is designed to tackle the mental health risk factors affecting LGBT people, such as isolation, discrimination and hate crime. It will provide social activities and set up peer support groups that improve social networks, as isolation and social exclusion greatly increase the risk of poor mental health.

The service is being set up as part of a national demonstration project which is being piloted in Lothian.

The national project is being run by the LGBT Centre for Health and Wellbeing, which is part funded by NHS Lothian, with a grant from the Scottish Government.

Plans to launch the national project have been outlined in a paper due to be approved by NHS Lothian's board members on Wednesday.

The pilot project will work in partnership with mainstream advice and advocacy agencies, providing advice on housing, employment and education to help reduce discrimination against people in the LGBT community.

Improved access to specialised and mainstream mental health services, and increased awareness of the needs of LGBT people and the mental health inequalities they experience will help to reduce the stigma associated with mental health.

The project will also link in with national mental health

initiatives, such as Choose Life and 'See Me' to provide input on the specific issues affecting LGBT people.

Linda Irvine, Strategic Programme Manager for Mental Health and Wellbeing, NHS Lothian, said: "The LGBT community has been identified as a group which can be at higher risk of having mental health problems. This can sometimes be linked to a feeling of isolation, or social exclusion.

"This national demonstration project aims to improve mental health in the LGBT community, and reduce the stigma which can be attached to mental health. This project will provide learning on how we can tailor the services on offer, and help to tackle the mental health risk factors which can affect people in the LGBT community."

The LGBT Centre for Health and Wellbeing is a unique organisation that works to tackle health inequalities by improving the health and wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. It runs a varied programme of services that promote physical, mental, social and emotional wellbeing.

Maruska Greenwood, Director, LGBT Centre for Health and Wellbeing, said: "Stigma, discrimination, harassment and hate crime are part of the day-to-day experience for many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. It is also common for those 'coming out' to be met with rejection from friends and family members. All this increases the risk of poor mental health for LGBT people. Mental health problems are often compounded when individuals experience discrimination, ignorance or invisibility from the mainstream services they turn to for support.

"This national demonstration project will provide not only much needed culturally sensitive support to tackle both the poor mental health of individuals, but will also address the risk factors that can lead to poor mental health, such as social isolation, hate crime and homelessness.

“This specialist project will also work in partnership with mainstream mental health providers to ensure they gain a better understanding of the issues affecting LGBT people and can provide more culturally sensitive and inclusive services.”

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## What's on This Week?

Well for a start The Edinburgh International Festival.....and the Fringe, The Jazz Festival has already begun...oh and there's the Comedy Festival...

The population of Edinburgh at this time of the year is estimated to double to around 1 million. Festival audiences are about one-third local residents. According to a study about 15% are from overseas – but if you live here it feels like every second person on the street is a foreigner!

[The Bike Station](#) is opening its next Cycle Challenge this week which runs for three weeks. The idea is that people living in Edinburgh are encouraged to use their bikes to travel to work, go out cycling for fun and register with the website to log in cycling achievements. This month is the Friends and Family Cycle Challenge. And there are prizes to be won! So [register today](#). It can only do you some good. The City of Edinburgh Council has a draft Active Travel Action plan which aims to have 15% of all journeys on bikes by 2020. You can read about that and Spokes response to it on the [Spokes](#) website. Spokes is the Lothian Cycle Campaign.

So we ask again – when will we get bike schemes like those in Dublin and London? Even Dumfries has its [Hourbike](#) scheme launching this summer with 30 bikes for hire. This will be the first scheme in Scotland. There is also one being rolled out in [Blackpool](#). Reading and Cardiff have micro bike hire from

A bit of advance warning – The Reporter has signed up to [Pedal for Scotland](#).....what about you? if you have then please let us know how your training is going!

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## The Forthquarter Development

✖ National Grid Property Limited is preparing to welcome a host of new residents at The Forthquarter as a brand new student accommodation development nears completion.

AM-Edinburgh is situated in a prime spot at the gateway to [The Forthquarter](#) and right next to Edinburgh's Telford College offers some of the best students living available in a range of ensuite rooms with stunning views of the Forth and city landmarks.

Miller Construction is currently completing the fit out of a range of ensuite rooms in five bedroom apartments with fully fitted shared kitchens and living areas on behalf of Alumno Miller and Edinburgh's Telford College.

[CRM Students](#), the UK's leading independent student accommodation managers are currently marketing AM-Edinburgh. Accommodation manager Dee McFarlane who is overseeing the facility said "CRM is very pleased to be working with Alumno Miller and Telford College on this exciting project. This is a perfect location for bright aspiring young people and we hope that their energy will add another dimension to The Forthquarter'

In addition to capped utility charges and all inclusive bills students will benefit from being just 2 minutes from their



lectures, having Morrisons supermarket on their doorstep, the now fully opened 20 acre park to explore and enjoy and a host of services in the surrounding community.



Those wanting to explore further will find that The Forthquarter is directly linked to the cycle network and is well served by a range of bus routes to Leith, the city centre and outlying areas.

For more information about AM-Edinburgh visit [www.crm-students.com](http://www.crm-students.com)

For more information about The Forthquarter visit [www.theforthquarter.co.uk](http://www.theforthquarter.co.uk)

National Grid Property Limited plans to invest around £50 million in 110 acre site at the Forthquarter. To date, they have privately invested around £35 million, including £6 million in remediation, £5.5 million in dealing with gas plant and an annual common areas management and maintenance spend of around £0.5 million.

A major element in forging a new and dynamic future, the Forthquarter has transformed a redundant 110 acre brownfield site into a vibrant new city quarter where residents can:

- LIVE – the Forthquarter already has approval for 2,000 homes – 15% designated affordable housing. Plans for 1500 more are being drawn up for the next phase. This is an ideal location just 4km from the city centre offering access to road network, bus routes and proposed tramline.
- WORK – 10,500 sq.m has been set aside for mixed retail space and a potential 60,000 sq. m office space. Scottish Gas opened a purpose built office and headquarters on site in 2005 creating over 1800 jobs. A Waterfront Recruitment Centre opened onsite in 2005 working with training providers to ensure that a skilled

workforce is available locally to fill the jobs created by the development. By Sept 2006 over 600 local people had been helped to find employment or training.

- LEARN – Edinburgh Telford College opened a £70m state of the art college campus in Sept 2006 with places for 20,000 students and 650 staff. City of Edinburgh Council have purchased a 2.3 acre plot to accommodate the proposed development of a primary school with nursery facilities.
- PLAY – A 20 acre water and wildlife park provides an attractive outdoor area for residents, workers and students. The environmental impact has been fundamental in the design, native plants and trees have been used and the water features act as a Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS). The next key phase is the creation of an 18,000 sq. m local centre to include a 82,500sq ft supermarket, café, unit shops and office accommodation. The Morrisons Supermarket, with European 'Market Street', and petrol station, opened in October 2008.

The Forthquarter is National Grid Property's £50 million flagship project. It is setting new standards in the type of success that can be achieved by brownfield land specialists working in partnership with the local community, commercial organisations and enterprise agencies. It is a catalyst for regeneration and development, with self-sustaining momentum and long term benefits for Edinburgh as a whole.

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# 2010 Edinburgh ITU Duathlon World Championships

✖ On the weekend of 3rd – 5th September 2010, Edinburgh will stage the ITU Duathlon World Championships, the highest-level competition in the sport's annual calendar and the most prestigious duathlon competition ever staged in the UK.

A week before the 2010 Budapest ITU Triathlon World Championships up to 1,000 of the World's best Elite and Age Group duathletes will descend on Edinburgh's Holyrood Park for the ITU Duathlon World Championships to compete for six World Championship titles, twenty seven age group gold medals and a total prize fund of 75,000 Euros (for the Elite competition).

The Elite, U23 and Age Group athletes will all compete over a standard duathlon course consisting of a 10km run followed by a 40km cycle and a 5km run, all completed as a continuous activity. The Edinburgh course will consist of multiple laps around Holyrood Park and Arthur's Seat making it one of the most challenging ever used for an ITU Duathlon World Championships.

British duathletes have an impressive record in major competitions, boasting many medalists at both World and European Championships in recent years. In the last four years Scotland's Catriona Morrison, from Broxburn near Edinburgh, has garnered five major titles to her name, including ETU Duathlon European Champion (2007 – Edinburgh – & 2009 – Budapest) and ITU Long Distance Duathlon World Champion (2007 & 2008).

In 2007, in Gyor, Hungary, Paul Amey was crowned ITU Duathlon World Champion with Silver medals in the women's and junior men's competitions going to Michelle Dillon and current World Triathlon Champion, Alistair Brownlee.

In 2009, Sophie Coleman and Vicky Graves won gold and silver respectively at the Junior Women's ITU Duathlon World Championships held in Concord, North Carolina. The win in Concord, delivered a triple victory for Coleman, successfully defending her World Junior Duathlon titles in 2007 and 2008.

For the ITU Duathlon World Championships in Edinburgh, British Triathlon are expecting to field at least 400 Age Group athletes, one of the largest teams ever to represent Great Britain at a Duathlon World Championships. The GB Age Group Team will be announced in the summer following a number of qualification races throughout the UK.

The 2010 Edinburgh ITU Duathlon World Championships offers the perfect opportunity for Edinburgh residents, visitors to the city and running, cycling and multisport enthusiasts to watch the best duathletes in the world demonstrate their incredible levels of endurance and tactical ability. It will also showcase the city of Edinburgh and Scotland as the perfect destination for the world's biggest and best sporting events.

For more information on the ITU Duathlon World Championships, Edinburgh, in 2010 got to –  
<http://www.edinburghduathlon2010.com/>

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## Monday 2nd August 2010

A young girl is seriously ill in The Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh with head injuries after falling down a cliff in Fife. She was airlifted to hospital accompanied by her father, according to [Deadline](#).

The Scottish Government has said that it will not be minded to change the status of Scottish Water despite the

recommendations in the Independent Budget Review, according to [The Press Association](#).

[Deadline](#) also report that Anne Hathaway is filming in the New Town in Edinburgh this week. The film is called One Day.

Over the weekend there were some fruit machines on the beach in Portobello. It was all part of an installation by an arts organisation and was an amazing sight by all accounts! You can see some photos on Flickr [here](#). [Big Things on the Beach](#) is a public arts trust in Portobello which is trying to find a way to develop the Prom along the 17km of coastline on the north of the city. This year the trust is implementing a year long project called [Imagine Porty Prom](#). It is funded by The Scottish Arts Council and The City of Edinburgh Council. The [Portobello Public Art House](#) is only open till September 2010 so hurry along...! You can become involved as a volunteer.

The East of Scotland Investment Fund has £5m available to be handed out as loans to small to medium sized businesses to help them grow. The money can be used as working capital or for buying plant and equipment or business property. The application form is on their [website](#).

Hearts FC have been fined £60,000 for poor discipline, [STV News](#) has revealed.

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## Low Bridge Ahead

A campaign to make drivers of high vehicles aware of the risks of approaching bridges has been launched.

According to figures from national transport agency Transport Scotland, bridge strikes, frequently caused by lack of driver

awareness of bridge heights, is costing the public purse around £0.5 million a year.

Transport Minister Stewart Stevenson launched the 'Strike it Out' campaign at the annual industry TruckFest show in Edinburgh today.

Mr Stevenson said:

"Bridge strikes impact heavily on road users, both in terms of delays whilst an incident is being dealt with and later as repairs are carried out, often at substantial cost.

"While it is fortunate that to date there have been no serious injuries or death as a result of a bridge hit, it is important that for a small investment we can raise awareness of these risks and help provide advice to prevent bridge strikes happening in future.

"We are working with a number of industries, including road and freight hauliers, farming, ferries and ports to help communicate the message to drivers of high vehicles to check and plan their route before setting out and carefully consider bridge signs on approach."

The standard height for a bridge is 16 feet 6 inches (approx. 5 metres) however the majority of strikes occur on trunk road bridges above this height.

In Scotland at least ten road bridges are hit each year, at a danger to both the vehicle driver and the public, and a significant cost – in the region of £500,000 each year for repairs alone. The most commonly hit road bridge is the Chartershall Bridge, crossing the M9, which has been struck 17 times causing it to now be closed, whilst the Challock Rail Bridge (spanning the A75 at Dunragit) is the most frequently struck rail bridge in the UK, hit 18 times during 2009 and causing frequent closure of the A75.

Phil Flanders, Director Road Haulage Association (RHA) Scotland said:

“Whilst the number of bridge strikes compared to journeys made is very small they can have a very serious knock-on effect and the RHA fully supports the Transport Scotland campaign to increase awareness amongst drivers of high vehicles”

Chris MacRae, Head of Policy – Scotland, for the Freight Transport Association, said:

“FTA supports this initiative to raise awareness and provide routing information for vehicle operators. The consequences of bridge strikes for safety and network disruption are severe. We work with Network Rail and other authorities in this area and will be helping to distribute the leaflet produced by Transport Scotland as part of this campaign.

“A main cause of bridge strikes has been an over reliance from some drivers on their sat-navs, which is why FTA worked closely with industry to produce a lorry-friendly unit. It is hoped that this will help end those all too familiar stories of lorry drivers coming unstuck after using sat-nav designed for cars.”

The standard height for bridges is 5.03m (16 feet 6 inches). There are only five low road bridges and 15 low rail bridge crossings the Scottish trunk road network.

Bridge strike costs: Costs for repairs alone are estimated at £0.5 million per annum. This does not take into account costs for delays to road users from operations to clear the aftermath of bridge strikes or during the repair works. Last year rail delays due to bridge strikes accumulated 143,932 minutes and affected 15,123 trains, with 973 part-cancelled and 330 cancelled across the UK.

Transport Scotland, the national transport agency for Scotland, is investing £21,000 in the Strike it Out campaign.

The Chartershall Bridge on the M9 near Stirling has over 5.03 metres clearance and is located immediately north of Junction 9, making it vulnerable to overheight vehicles joining the motorway at this point. A £2.5m scheme is under preparation to replace the bridge as it is now beyond repair. Other examples include the A726 Lindores Drive Footbridge in East Kilbride, which cost over £0.5 million to replace and the M8 Hillington Footbridge near Renfrew, which is estimated to cost over £1.2m to replace.

As part of the planned £15.6 million A75 Dunragit bypass the trunk road will no longer pass underneath the Challoch Rail bridge.

Drivers of over height vehicles are being asked to proactively plan their journeys to avoid bridges using the Freight Scotland / Traffic Scotland websites or helpline on 0800 028 1414.

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## Artemis Investment Management

Edinburgh-based Artemis Investment Management Limited sponsor a variety of sporting events. This weekend their rowing team made it across the Atlantic from New York to The Scilly Isles in record time. [The Telegraph](#) has the story of endurance and bravery of the four rowers led by Leven Brown from Edinburgh. There is also a video on [BBC online](#).

This is only one of the events they sponsor. There is [Artemis Ocean Racing](#) 'Backing British sailing with a long term vision for success'. This is not just a bunch of rich guys sponsoring something so that they can get some publicity or corporate hospitality out of it. This is a desire to find ways to help young people acquire new skills and get the most out of all of



the opportunities that life might present, as well as helping to raise money for charity.

They sponsor the Artemis Offshore Academy Development Squad for British people over 18 who must be mentally tough and physically fit. There is a selection process in Weymouth between 13th and 26th September and you can apply online by clicking [here](#). You have until the 20th August to apply.

Then there is the [Artemis Great Kindrochit Quadrathlon](#). This year's event took place in July 2010 so you have missed it but you have plenty of time to get ready for this gruelling event in 2011. Here is a wee taster on YouTube just in case you are keen.

Then there is the [Artemis Highland 100](#) which takes place on 11 September 2010. There's a video of that on [YouTube](#) too.... Might be a bit late to get fit for that this year.....

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## EICC

The development partnership of City of Edinburgh Council, Scottish Enterprise and Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC) Limited yesterday broke ground on the site of an £85 million Expansion Space for EICC and separate Grade A Offices, signalling the start of one of Scotland's biggest construction projects, that will sustain 250 jobs at peak employment.

The development forms the last piece of Edinburgh's Exchange Masterplan and will be ready for occupation by 2013, adding a 2,000 square metre Multi Purpose Hall to EICC and delivering 186,000 square feet of Grade A office space in the city

centre.

Main contractor, Sir Robert McAlpine, will direct up to eighty sub-contractors on-site working to a build schedule of 126 weeks.

Leading the development partnership in a ground breaking ceremony on-site City of Edinburgh Council leader, Jenny Dawe, said:-“Experience tells us that when we invest in EICC we are investing in the future prosperity of the City and, with a £2.3 billion return forecast over the next thirty years, our long term investment is safe and sustainable through and beyond the current economic downturn.”

Echoing the economic development potential Scottish Enterprise Director, Pamela Woodburn said:-“We are active investors in this development and the return in jobs and prosperity from a resilient EICC is measurable across Scotland and represents excellent value for money.”

Announcing the start of a global marketing campaign for the expanded events venue, EICC Chief Executive, Hans H Rissmann OBE said:-“International Association customers around the world are excited about bringing their delegates to an expanded EICC that can fully justify its offer as the world’s most technologically advanced events space.”

Commenting on the construction project Sir Robert McAlpine Director, Andrew McAlpine said:-“We are delighted to return to this site that we know well as main contractor for the Scottish Widows Edinburgh One building next door and the nearby Standard Life offices and we look forward to delivering another landmark building to this important area of the city.”

During the excavation stage of the development 120,000 tonnes of material will be removed from the site and work on the superstructure will require 3,300 tonnes of structural steelwork to be erected.

The main construction challenges will be the installation of a 15-metre cantilever at the rear of the building where the office development will overhang Conference Square and ensuring that the EICC can continue with business as usual throughout out the build period.

The new Multi Purpose Hall for EICC includes a bespoke moving floor system to cater for various configurations and uses, ranging from flat-floored exhibition, through tiered banqueting to raked auditorium and arena setup.

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## **City Art Centre reopens this weekend**

Art lovers will have another venue to cater to their cultural appetite when the City Art Centre reopens its doors this weekend.

Following a fifteen month refurbishment, the ever popular Market Street gallery will resume its prominent place in Edinburgh's visual art scene just in time for its summer shows to feature in this year's Edinburgh Art Festival.

The City Art Centre will reopen to the public on Saturday 31 July with two major exhibitions featuring works by two quite different, world-renowned American photographers, Edward Weston and William Wegman.

Edward Weston (1886-1958) is one of the masters of 20th century photography and one of the most innovative and influential American photographers of all time.

William Wegman (b. 1943) is best known for his series of

photographic compositions involving dogs, primarily his own Weimaraners, in various costumes and poses.

The gallery will also display an exhibition of works from the City's own nationally recognised collection of Scottish art. In Our Own Image will feature work on the broad theme of the human form, including both conventional portraiture and more challenging portrayals of the clothed and naked human body, both historic and contemporary.

As part of its £1.2m refurbishment, visitor facilities have been improved and brought together on the ground floor. This includes the City Art Centre's very popular shop, which has been relocated from the first to the ground floor, making it more visible and accessible.

The reception area has also been transformed, with visitor facilities further enhanced by the inclusion of a new cloakroom and improved toilets. The refurbishment's first phase saw the entire building's air conditioning and ventilation upgraded, improving atmospheric conditions for gallery goers and for the artworks themselves.

The renovated City Art Centre was formally opened last night at a reception for the summer exhibitions by Councillor Deidre Brock, the City of Edinburgh Council's Culture and Leisure Convenor.

She said: "It gives me enormous pleasure to welcome people back to Edinburgh's own City Art Centre, which is looking superb after its refurbishment. As a major exhibition venue and home to the city's nationally important art collection, we were determined to ensure the gallery was in top condition ready for a packed calendar of fabulous exhibitions from now on, and I'm confident visitors will agree that we've done just that.

"Art lovers, photography fans and all those too who only rarely if ever visit art galleries are in for a real treat

with the exhibitions we're putting on this summer. William Wegman and Edward Weston are both legendary names in the photography world and I'm sure their shows will generate extraordinary interest, while In Our Own Image will present engaging works from our own nationally recognised collection of Scottish art."

The City Art Centre's reopening comes just months after the gallery celebrated the receipt of a very welcome grant for £80,628 from Museums Galleries Scotland. This funding will allow the Council to devote a whole floor of the City Art Centre to the permanent display of artworks from its nationally-recognised collection.

Culture Minister Fiona Hyslop commented: "I am delighted the City Art Centre is re-opening. Our museums and galleries provide pleasure and inspiration to visitors as well as a showcase for Scotland's great collections. It is fantastic that the Recognition Scheme funding I announced in March for the gallery has been put to such good use. As well as the opening exhibition on photography, art lovers can now enjoy more from the city's Scottish Art collection which will now have its own dedicated exhibition space."

Joanne S. Brown, EAF Director, said: "The City Art Centre is one of Edinburgh's most popular venues. We are delighted that the newly refurbished space will reopen as part of the 2010 Edinburgh Art Festival and offer festival goers the only UK opportunity to see exhibitions of work by two acclaimed American photographers."

The City Art Centre summer exhibitions will be on show from 31 July to 24 October 2010. Joint admission to Edward Weston and William Wegman = Adult £8, Concession £5, Children £2.50, Family £15. In Our Own Image is free of charge.

The exhibitions will be complemented by a packed programme of events and activities for families, schools and adults, such

as art and crafts workshops, talks and lectures. For details, visit <http://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/> or call 0131 529 3993.

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## Central Library and all that jazz

The Central Library is entering into the festival spirit with the launch last night of its Edinburgh Jazz Archive.

The archive will celebrate over 60 years of jazz in Edinburgh, a rich history that has seen the rise of stars such as Sandy Brown and Al Fairweather. Sir Sean Connery was also once a member of the Edinburgh Rhythm Club in the late 1940s/ early 1950s, and even acted as a bouncer at the Jazz Band Balls, which were held at Oddfellows Hall on Forrest Road.

The archive and exhibition will feature an extensive range of memorabilia that tracks the unique jazz scene in Edinburgh since the 1940s.

Councillor Ron Cairns, Vice Convenor of the Culture and Leisure Committee, will attend the launch tonight. He said: "It's a great honour for our Central Library to become the guardians of such an amazing collection of books, records, CDs, posters, photographs and other memorabilia telling the story of the beginnings of jazz in Edinburgh through several decades. The Edinburgh Jazz Archive demonstrates the unique flowering of music that emerged in the city during the 1940s and has continued to this day."

The launch is to coincide with the beginning of the Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival, an event that has been running for 32

years in the city.

A special part of the archive collection will be dedicated to the Royal High School, which has seen almost 30 performers educated there, reaching both local and international fame.

The exhibition has been compiled by the Edinburgh Jazz Archive Group and is dedicated to the memory of Janol Scott, a jazz record collector and enthusiast who inspired the creation of the project.

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## Appeal for next of kin

Lothian and Borders Police are appealing for help in tracing the relatives of a man who died in South Queensferry, on July 29th.

Richard John Hinch was pronounced dead at Port Edgar.

There are no suspicious circumstances, and a report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

The 46-year-old is believed to have grown up in the Carricknowe area of Edinburgh, and lived with his mother until she was taken into care in 2005 and died in 2008. It is thought he may have several sisters who he is no longer in contact with.

A police spokesperson said: "We are asking anyone who might know, or know of, Mr Hinch, or his family, to contact us as soon as possible."

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# Stolen ducks

Lothian and Borders Police are appealing for information following the theft of eight rare breeding ducks from Bilston, Midlothian.

The Khaki Campbell Ducks were stolen from a breeding pen located at a smallholding in Seafield Road, between midday and 6pm, on Saturday, July 10.

Four males and four females were stolen (four breeding pairs), which are valued at around £50 each. Although there were other ducks in the pen, the Khaki Campbell ducks were the only ones taken.

A police spokesman said: "We suspect that these ducks have been stolen for sale, and we are appealing for any information that can help reunite them with their owner.

"Anyone who has been offered the ducks for sale, or who has any information that can help lead to their recovery, should get in touch immediately."

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

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# Royal Botanic Garden needs you

A job going at the Botanic – no aptitude for real digging required though....This is the job advert:-





*Scottish Ministers are currently seeking to appoint two members to the Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. You will complement the skills of existing Trustees.*

*These appointments offer an excellent opportunity to contribute to the work of a major visitor attraction which has one of the world's most valuable scientific collections, and is a centre of excellence in botanical and horticultural science.*

*Each appointment is for 4 years with a possibility of re-appointment for a further term. Time commitment will be approximately 16 days per annum, with the majority of meetings taking place in Edinburgh. It is non-remunerated, however, travel and subsistence costs and reasonable receipted dependant carer and childcare expenses will be reimbursed.*

*Closing date for applications is Friday 6 August 2010.*

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## **National Housing Trust**

Up to 600 new homes could be built in Edinburgh as part of a bid to tackle the desperate need for more affordable accommodation in the city.

The City of Edinburgh Council is taking part in the National Housing Trust (NHT) initiative set up by the Scottish Government to deliver new homes for mid market rent (usually 80% of full market rent) across the country.

Under the scheme the Council would borrow funding with the Scottish Government underwriting the loans to remove the risk to Councils in lending funds to the scheme.

With the ongoing financial pressures on Council and Scottish Government budgets NHT is seen as a way of maintaining the affordable housing market in the Capital.

Eight developers have already expressed an interest in building homes in Edinburgh through NHT which would help stimulate the housing market and the local economy.

A report is going to the City of Edinburgh Council's Policy and Strategy Committee next week (August 3) recommending the Council takes part in the first phase of national procurement for NHT.

Housing Leader Councillor Paul Edie said the initiative is a positive way of trying to tackle the shortage of affordable homes in the Capital.

He said: "Edinburgh has the most pressurised housing market in the country with around 130 households bidding for every one council home that is advertised.

"It's important the Council works with our partners in the private sector and the Scottish Government to explore all possible ways of meeting the glaring need for more affordable homes.

"Given the current economic climate and tightening of public purse strings NHT is an innovative way of building more affordable homes."

He added: "There are several sites in the city that have planning consent for housing but are currently mothballed as the developers can't raise loans from banks to build homes for sale on the open market.

"This scheme is an ideal way of dealing the shortage whilst at

the same time providing an economic boost for the housing industry and local businesses.”

Housing and Communities Minister Alex Neil said: “The Scottish Government is spearheading the drive in the United Kingdom to tackle the effects of massive budget cuts and unearth new sources of funding to continue to build more affordable housing.

“The NHT is a ground-breaking initiative which has the potential to kick-start activity on mothballed housing sites, build at least 1,000 new homes right across Scotland and lever in about £130m of extra housing investment.

“We are very pleased that Edinburgh Council has shown such a keen interest in the scheme and we hope other local authorities will join in due course.”

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## Stolen Motorbikes

Police in Edinburgh are warning motorcyclists to take adequate steps to protect their vehicles, following the theft of two motorbikes left unsecured in a guesthouse car park.

The theft happened between 2.30am and 8am on Tuesday (July 27), from the front car park of a guesthouse in Minto Street.

A grey and silver BMW worth £15,000 was stolen, along with a black Yamaha worth £8000. Both bikes had Swiss plates, and belonged to holidaymakers.

The thefts follow another incident that happened on Thursday, July 15 when two youths stole a foreign-owned Suzuki motorbike that was left unsecured in Brunswick Road. On that occasion, the bike was recovered nearby.

A police spokesman said: “We are appealing for any information that can help us identify who is responsible for these thefts, but at the same time we are warning bike owners – especially those holidaying in Edinburgh – to be on their guard.

“Leaving your bike unsecured is an invitation to thieves, and these thefts serve as an example of what can happen if you do not take the appropriate steps to protect your vehicle.


“In addition to purchasing a good quality padlock and chain, bike owners should always try to secure their vehicle to a fixed and immovable object, for added security.

“Under no circumstances should you leave your bike completely unsecured.”

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

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## Museum of Fire Open Day

 Want to find out more about the UK’s oldest municipal fire brigade?

The Museum of Fire, based at Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service’s historic headquarters on Lauriston Place, Edinburgh, is holding an open day on Saturday 7 August.

The Museum, usually only open to visitors Monday to Friday, is home to the Service’s vast collection of fire and rescue service related artefacts dating as far back as 1426.

Honorary Curator of the Museum and past Assistant Firemaster, Ian McMurtrie said:

“The Museum is a mine of fantastic historic fire memorabilia such as fire engines dating back as early as 1806 and items belonging to James Braidwood, the ‘Father of Firefighting’ and the founder of Edinburgh Fire Brigade, the first municipal brigade. Although the museum normally welcomes visitors during weekdays, the open day is a great opportunity for members of the public to drop in and learn about the vibrant history of this vital service.”




As well as the Museum’s own collection of artefacts and vehicles, there will be twelve additional appliances on display in the front and rear yards and stalls selling items to raise money for The Fire Fighters Charity. Come and explore the rich history of the fire and rescue service and see uniforms, equipment and photographs – our volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and tell fascinating tales from days gone by.

The Museum will be opening its doors between 10am and 4pm, but in the meantime for more information on the museum and the treasures inside visit the Service’s website at [http://www.lbfire.org.uk/museum/museum\\_intro.htm](http://www.lbfire.org.uk/museum/museum_intro.htm).

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## The Cameo this Saturday

 A real treat this week – yet again a film that you have to go and see! The film is Gainsbourg and it is showing at the Cameo on Lothian Road at 13.00, 15.30, 18.10 and 20.50. The film is a wee peek at the life of the French singer from his childhood in wartorn France till his death in 1991. Stars Eric Elmosnino in the title role – and the film gets an almighty 92% approval rating from [Rotten Tomatoes](#)....unbelievable!

If you're then feeling a bit French you could also go and see Heartbreaker at 18.30 which features among others Vanessa Paradis. Again a whopping 88% from [Rotten Tomatoes](#), so a blockbusting afternoon and evening at [The Cameo](#) for you!

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## Friday 30th July 2010

✖ Convicted murderer, Peter Tobin, is again being questioned by police in Edinburgh over serious sex crimes. Tobin is being detained in Saughton Prison following his convictions for three murders and was taken to St Leonard's Police Station in the city for questioning which lasted 10 hours according to the [BBC online](#)

You may recall [we asked Lothian Buses](#) if they were looking into providing free wifi on all of their buses. Well we got a response from them....A Lothian Buses spokesman said:-“The free wi-fi on our new Airlink buses has proved to be very popular with the passengers. Everyday more and more of them are logging on to check their emails and find out information on Edinburgh for their stay. The journey time of around 30 minutes is ideal for them to do this”

“It's too early to tell if we will expand this facility to other bus routes but there is certainly scope to do so as we have a few commuter type bus services that would lend itself well.”

So now we suppose it is up to the commuters to lobby the bus company if they really want wifi on their routes. What do you think? Would it be of use to you on your daily commute?

Impressionist Gardens is open at The Mound complex of National Galleries of Scotland. This is part of The Edinburgh Festival.

You may have heard – it is a big festival that starts next week.

[Edinburgh Rugby](#) have announced flanker Roddy Grant as their skipper for the forthcoming season.

What are the odds on this happening? [The Edinburgh Evening News](#) has the story of the Miller family who have all had holes in one over recent weeks.

Winning images from the World Press Photo 2010 contest will be exhibited at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh from 3 August until 28 August.

The WPP 10 exhibition is touring the the world and will return to the UK for an exhibition at the Royal Festival Hall, London from 12 November until 9 December.

Gem of a story in the [Guardian's Greenslade Blog](#) about Aberdeen City Council making important cuts to their budget of just over £1,000 a year.....Have The City of Edinburgh Council done the same?

Jordan is appearing at The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.....no not that one... The programme for the Diamond Jubilee Tattoo was announced yesterday. The line-up includes the “77 armed forces musicians from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, accompanied by a 24-strong Drill Team, a Mounted Honour Guard – astride 8 military horses – and its six member Circassian Guard of Honour, will show off their skills with an exhilarating Middle Eastern display” There may still be some tickets for certain performances if you contact the [Tattoo organisers](#).

And finally....Sainsburys will not be delivering your shopping to you if you live in EH1 during the Festival. Their excuse is apparently the tramworks....but the barriers in most of EH1 have been (temporarily) removed whilst the dispute with Bilfinger Berger is resolved. Sorry Sainsburys – try again or

move over and let Tesco do it....

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## What's on for Dogs?

✖ The Rangers at Holyrood Park are encouraging local people to come along to the Park's Community Fun Day and annual Dog Show this Sunday, 1st August.

This family event, which is from 10.45am until 3pm, will have something for everyone to enjoy or get involved in, including a host of games and competitions.

Dog lovers who bring their pets along can enter them in a variety of entertaining classes including 'Waggiest Tail' and 'Best Junior Handler'. Dogs Trust will be demonstrating a rescue dog agility display at 12.30pm and there's also a fun agility class, with every dog entering being awarded with a rosette. Also attending will be the SSPCA and the PDSA, which will be providing free health checks for dogs and a bargain price micro-chipping service.

There will also be a series of lively sports activities on the day for all ages, with fun events including tossing a volcanic rock, a three-legged gull race, and a frog-hopper bouncing race.

Other entertainments on offer include the opportunity to take part in an art workshop with Holyrood Park's artist in residence, and to solve a wildlife crime mystery with the Park Rangers, and learn how the Rangers team promotes the responsible use of outdoor spaces in a fun and active way.

The Community Fun Day also provides a chance to meet the crews of the Emergency Services and explore their vehicles – so you



can climb aboard a fire engine, see yourself on CCTV, and step inside an ambulance.

Ranger Nicky Pettigrew, Holyrood Park Ranger, said: "The Community Fun Day promises an enjoyable and free day out for families and provides a nice reminder too that Holyrood Park is a fantastic space for walks, with nature and history all rolled into one."

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## Impressionist Gardens

✖ The highlight of the 2010 summer season at the National Gallery Complex will be a ground-breaking exhibition on the subject of paintings of *Impressionist Gardens*. This major international exhibition of around 100 works is sponsored by BNY Mellon and is the first ever to be devoted to this fascinating subject, with spectacular loans from collections around the world. The famous names of Impressionism will be well represented, with fine examples by Monet, Pissarro, Renoir, Manet and Sisley. In addition, the exhibition will examine the continued significance of the impressionist garden to the generation of artists working immediately after the Impressionists, such as Cézanne and Pierre Bonnard. Lenders to *Impressionist Gardens*, which has been organised in partnership with the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza in Madrid, will include the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the National Gallery of Art, Washington; the Musée d'Orsay, Paris; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the Staatsgalerie, Stuttgart; the Carlsberg Glyptotek, Copenhagen; Tate, London; and the Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Rome. This will be the only UK showing.

Gardens and flowers were a constant theme in impressionist

painting and inspired these great artists to produce some of their most beautiful and memorable paintings. Claude Monet is perhaps the best known in this respect, for the garden he created at Giverny in rural Normandy, with its celebrated water lily ponds. All the Impressionists, however, featured gardens in their work, ranging from Sisley's ordered views of market gardens at Louveciennes to the wild profusion of Renoir's semi-cultivated garden, which adjoined his studio in Montmartre, as seen in his *Woman with Parasol in a Garden* (1875-6).

This exhibition will trace the origins of the impressionist garden, beginning with examples by the great school of early 19th-century flower painters at Lyons and looking at such important precursors as Delacroix and Corot, before moving on to the ambitious central section of the show which will feature many outstanding paintings by the Impressionists themselves. A final section will examine the 'spread' of the impressionist garden in the late 19th and early 20th century. European and American artists will feature in this section and will include Vincent van Gogh, Paul Gauguin, Gustav Klimt and John Singer Sargent.



The birth of Impressionism in France coincided with an explosion of enthusiasm for gardening. A massive programme of urban renewal had seen Paris transformed, under the Second Empire, into a city of gardens. Purpose-built nurseries and greenhouses supplied vast quantities of bedding plants to the city's public parks, which were filled with rare and exotic species of flowers and shrubs, imported from France's colonial possessions and beyond.

To the Impressionists, who drew their subject matter exclusively from modern life, the public spaces of Paris became a natural focus of their activities (highlights of the exhibition will include two of Monet's paintings of the Parc

Monceau, as well as Pissarro's *The Public Garden at Pontoise*, (1874)). In a conscious attempt to regenerate French art, the Impressionists rejected the historical narratives, mythological scenes and religious themes of academic painting in favour of an art of the senses, concerned with capturing the flux and transience of experience. Working outdoors, they treated gardens as their 'studio', a perfect setting to observe figures in the open air, or to register the variations in colour, light and atmosphere produced by the ever-changing weather and passing seasons. For the Impressionists, the garden represented a complex and infinitely varied motif, which had become, for the first time in art history, a subject in its own right – an inspiration for art, rather than merely a useful backdrop or setting.

Hand-in-hand with the proliferation of public gardens, the 19th century saw an enormous growth of interest in gardening among the middle classes, who had left the crowded city centres to live in houses with gardens in the suburbs. By the 1860s, growing and enjoying flowers in a *jardin d'agrément* (decorative or leisure garden) had become a favourite pastime in France, and horticultural societies, exhibitions and publications abounded. Given the central importance of gardens their work it is hardly surprising that the Impressionists became enthusiastic adherents of this new cult.

In private gardens, and in particular the gardens which they planted and tended themselves (see Monet's *The Artist's Garden in Argenteuil (A Corner of the Garden with Dahlias)* (1873); and *The Garden at Vétheuil* (1881)), Impressionists painted with great freedom to experiment with new techniques and approaches. This was not only true artistically but also horticulturally, with the layout and character of the garden being carefully devised or selected by the artist to suit his particular aesthetic needs. For Monet the distinction between gardening and painting would eventually dissolve, and he went so far as to claim that in establishing the garden at Giverny

he had created his 'most beautiful work of art'.

For an art 'based on sensations', as Pissarro termed it, decorative flowers and shrubs, with their infinitely varied colours and scents, had an obvious appeal. However, a number of the Impressionists – Pissarro, Sisley and Morisot in particular – championed the beauty of the more humble, productive garden, drawing inspiration from small vegetable, market and orchard gardens in the villages and towns around Paris (see Pissarro's *Kitchen Gardens at L'Hermitage, Pontoise* (1874) and Sisley's *The Fields* of the same year).

These paintings also reveal an undercurrent of association, and even symbolism, which is often overlooked in relation to Impressionism, and which will be examined in *Impressionist Gardens*. Pissarro's paintings of peasant gardens were derided by some critics for their lowly subject matter, but significantly they are strongly suggestive of the democratic, Republican and utopian sympathies that often motivated the Impressionists. They also represent, in part, an unsentimental reflection upon the loss of a working relationship with the soil enjoyed by earlier generations, a fundamental shift in lifestyle which perhaps explains the explosion of interest in gardening in general.

The Impressionists deployed other powerfully resonant motifs in their garden imagery. With young children to bring up, artists such as Monet or Morisot had even greater cause to use their gardens as motifs in the 1870s and 80s (see Morisot's *Child amongst the Hollyhocks* (1881), and Monet's *The Artist's House at Argenteuil* (1873)). In addition, the theme of the family was highly topical in France in these years, following the turbulent events of the Franco-Prussian War and the Paris Commune. Families, mothers and children, who appear frequently in paintings of impressionist gardens, were strongly identified with an optimistic vision of the future, and were closely associated with gardens themselves, the cultivation of which was seen as a tangible means to 'turn swords into

ploughshares’.

In some instances, meaning or association was triggered by the inclusion of plants or flowers that carried a specific symbolism. The curators of *Impressionist Gardens* have worked closely with colleagues at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh on a careful exploration of the paintings in the show, identifying, where possible, the specific plants that are depicted. This invaluable and uniquely revealing research, which has been undertaken by David Mitchell, curator at RBGE, has also helped to demonstrate the high level of horticultural knowledge and expertise developed by some of the Impressionists.

From the early 1880s, Impressionism underwent substantial changes and in turn acted as a springboard for new styles and approaches by artists both in France and beyond. The final section of *Impressionist Gardens* will consider some of the ways these found expression in – and were given impetus by – garden motifs. Impressionism’s increasing proximity to Symbolism will be illustrated by works such as Bonnard’s *The Large Garden* (1895-6) and the *The Fragrant Air* (1894) by the Belgian artist Léon Frédéric; Van Gogh’s response to Impressionism’s expressive and decorative use of colour can be seen in his paintings *Garden with Path* (1888) and *Undergrowth* (1889); and the influence of Seurat’s Neo-Impressionism (which emerged at the final Impressionist group exhibition in 1886) can be seen in the styles developed by Henri Martin and Theo Van Rysselberghe in Belgium, and Gustav Klimt in Austria (see Klimt’s stunning *Italian Garden Landscape* (1913)). This section of the show will also re-unite three paintings included in Monet’s hugely successful *Waterscapes* exhibition, held in Paris in 1909, in which his now-famous depictions of the water lily ponds at Giverny were first shown.

*Impressionist Gardens* is being curated by Michael Clarke, Director of the National Gallery of Scotland and organiser of many exhibitions on Impressionism, and Dr Clare Willson,

Reader in History of Art at the University of Glasgow and a world expert on the subject. In addition to providing a dazzling array of world-class masterpieces, the exhibition will demonstrate how the Impressionists' passionate interest in gardening gave rise to some of their most memorable and significant paintings, and in doing so will offer a fascinating insight into a very significant chapter in the history of horticulture. It will therefore have a twin appeal, both to those who love great art and to the great army of gardening enthusiasts everywhere. The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue, priced £14.95.

*Impressionist Gardens* is generously sponsored by BNY Mellon. This is the first time that BNY Mellon, which recently sponsored *The Real Van Gogh: The Artist and his Letters* at the Royal Academy of Arts in London, has supported the National Galleries of Scotland.

'Edinburgh is one of our businesses' key centres and it is a special privilege to support this landmark project and the National Galleries of Scotland, whose championing of public access and education is very much in tune with the key principles that inform our own international programme of arts sponsorship,' said Woody Kerr, Vice-Chairman of Europe at BNY Mellon. 'I have no doubt that this remarkable exhibition will prove a huge success for both the National Galleries and the city of Edinburgh itself.'

Commenting on the sponsorship, John Leighton, Director-General of the National Galleries of Scotland, said, '*Impressionist Gardens* will be the big festival exhibition at the National Galleries of Scotland this year, and a highlight of our summer season. This is the first time that this fascinating subject has been the focus of a major exhibition and we are delighted to have secured some spectacular loans from collections around the world. To organise an exhibition on this scale would have been almost impossible without the generous support we have received from BNY Mellon, and we are extremely grateful to

them for helping us to stage this landmark show.'

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## Bauer Media news

Bauer Media has appointed Stuart Duncan as Head of Brand & Marketing Scotland.

Stuart will be joining the network on August 2nd after 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  years at Edinburgh-based Marketing Agency, Multiply, where he worked as Marketing Director.

Stuart, aged 35, who is from Edinburgh, will be based at Radio Clyde's offices.

He said: "I'm very excited about taking up this new position. Bauer Media is an ambitious and innovative company, and this new role will give me the opportunity to work across some of the most respected radio brands in the UK."

Before joining Multiply, Stuart worked as Marketing and Operations Controller at XFM.

He added: "My passion lies in music and the media – I'm looking forward to combining this with my agency skills and experience, joining a team that is already delivering a fantastic product to their audiences."

Graham Bryce, Managing Director, Bauer Radio-Scotland, said: "Stuart will be a fantastic addition to the team. He has experience of the radio industry in addition to a wealth of experience in marketing, digital and brand development over the past few years – I know he will play a key role in the future growth of our brands and audiences across Scotlan

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# NHS Lothian and dementia care

NHS Lothian is making significant progress in its work to provide the best possible support for patients with dementia and their carers. Initiatives are currently underway to ensure that healthcare professionals have the skills to identify dementia as early as possible.

Board Members were updated on the progress against the National Dementia Strategy at NHS Lothian's board meeting on Wednesday. This September a project is due to start which will see the development of a new dementia patient pathway, providing a more streamlined service for patients and carers.

NHS Lothian is also reviewing its strategy, making sure that it is fully in line with the Scottish Parliament's Alzheimer's Charter and the Scottish Government's new strategies on dementia and on support for carers.

Professor Alex McMahon, Acting Director of Strategic Planning and Modernisation, NHS Lothian, said: "Our aim is to make sure that patients with dementia and their carers get the best support we can provide.

"Naturally people have many concerns when they, or a loved one, are diagnosed with dementia. They need to be confident that the appropriate care will be available as, and when, it is needed.

"People often think of a diagnosis of dementia as sounding a death knell, but in fact they can often enjoy many good years ahead – our aim is to maximise the number of good years."

The existing NHS Lothian strategy already includes much of what the Scottish Government and the parliament want to see as



standard for all. There is also evidence that efforts to encourage the earliest possible diagnosis of dementia is succeeding. GPs across Scotland now keep a dementia register, and in Lothian this has seen identified cases rise from below 6,000 to 6,500.

However, NHS Lothian believes that at any one time there may be around 9,000 people with Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia or other, less common forms of dementia, in the region. It is hoped that the number of diagnoses can be further increased by enabling staff in acute hospitals to spot symptoms in patients who are admitted for entirely different reasons.

"Early diagnosis is very important, it means that we can start providing the right support and information for people straight away.

"We are carrying out a baseline study among medical and nursing staff in our acute division to make sure they can identify the symptoms quickly and accurately, and know exactly what to do to make sure that the patient and carers get the help they need," said Prof. McMahon.

A diagnosis of dementia can be highly traumatic so NHS Lothian is dedicated to making sure people are supported through the process.

This will help them understand their condition, the likely pattern of deterioration and what can be done to help.

Earlier this summer NHS Lothian organised a major event at which 180 GPs were brought together to ensure the widest possible knowledge and understanding of the best approach to dealing with dementia. The development of a specific patient pathway for dementia patients will begin in September as part of the Lean in Lothian project.

The idea is to use the skills and experience of staff across

the systems to identify how services can best be joined up, and bottlenecks removed, to make the process as smooth and effective as possible for patients and carers.

In most cases patients can be supported in their own homes. A key aim is to ensure that they have the packages in place to allow them to be independent for as long as possible – this can mean physical adaptations to their homes or visits from professional care workers.

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## **Hair on the Net!**

A renowned Edinburgh hair salon is building on 50 years of combined experience with its first dedicated hair and beauty products website.

Vincent Bell Hairdressing has set up the new retail site to bring their distinctive product ranges to not only their clients, but a wider market.

With luxury items from beauty professionals such as Aveda and Schwarzkopf, the online store will allow customers to stock up on some of the finest brands available from the comfort of their own homes.

Vincent Bell Hairdressing – which has salons in Edinburgh's city centre and Stockbridge – is run by husband and wife team Vincent and Karen Bell.

Karen explained that as companies constantly change their marketing strategies, it's important that their business model reflected their desire to be one step ahead.

She added: "Vincent and I have over 50 years of hairdressing experience between us, so we've built up expert knowledge of

hair and beauty products over the years.

“Some of our customers have been with us for more than 20 years and it is very common for them to stock up on their favourite products when they are in the salon.

“We thought the next logical step would be to open a retail site so everyone, not just our clients, can buy our ranges by simply going online.”

Karen and Vincent Bell have built a fantastic reputation for high quality styling as well as leading the way in junior hairdressing with their Training Academy at their Bread Street salon.

The website features brands such as skin care by Lancome and Clarins, hair care products by Aveda, Schwarzkopf and TIGI, as well as cosmetics by Benefit and Yves Saint Laurent, and GHD hair irons.

The site also offers men's ranges and both Fake Bake tanning products and sun tan lotions can be purchased.

Find all the latest products available at [www.vincentbell.co.uk/shop](http://www.vincentbell.co.uk/shop) or for more information on Vincent Bell Hairdressing visit [www.vincentbell.co.uk](http://www.vincentbell.co.uk).