

# Edinburgh Festivals

Here are the twelve major festivals that we know about

- . Edinburgh International Science Festival
- . Bank of Scotland Imagine Festival
- . Edinburgh International Film Festival
- . Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival
- . Edinburgh Art Festival
- . Edinburgh Festival Fringe
- . Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo
- . Edinburgh Mela Festival
- . Edinburgh International Festival
- . Edinburgh International Book Festival
- . Scottish International Storytelling Festival
- . Edinburgh's Hogmanay

Do you know of any more? Then tell us about them! email [theedinburghreporter@gmail.com](mailto:theedinburghreporter@gmail.com)

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## Latest news stories

Convener of the Housing Committee Councillor Paul Edie has lots to shout about. The Housing Department at Edinburgh Council has just been given great marks by the Scottish Regulator. It is the best housing department in Scotland. Read more on [Paul's blog](#).

JCI Edinburgh members are undertaking a fundraising walk with a difference. They are to tackle the Glasswalk Challenge to raise money for Barnardo's and Edinburgh Zoo. Read more [in our full story](#).

In an unprecedented move the First Minister Alex Salmond has taken up the case of Precious Mhango – along with the leaders of the Scottish Catholic Church and the Church of Scotland. Precious is a young Malawian girl about to be extradited along with her mother. The problem is that they would almost undoubtedly be split up on return to their homeland as Precious's mother is divorced from her husband, and a child is the property of the husband's family under the law there.

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## JCI Edinburgh

Five fearless JCI Edinburgh volunteers are preparing to brave broken glass [this month] to raise over £1200 for the Barnardo's Caern Project and the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS).

The JCI Edinburgh team will be taking part in this summer's Glasswalk Challenge at Edinburgh Zoo, where 30 courageous souls will walk barefoot over 20ft of broken glass. Before attempting the glass walk, each individual must raise at least £150 sponsorship and attend an evening of training at the Zoo.

JCI Edinburgh is part of Junior Chamber International, the worldwide personal development organisation for business people in their 20s and 30s. It holds numerous social and fundraising events throughout the year and offers a stimulating range of activities to enable members to develop communication, presentation, leadership, project management, networking and business skills.

Simone Medonos, JCI Edinburgh Communities and Environmental Director, is one of the members who will be taking on the Glasswalk Challenge.

She says: "I'm quite nervous but I'm looking forward to challenging myself and I want to prove that I can do it. I don't think the 20ft will seem quite so far if there are lots of people to cheer us on so I hope lots of our members will be there on the night to support us. It's all for two really good causes so we have all been working hard to collect sponsorship."

In 2009, JCI Edinburgh volunteers conquered the Zoo's sponsored fire walk to raise over £1000 for the RZSS. This year's team are hoping to raise at least £1200 with proceeds split equally between Barnardo's and the RZSS.

The RZSS is a charity devoted to the conservation of animals and their habitats. It owns Edinburgh Zoo and the Highland Wildlife Park, home to over 1000 animals. The charity supports conservation and research project across the globe, runs education initiatives for visitors and schools, and receives no direct government funding.

The Barnardo's Caern Project is JCI Edinburgh's nominated charity for 2010 and the organisation has raised over £2000 for the cause through their successful Burns supper and quiz night events. The Caern Project provides short-term residential breaks in Edinburgh and support at home, to children and young people with a profound learning disability and who may also have severe physical and emotional problems.

Kenneth Logan, JCI Edinburgh President, explains why the organisation nominated the charity:

"We are a local organisation so wanted to choose a local charity and the Caern Project is responsible for a lot of valuable work in our community. Charity fundraising is very important to JCI Edinburgh and we believe that we can make a bigger difference overall by focusing all of our efforts on one incredibly worthy cause."

Funds raised for the Caern Project could be used in a variety

of ways including: outings for the 35 children and young people, specialist toys for children with disabilities, specialist sleep counsellors or gardening materials for the sensory garden at Caern House.

For an annual fee of £80, JCI members can access a wide-ranging programme of events, training and social opportunities. A voluntary organisation, JCI also has a long history of charitable work and fundraising. Recent local projects have seen members volunteer at the Grassmarket Mission, a drop-in service, helping to cook meals free of charge for those who need it most, as well as regular blood donor events.

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## **National Museums Scotland**

The Lewis Chessmen: Unmasked National Museum of Scotland 21 May – Sun 19 September Special Exhibitions gallery, Level 3 Free

This prestigious new exhibition features chessmen drawn from the collections of National Museums Scotland and the British Museum, The Lewis Chessmen: Unmasked is the most comprehensive exhibition on the chessmen for over a decade. The exhibition addresses the mystery and intrigue surrounding the chessmen, explores the stories surrounding their discovery and shows how the characters reflected society at the time they were made. It draws upon new research by National Museums Scotland on their craftsmanship, origins and historical context to provide visitors with a new and vibrant perspective on the chessmen. The National Museum of Scotland is the first venue for the exhibition, which will later travel to Aberdeen Art Gallery, Shetland Museum & Archives and Museum nan Eilean in Stornoway. The exhibition and tour has been made possible with funding

from the Scottish Government.

Land Girls and Lumber Jills National War Museum 26 February 2010 – February 2011 Included in Edinburgh Castle admission  
This new exhibition tells the important story of the Women's Land Army (WLA) and Women's Timber Corps (WTC) in Scotland. From roots in the First World War, these Land Girls and Lumber Jills played a vital role in feeding the nation and providing timber. Objects include a formal uniform from the 1940s right up to the 2008 medal awarded to all surviving members of both the WLA and WTC. 'Land girls' took on all types of agricultural work from sowing to harvesting, calving to shearing, whilst the Women's Timber Corps supplied the wood. Some volunteered but others were conscripted as by 1941 all women under the age of 60, without children under 14, could be called up for essential war work. Public recognition of the vital hard work and commitment from these women arrived in 2008 when they were issued with a medal which incorporated the designs from both the Land Army badge and that of the Timber Corps, along with a certificate of thanks from the Prime Minister.

Treasured: Wonderful Things, Amazing Stories National Museum of Scotland Until 2011 Free This exhibition offers the chance to discover some of the most extraordinary treasures in the care of National Museums Scotland. Featuring over 300 objects drawn from the four corners of the globe and spanning across centuries, Treasured: Wonderful Things, Amazing Stories celebrates the wonder and diversity of the National Museums' world-class collections. From a Sumatran tiger to a Victorian corset, Treasured is an eclectic mix of the spectacular, extraordinary, precious and personal. The exhibition provides a link to the Royal Museum collections during closure, casting new light on familiar objects and also giving a first glimpse of some of the objects which will feature in the redeveloped National Museum of Scotland when it re-opens in 2011.

Events/activities

## National Museum of Scotland

Summer events Summer Science Weekdays Mon 12 – Fri 30 July  
Connect gallery 11:00 – 13:00/ 14:00 – 16:00 Age 5+ Free  
(Drop-in) Join in our three-week programme of science fun,  
featuring scientists and astronomers from the Edinburgh Royal  
Observatory and the University of Edinburgh. We have  
everything from Huge Telescopes to Build a Superbug workshops!  
Check [www.nms.ac.uk/events](http://www.nms.ac.uk/events) for details.

A Slice of Life Mon 19 July – Sun 8 August 11:00 – 13:00/  
14:00 – 16:00 Free (Drop-in) Step back in time and encounter  
everyday characters from Scottish history, all with a story to  
tell. From an alewife to a steam engine driver – who will you  
meet today? There will be two characters daily – check the  
information screens for gallery locations. Sounds Global Sat  
24 – Sun 25 July Hawthornden Court Level 1 and galleries  
12:00-16:00 Free (Drop-in) Witness an explosive Bhangra hip  
hop DJ set with live Punjabi percussion by Tigerstyle. Baobab  
Gateway introduce world rhythms from the Middle East.

Visit [www.nms.ac.uk/soundsglobal](http://www.nms.ac.uk/soundsglobal) for full details. Part of  
Stories of the World, one of the major projects at the heart  
of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad. Free Fringe Music Mon 9  
– Sat 28 August Hawthornden Court 12:45 (45mins) Free Liven up  
your lunchtime at the Museum! Sit back and enjoy the music of  
some of Scotland's most talented musicians – for free! Drawing  
on the Lewis Chessmen for inspiration, our programme stretches  
from Norway to the shores of Lewis. From fiddles and flutes to  
ballads and brass, why not join us every day during the  
festival for an uplifting lunchtime. For more details visit  
[www.nms.ac.uk/fringe](http://www.nms.ac.uk/fringe) Fringe Finale Ceilidh Sun 29 August  
Hawthornden Court 14:00 (1hr 30mins) Free Join our popular  
local ceilidh band the Canongate Cadgers as we round off our  
annual Fringe programme in traditional style. All are welcome  
to come and clap along, learn some steps and enjoy a good  
shindig.

Medieval Soap Sculptures Sun 5 September Hawthornden Court  
Level 1 12:00-16:00 Free (Drop-in) Carve your very own chess  
piece inspired by the Lewis Chessmen. Look closely at the

Chessmen to create your own queen, bishop or humorous berserker. Or invent your own chess character to add to the board.

Talks and lectures Understanding Technology: Making Jet Propulsion Work Mon 30 August Dunfermline Room 15:00 (1hr 30mins) Free – Book on 0131 225 7534 begin\_of\_the\_skype\_highlighting 0131 225 7534 end\_of\_the\_skype\_highlighting Professor Phil Scranton from Rutgers University, New Jersey, discusses complexity and contingency in technological innovation in the latest talk in this popular Understanding Technology series. In association with the Institute for the Study of Science, Technology and Innovation, University of Edinburgh.

Film Screening – Fir- tàilìsg Leòdhais: Lewis Chessmen Sat 4 September Dunfermline Room 14:30 (1hr 30mins) Free – Book on 0131 225 7534 begin\_of\_the\_skype\_highlighting 0131 225 7534 end\_of\_the\_skype\_highlighting This is your opportunity to see the full version of the BBC Alba film featured in our special exhibition The Lewis Chessmen: Unmasked. Film director David Halliday will introduce the screening and there will be a Q&A session afterwards with the exhibition's curator Dr David Caldwell. Weekend events Connect Super Science Shows Connect gallery Every Sat and Sun 12:15/13:15/14:15/15:15 (20mins) Age 5+ Limited space (seating for 20) Free Come along to our free events every weekend in Connect. Find out about science in the real world at our Meet the Scientist events or enjoy a Super Science Show!

Free Tours: Scottish Collections Tours leave from the Hawthornden Court meeting point:

Highlights Tour (1hr) Daily 11:30/13:30

Themed Tour (1hr) Daily 14:30

Family Tour (15mins) Sat 14:00

Treasured: Wonderful Things, Amazing Stories Tour (1hr) Tue 15:00/Fri 12:00

Information about topics for themed and family tours can be found on the museum's information screens and on our website

[www.nms.ac.uk/tours](http://www.nms.ac.uk/tours).

## National War Museum

### Special events

Life in the Trenches Sat 7 – Sun 8 August 9:45 – 16:00 Events are included in Castle admission

What was it like wearing a kilt in the trenches? Learn about the hardships faced by the Gordon Highlanders during the First World War. Regular troops are joined by the nursing corps, who share the importance of their role in the conflict.

Medieval Mercenaries Sat 21 – Sun 22 August 9:45 – 16:00 Events are included in Castle admission Fourteenth century Scottish soldiers – blue faces, kilts and Mel Gibson, right? Uncover the real story, from mercenaries to knights in armour. See the battle demonstrations and hands-on medieval workshops.

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## Edinburgh this week...

Princes Street Gardens on Friday night after work – go for a 4K run in your work clothes and then party.... There is something a little unwashed about this arrangement! But maybe you have access to a shower in your work for afterwards,. Or maybe you live near enough to the city centre... Either way the Rat Run Fun Run Edinburgh is taking place on the 16th July at 6pm! Then you can go to the party which is at Rat Race Adventure Village (at the Ross Band Stand), West Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh.

Further details from the [website](#)

The Rat Race proper starts on Saturday although the route is confidential. There is more about this in an article on the [BBC](#) website.

Other news about running events with advice on how to get fit



for it too and how to recover is on the Jog Scotland website which you can access [here](#).

The recession is being blamed for the apparent increase in claims to employment tribunals in Scotland over the last year. [Business 7](#) reports that these have risen by 50 per cent.

Spokes have a new project to try and remove the stumbling block to bike ownership – the problem of where to store the bikes.... They have funding and are currently doing some research. More details on their site which you can access [here](#).

A gang is being hunted after an assault in Edinburgh. The gang set upon a 20 year-old who was walking home alone along the High Street at about 1.20 am. The young man managed to escape with minor injuries. More on our [Police News](#) feature.

And you might just escape the city this weekend as the Open Golf Championship is on at St Andrews. Remember not to take your phone – or you will have to leave it at the gate!

And on Friday 16th July you can go along to The Hub and join in Brian's BIG Debate – without Brian Taylor himself this week.... If you want a ticket to go along then you can get one by emailing [brian@bbc.co.uk](mailto:brian@bbc.co.uk)

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## Competitions

Spokes have launched a 2010 summer competition. You have to be a wee bit arty mind.... But there are 9 prizes some of which are bike-related.....

More details on the Spokes website [here](#).

[Edinburgh Festivals](#) will give you a free day out if you enter their competition. You have to blog about the day with their celebrity blogging team. The prize is tickets to three shows. The competition is sponsored by [5pm](#) which we told you about already!

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## Police News

### ASSAULT AND ATTEMPTED ROBBERY

Lothian and Borders Police are appealing for witnesses following an assault and attempted robbery on a 20-year-old man in Edinburgh. The incident happened around 1.20am in the High Street area of the city. The man was returning to his home address and was walking through Stevenlaw's Close when three men approached him from an unknown direction. One of the males asked the man for money before assaulting him. A second male then joined in the attack before the victim was able to flee towards the Cowgate, where a member of the public assisted him. The man suffered soreness to his left cheek and temple of his head but did not require medical attention. Police are now appealing for anyone who was in the area and witnessed anything suspicious to come forward. The first suspect is described as white, 15-18-years-old, wearing a red hooded top and a red beanie hat with eye-holes cut out of it. The second suspect is described as being of mixed race, 15-18-years-old with short dark curly hair and wearing a dark-coloured top. There is no description of the third male. A police spokesman said: 'Fortunately the victim did not suffer serious injury, nor was he robbed of any of his possessions. Nevertheless, we are keen to trace those responsible for the random and unprovoked assault.'

## DRUGS CONVICTION

A 23-year-old man who was arrested by police while in the process of preparing 7kg of highly addictive crack cocaine, pled guilty to a number of drugs offences at the High Court in Edinburgh on Friday 9 July. His arrest followed a lengthy but successful investigation by Lothian and Borders Police into serious organised crime. Mark Richardson had been identified as a principal figure in a serious organised crime group, which was based in Edinburgh but operated on a national basis. Today he admitted being involved in various drugs offences committed between April and December last year. The long running inquiry, which spanned two years, also resulted in the arrest of 66 people and the recovery of 40.8kg of Class A drugs including cocaine, heroin and crack cocaine, with the potential street value of £2,040,000. To date, 14 people have been convicted and sentenced to a total of 44 years, while proceedings are still ongoing in relation to others. When Richardson was arrested on December 9, 2009, he was actively involved in preparing a large quantity of crack cocaine, which had a street value of £700,000. It was the largest seizure of crack cocaine within the Lothian and Borders Police Force area, and one of the biggest recoveries of the Class A drug in Scotland. Richardson was also behind two other multi-kilo quantities of cocaine, which were trafficked into Edinburgh, and linked to thousands of pounds of cash which was believed to be drugs money. Detective Chief Supt Malcolm Graham, Head of Lothian and Borders CID, said: 'This investigation was designed to target a high level organised crime group which was involved in drugs, threats and violence, and which was blighting local communities with its actions. 'As a result of this investigation, the group was decimated, and their ability to conduct their criminal activity has been thwarted, making Edinburgh a safer place for everybody to live. 'We all want Lothian and Borders to be a place which residents can be proud of and feel safe in, and there is no place for criminal activity in that vision. 'By working together, Lothian and

Borders Police and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service will ensure that all those responsible for serious and organised criminal activity will be brought to justice. 'We rely on the cooperation of the public to tackle these groups who impact on their community, and this has been a prime example of how the police and public can work in tandem to defeat these criminal groups.' He concluded: 'I believe this investigation has sent a clear message to anyone engaged in serious and organised criminality that they will be pursued vigorously by the police and arrested.' As part of this investigation, £52,000 in cash and around £5,000,000 of property, vehicles and jewellery has been identified as under the control of the crime group. In 2005 Richardson and his father, also Mark Richardson, were convicted of being concerned in the supply of cocaine and were sentenced to 32 months and four years respectively. On his release, Richardson Jnr resumed his involvement in the supply of drugs at a major level.

## MISSING WOMAN

Lothian and Borders Police are making a renewed appeal for information on the whereabouts of a missing Edinburgh woman, six weeks since she was last seen. Elizabeth Brown was seen on CCTV getting off a number 3 LRT bus in Nicolson Street at 11.55am on Friday, May 28. The 55-year-old, who is known to her friends and family as Betty, was wearing a black jacket, open neck blouse, blue jeans and black shoes, and was carrying two large 'Aldi' carrier bags. This is the last known sighting of Betty, who hasn't been in touch with any of her family since Saturday, May 22. She has missed a number of family engagements since she was last seen, and her bank account has remained unused. She is described as 5ft 7ins tall, with fair hair, and glasses. Chief Inspector Allison Strachan, who is carrying out the inquiry into her disappearance, said: 'Officers will today be in the vicinity of Nicolson Square today, handing out leaflets and trying to jog the memories of

those who may have been in the area at the time that Betty was last seen. 'After leaving the bus at 11.55am, we know that she crossed the street and visited the cash machine at the Royal Bank of Scotland on Nicolson Street. 'The trail ends there, and we are appealing for anyone who can help us establish her movements after this point to get in touch.' Chief Inspector Strachan added: 'In addition to our officers handing our leaflets today, our advertising trailer will also be circulating in the area, featuring an appeal for information on Betty's whereabouts 'We are also planning a leaflet drop to around 6000 homes in the area, in the hope that someone living locally may have information that can help us.'

#### WILDLIFE CRIME OFFICER

Lothian and Borders Police has appointed a new part time wildlife crime officer in West Lothian. PC Mike Urquhart will be based in Livingston, and will be specially trained in the diverse aspects of wildlife crime. The role will involve close liaison with the SSPCA (Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) and the Scottish Government Environment and Rural Affairs Department. PC Urquhart said he is looking forward to the challenges of his new role: 'Wildlife crime is an issue throughout the country, and not specific to West Lothian, but I hope by increasing awareness locally, we will send the message that it will not be tolerated. 'I would ask anyone who has any information relating to any wildlife crime, in any form, to contact police as a matter of urgency.'

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# News from Lothian & Borders Fire & Rescue Service

At 5.30hrs on Wednesday 7th July, Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service attended an incident at a golf club at Gunsgreen Hill in Eyemouth. There was a fire located in a green keeper's shed. Seven fire service appliances attended the fire from the local area and Edinburgh.

During the firefighting operation a 44 year old firefighter from the Scottish Borders was injured when a part of the building structure collapsed. He was attended to by the Scottish Ambulance Service and was airlifted to the ERI.

The firefighter injured during the incident is currently receiving further treatment for serious back injuries at the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow.

There is an ongoing investigation into the accident and cause of the fire.

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## Edinburgh this weekend

At the St Andrew Square bus station on Friday there were many ready to go off and enjoy the festival for the weekend. The Wellies were out in force so it seemed that the weather forecast was an essential piece of kit. Quite why you would want to wear a hoodie back to front (with the hood up) so that you looked like a Blue Man was a little beyond immediate comprehension however.... Sadly The Reporter was not just quick enough with the camera on this occasion!

Unfortunately there has been a death at the festival this weekend. According to [The Daily Record](#) the 24 year-old from Stonehaven died following an asthma attack. It seems that reporting has now levelled out at reporting what is on a deceased person's Facebook page. The Record gives many details from this. Even with the confusion over privacy in Facebook circles it would be interesting to know just exactly how they got on to Mr Catto's page to ascertain these details.

Ewan Williamson was a firefighter who died in a fire at a pub on Edinburgh's Dalry Road and we are sure that you know his name from the many newspaper articles about the tragedy. You may not be just as familiar with the name of his fiancée who has been left to cope with the loss of her future husband. Again [The Daily Record](#) but this time perhaps more traditional reporting showing the raw emotion which still exists for this young girl one year after his death.

The Telegraph seems to think that we are set for a new bank in Scotland – will that mean another banking outfit in Edinburgh? Probably not it seems, even though part of the assets to be bought by Project New Bank are the entire Lloyds TSB network in Scotland. It reports that the 318 Royal Bank branches will probably be bought by Santander.

The Edinburgh International Marketing Festival may have escaped your attention till now. You can find out more about the festival [here](#).

There is a move afoot to get the festivals linked up as one. This is hot on the heels of the Film Festival effecting its own divorce from the rest of the festival season by appearing on the calendar in June ahead of the rest. [The Guardian's Theatre Blog](#) debates this issue.

Former bank manager Charlotte Walker was jailed for two years at Edinburgh Sheriff Court for fabricating loans of £80,000 and diverting the funds to her own account. [The Scotsman](#) has

the story.

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# Scottish Youth Parliament

by Ali George

As part of consultation for their new 'Youth Manifesto', the Scottish Youth Parliament launched their 'Picture the Change' campaign with an installation and guest appearance from singer Amy MacDonald outside Holyrood yesterday.

They have created an 8 x 5ft 'Living Room Picture' where young people walk through a huge frame to sign, tag or leave a message in a totally white living room. The idea of this is to visually reinforce the message of changing the picture, which is what the final manifesto will do by telling politicians exactly what is affecting the lives of young people.

In the run up to the 2011 election, the SYP want to hear from an ambitious 15,000 young people across Scotland about their opinions on subjects as diverse as nuclear weapons and the minimum wage. Over the next few months they will be traveling to festivals, fresher's fairs, schools and colleges across Scotland to consult with as many people as possible.

And everyone who agrees to give their input will be entered into a prize draw for a year's supply of shoes, courtesy of Schuh!

Speaking about the campaign, SYP Chair Derek Couper said:

"The manifesto encapsulates everything that the SYP strives for. Put simply, it's about connecting young people to their democracy."



Young people are encouraged to follow the campaign on Facebook Bebo and Twitter and anyone who wants to get more directly involved with the consultation process – for example youth workers or schools – can download a pack from the picture the change website



Singer/songwriter Amy MacDonald (22) appealed to young people to participate, saying at the launch:

“It is important that young people get their chance to influence Scotland’s politicians, and the creation of a Manifesto by the Scottish Youth Parliament provides that chance. I am happy to help, and urge young people to get involved and have their voice heard in this positive way.”

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## Car sales and other news today

So why is this? Are we simply being canny Scots? [Business7](#) reports this story and apparently new car registrations fell by 6% last month in contrast with a 12.5% rise in the rest of the UK. But it does not really explain the why. The government scrappage scheme has been ended. That could be one reason. But is it simple economic necessity?

A hosepipe ban has been imposed in the north west of England and will come into force this weekend. Listening to a radio interview about this yesterday it became apparent that there is some confusion over what it actually means. The spokesman for United Water could not readily answer a question about watering an allotment and it seemed that watering from a

watering can would not be banned.

The Edinburgh Reporter wonders about the situation in Edinburgh. Do we have enough water here? We asked Scottish Water and they have confirmed that there is no shortage at the moment and in fact none is envisaged. They say that water supplies in the major cities of Scotland is well protected and so it is very unlikely that we would run out.

They have however asked for a drought order to be put in place in Dumfries and Galloway (which would make sense as it is very near the North West of England...) So what should we do to try and conserve our water supply in the city?

There are some really useful tips on conserving water on the [Scottish Water website](#).

These include ensuring that your taps are not dripping, using a watering can instead of a hosepipe, boiling a kettle with only sufficient water for your needs, using a bucket to wash your car and having a shower not a bath. We thought the more obvious one of not running a tap whilst brushing your teeth might be included, and also using a washing machine and dishwasher with full loads....Any others you can think of?

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## 5pm

When you use it to book a table then you will receive a voucher – at the moment it is a £25 wine voucher for money off an order from Naked Wines.

As well as being an easy way to book it is actually cheaper too!

Check it out – what do you think? Do you have other websites

to recommend?

[Here is the link...](#)

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## Camera Clubs in Edinburgh

[The Stills Democratic Camera Club](#) meets in Edinburgh each month and it aims to gather together people with an interest in photography. They range from amateurs to professionals alike and welcome everyone along.

The next meeting is on August 5th at 6.30 pm when the theme is 'Portrait'.

They meet at The Stills Gallery 23 Cockburn Street, Edinburgh EH1 1BP. Their telephone number is 0131 622 6200. The Stills Gallery website is available [here](#).

They also have information on their website about a great project for photographers in Edinburgh to get involved with. The Blipfoto Challenge

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## The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

This is the first occasion that one of Edinburgh's International Festival events has been awarded such a distinction.

Tattoo Chief Executive & Producer, Major General Euan Loudon, said: "We are enormously proud to receive such a prestigious honour which, as we embark on our Diamond Jubilee Year, is a wonderful endorsement for this unique national institution".

The Royal Family has been closely connected with the Tattoo since it began in 1950. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth was present that year when Sir Thomas Beecham conducted the Massed Bands during the Finale sequence. Then, in 2002, the Tattoo helped celebrate Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee with a spectacular production, which featured performers from across the Commonwealth, while Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal is the Tattoo's Patron.

The Edinburgh Military Tattoo is one of the greatest shows on earth. Each year, against the dramatic backdrop of Edinburgh Castle, it showcases the very best of music, dance and precision display from home and abroad. Since the first Tattoo in 1950, more than 12 million people have joined the audience on the Castle esplanade. Today, around 217,000 people attend the Tattoo annually. And every decade more than 1 billion people around the world tune in to watch the show on television.

The Tattoo seeks to promote servicemen and women in a positive light and as Head of the Armed Forces there is an instinctive connection between Her Majesty and the celebrated Military spectacle.

Scotland's military showpiece event is set up and run for charitable purposes. The not-for-profit organisation has, over the years, gifted some £5 million to support arts and culture as well as the principal Service benevolent organisations.

Meanwhile, 2010 kicks off in spectacular style in February with the Tattoo launching its Diamond Jubilee Year celebrations in Australia with a series of performances in Sydney. Then, this summer, over 1,000 performers from the

Middle East, Switzerland, New Zealand, the United States of America and the United Kingdom are set to gather in Edinburgh for August's 60th Anniversary Tattoo (6-28 August), which will include some yet to be revealed birthday surprises.

There are still some tickets left for a few of the performances. The website can be accessed [here](#).

If you don't know what the Tattoo is about then have a look at the videos [here](#).

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## News from elsewhere today...

Naeem Majid Butt who is 37 left East Lancashire after a young man was stabbed there last month. It is thought by Lancashire Constabulary that he may be hiding out in the capital. Read more in [The Independent](#).

There is a report in [The Scotsman](#) that Edinburgh Airport is going to cause huge inconvenience to travellers by the proposed introduction of a charge for 10 minute parking when dropping off or picking up.

[The Edinburgh Evening News](#) has the story about businesses in the city centre who have failed to pay a levy to Essential Edinburgh. About 15% of the levy remains unpaid. The paper also carries the [tragic story](#) of the bike lover who died from carbon monoxide poisoning after sleeping next to a barbecue in the back of his van.

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# BMF

There they go – those people wearing red, blue and green bibs (where green means superfit). They are told what to do by the ex military person who is in combats and a navy T-shirt. Not barked at – just told in a nice friendly fashion that you are about to do an hour of a fairly hard work out in the open, on the grass (yes you do get down and dirty!) and in front of everyone who stops to stare.

But the trick is that there is safety in numbers. So you are in this lovely group of people motivated enough to get out there in any weather to get fit.

Try it – you may like it!

The details of classes run in Edinburgh are on the [British Military Fitness](#) website. Because that is what BMF stands for!

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## Cameo shows Skeletons

It's a Nick Whitfield film, a comedy and the story very briefly is getting rid of the skeletons in the cupboard. The film is a 15 and is showing from Friday 9th July till next Thursday. Film times can be accessed [here](#).

Fresh from its success at The Edinburgh International Film Festival the director will now be hoping for commercial success.

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# The Fringe

With the number of shows increasing by 17 percent on last year's total, the 2010 programme ensures that the Fringe offers the world's best and most original comedy, theatre, dance and physical theatre, events, exhibitions, children's shows, music, musicals and opera.

Launching the programme, Kath M Mainland, Chief Executive of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society, said:

"I am delighted to unveil the 2010 Edinburgh Festival Fringe programme which yet again exemplifies why the Fringe is the world's leading arts festival. As you'll see from this year's programme, Edinburgh in August will be bursting with the most talented artists from every area of the arts world. Nowhere else can you see such a variety of world class talent and range of shows that are guaranteed to engage, enthrall, excite and delight.

"As the largest arts festival, the Fringe attracts performers and audiences from every corner of the world. I look forward to welcoming them to Edinburgh and kicking off what is set to be the biggest and most exciting Fringe to date."

Minister for Culture, Fiona Hyslop MSP said:

"As the largest arts festival in the world, the Fringe is an excellent platform for talented performers and organisations to shine on an international stage. I am delighted that our Expo Fund – through the Made in Scotland showcase – is promoting Scottish-based work at the Fringe and raising the profile of our world-class talent internationally."

To mark the launch a photo call was held in Princes St Gardens featuring props taken from the front cover design including an umbrella, a butterfly and a birdcage. Christina Kernohan modelled for the shoot in an elegant dress made by designer [Judy R Clark](#). Christina's striking red bouffant hair style was the work of Edinburgh Hairdresser [Freddy Antabi](#) and her makeup was done by [Gillian Galbraith](#). The pictures were used by the national press to accompany the news of the programme launch

and the programme's much anticipated contents.

Following the success of the first Made in Scotland programme in 2009, which secured nine awards including the Edinburgh International Festival Fringe Prize, the showcase returns in 2010 featuring some of the best Scottish theatre and dance. Made in Scotland is supported through the Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund and helps talented, Scottish-based performers and companies present their work on an international stage.

This year's shows include Platform in association with Giant's The Songbird: A Tone Poem (Royal Botanic Gardens), Scottish Dance Theatre (Zoo Southside), Colette Sadler/Stammer Productions with Musical (Zoo Southside) and plan B's A Wee Home From Home (Acoustic Music Centre @ St Brides).

Fringe Central, the participants' hub run by the Fringe Society, plays host to a series of exciting events for participants and public this year, including the Royal National Theatre curating a series of events. Events range from Kwame Kwei-Armah: The Artist in Society (Fringe Central), a free ticketed event in which the world famous playwright and broadcaster will discuss the role of the artist in society to staff members of the National Theatre Studio leading seminars for Fringe Participants.

In 2010 several venues are celebrating anniversaries. Bedlam is 30 years old, as is Assembly. Gilded Balloon celebrates 25 years on the Fringe and Zoo Venues turns 10. The Edinburgh Comedy Awards also celebrate their 30th anniversary this year. 2010 is also a momentous year for Tony Tanner, who returns to the Fringe after 47 years and a successful Hollywood career with Charlatan (Assembly).

Alongside the reams of talent gracing the stages all over Edinburgh the Fringe is delighted to welcome some new venues to this year's programme, such as The Pleasance at Ghillie Dhu. Assembly is in a new space in Princes St Gardens, and Leith hosts the Mary of Guise Barge at The Shore. Hill Street Theatre reopens its doors to Fringe audiences this year under the artistic management of ReMarkable Arts.



As each year sees new acts make their name internationally, winning any number of Fringe related awards, we're delighted that 2009 award winners are returning. Edinburgh Comedy Award Newcomer 2009 Jonny Sweet returns with a new stand up show Let's Just Have Some Fun (And Learn Something, For Once) (Pleasance) and award winning theatre maker David Leddy's 2009 Glasgow Citizens' Theatre sell out Sub Rosa comes to ReMarkable Arts at Hill Street Theatre.

Total Theatre-winning puppeteers The River People are returning with a premiere of The Terrible Tales of the Midnight Chorus (Bedlam), Uber Hate (Underbelly) is a new show from Horizon Arts, who won the Holden Street Theatre Award for last year's Heroin(e) For Breakfast.

The Fringe seals its reputation as a world-wide platform for artists, this year playing host to The Dirty Immigrant Collective (The Voodoo Rooms) from New York which presents four comedians' look at American identity, alongside Desire (New Town Theatre) an original Czech piece translated for Fringe audiences. Dance Base has an international line-up including US company Dance Box Theater with Haunted while Velocity comes from Irish companies Daghdha Dance Company & Pair Dance. Dag Soras: Outside the Comfort Zone brings a Norwegian sense of humour to The Stand.

There are plenty of famous names scattered throughout the programme this year, with Alan Cumming performing songs from his debut album in I Bought a Blue Car Today (Assembly), Gyles Brandreth's new play Wonderland (Assembly) and The Sweeney (Gilded Balloon), which brings a myriad of comedians including Paul Merton, Eddie Izzard, Josie Lawrence and Greg Proops to the stage to chart the remarkable life and work of Fringe veteran Jim Sweeney. There is also an artistic offering from former American President Jimmy Carter which American High School Theatre are performing, an adaption of his children's book Little Baby Snoogle-Fleejer (Church Hill Theatre).

For the more contemporary celeb spotters Dizzee Rascal (Corn Exchange) will be appearing as part of the Edge Festival, Britain's Got Talent dance sensation Flawless (Underbelly)

will be spinning some shapes and Abi Titmus is taking to the stage in Up 'n' Under (Assembly).

Sashaying down the red carpet this year are several names from US television and the big screen from The Wire's Clark Peters in Five Guys Named Moe (Underbelly), to actress Jennifer Coolidge – Yours for the Night (Assembly) and Caroline Rhea (Gilded Balloon) in her self-titled show.

2010 has been the year of sing-a-long television spectacles, and the Fringe is no stranger to Glee with West End Glee Club (Zoo Roxy) and The Singalong Glee Club (Gilded Balloon), representing school singing clubs, and Showstopper: The Improvised Musical (Gilded Balloon), back again to wow audiences with its musical take on improv.

The Mighty Boosh return in part with Rich Fulcher: An Evening with Eleanor, the Tour Whore (Underbelly) and Noel Fielding from behind the scenes directing Paul Foot – Ash in the Attic (Underbelly).

As well as performing at the Fringe, celebrities also provide the basis for content in other shows such as Ant Dawson: I Bought Richard Hammond's Underpants on eBay (Just the Tonic @ the Caves) and An Hour of Telly: Live (The Banshee Labyrinth). Even the film world's most famous TV Anchor, Ron Burgundy is represented in Ray Green: Adventures in Telly Land 3D (Gilded Balloon).

The news channels have provided excellent material for artists this year and there are many bold and provocative productions aimed at challenging opinions and encouraging debate. The issue of sex trafficking is topical this year with theatre productions Roadkill (site specific, The Traverse), See me! Hear me! (The Quaker Meeting House) and Emma Thomson Presents: Fair Trade (Pleasance) leading the way as well as comedy shows such as Keith Farnan: Sex Traffic – How Much is That Woman in the Window? (Underbelly). David Benson's one man exploration of the story behind the Lockerbie disaster is at Gilded Balloon in Lockerbie: Unfinished Business and even the American President gets a mention in Obama Mia (Just the Tonic @ The Caves).

Fringe performers are certainly not known to shy away from taboo subjects, and female sexuality is a prominent theme in this year's programme with thought-provoking productions such as *Your Little Princess is My Little Whore* (The Spaces), *Busting Out* (Assembly), Grainne Maguire – *We Need to Talk About Bonnets* (Just the Tonic @ the Caves), *Cellophane* (The Pleasance) and *Sex Idiot* (Zoo).

Disability and social stigma is firmly rooted on the agenda with shows such as *Smiler* (Gilded Balloon), *Expectations* (Pleasance), *Dyslexia the Musikal* (The Spaces on the Mile) and *Private Dancer* (Dancebase @ The Mecure Point Hotel) challenging stereotypes.

With the Football World Cup kicking off a summer of international sporting events, the theme of sport does not go unnoticed in the Fringe Programme from *All Over A Football* (Underbelly), to Bob Doolally's *World Cup Balls* (The Stand) and Paul Ricketts – *Kiss the Badge, Fly the Flag!* (Just the Tonic @ the Caves). In other sports, cricket legend Henry Blofeld, the voice of *Test Match Special*, returns to the Fringe in *Blowers and Bly: Bald, Bold and Belligerent* (Venue 150 @ EICC) and *Mushy Ate My Credit Card* (Hill Street Theatre) is one man's cricket quest. Audiences are invited into the boxing ring in *Beautiful Burnout* (The Pleasance), a National Theatre of Scotland co-production.

The Fringe may inhabit 259 venues in 2010 but that doesn't stop participants creating work outside the proscenium arch. Site-specific shows this year include a restaurant 100 feet above the city, *Festival in the Sky* (The Sky Gardens), award-winning theatre company Badac with *The Cry* (Pleasance) in a car park as are CreativeVaQi with *The Dream of Sancho* (C) and the Rosslyn Chapel goes site specific with *The Apprentice*. Scottish playwright Douglas Maxwell's *Decky Does a Bronco* (Traverse), from ground-breaking theatre company Grid Iron, makes a return after its phenomenal success in 2000 and takes place around a swing set in a playground. Assembly will also play host to its very own luxury bridal salon in *Your Dream Wedding*.

There are plenty of treats for literature lovers with scores of productions based on classic texts. Such shows include *Animal Farm* (Assembly), *Anthony Burgess: A Clockwork Orange* (The Spaces), *Belt Up's Odyssey* (C), *Cabaret Checkov* (Zoo), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (C), *Oliver Twist* (The Spaces) and *Junk* (Augustines).

In 2010 *Fringe Stand Up* is going deeper; introspective ponderings on the soul from Robin Butland's *The Inescapable Misery Of Everything* (The Royal Mile Tavern) and Sean Walsh: *I'd Happily Punch Myself In The Face* (The Pleasance), Ava Vidal analyses her life decisions in *Lessons I Should Have Learnt* (The Stand), Celia Pacquola will tell audiences about the risk of failure in *Flying Solo* (Gilded Balloon) as does Sam Simmonds in *Fail* (Gilded Balloon).

Collaboration takes on a new meaning for several *Fringe* productions this year, with South Africa working with Scotland in *The Girl in the Yellow Dress* (Traverse), which is a co-production between Glasgow's *Citizen's Theatre* and Johannesburg's *Market Theatre*. *Broadway Asia International* works with China's *Huairou Management* in *Reel-to-Real: The Movies Musical* (Pleasance). Russian company *Nochty* are working with *RSAMD* on *The Lonesome Foxtrot* (New Town Theatre) and the *Beyond Borders Productions Ltd* brings England and Georgia together, working with *Rustaveli Theatre*, Tbilisi on *Do We Look Like Refugees?* (Assembly). The *Polish National Radio Orchestra* and *Olga Sz wajgier Quartet* come together in *Aurea Porta's Era Scheaffera* (Venue 150 @ EICC).

Featuring 2,453 shows this year's *Edinburgh Festival Fringe* programme is ready to delight audiences from all over the world for three weeks in August. There truly is something for everyone. For the 2-4 year olds *Catherine Wheels' White* (Traverse @ Scottish Book Trust) and *Phil Kay's: Gimme Your Left Shoe* (Pleasance Courtyard) will entertain all the family; *Fringe* regulars *Edinburgh University Theatre Company's Improverts* (Bedlam) should tickle teenagers and grown up's funny bones, and for older audience members both *Barry Cryer* and his wife *Terry* are appearing separately in *Barry Cryer*

(Gilded Balloon) and Terry and Jackie- Mrs Barry Cryer and Mrs Edmund Hockridge (Gilded Balloon) respectively.

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## Marine energy grants

Wave energy developer Aquamarine Power was awarded over £3 million from the Scottish Government to support the development of its next-generation Oyster wave energy device.

Aquamarine Power received the grant from the WATERS fund (Wave and Tidal Energy: Research, Development and Demonstration Support) which is run and administered by Scottish Enterprise on behalf of a collaborative venture involving Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Government and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

The funding will support the further development of the 2.4MW Oyster demonstration project in Scotland. Phased installation of the project will begin at the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) in Orkney in Summer 2011. The WATERS project follows on directly from Aquamarine Power's MRPF project which was announced earlier this year.

Martin McAdam, Chief Executive Officer of Aquamarine Power commented:

"The marine energy industry has the potential to provide huge economic benefit to Scotland and Scottish businesses, with the creation of skilled jobs, a global export market and a secure and clean domestic energy supply. At this early stage of the industry, funding initiatives like the WATERS scheme are vital to help deliver this for Scotland.

"We would like to express our sincere thanks to the WATERS partners for this funding and their wider support for our

business. The Scottish Government and enterprise agencies should be commended for their dedicated support of Scotland's marine energy.

"It's fantastic to see the Scottish Government working closely with other funders such as the Carbon Trust to ensure the pace of industry development is maintained.

"We would also like to thank our shareholders, especially Scottish and Southern Energy, whose continued support is very important to us. Last month, we were able to announce that we had successfully raised an additional £6 million of funding."

Paul Lewis, Managing Director, Sector and Commercialisation, at Scottish Enterprise commented:

"The WATERS fund can generate real economic benefit for Scotland and Scottish businesses, as the five company grants being awarded today demonstrate. Aquamarine Power's Oyster demonstration is exactly the kind of innovative, cutting edge project that we hoped to support through the fund and I look forward to following the project's progress."

The £15 million WATERS scheme has been designed to support the construction and installation of pre-commercial full-scale wave and tidal stream device prototypes in Scottish waters.

The Oyster demonstration project will consist of three 800kW flaps, each measuring 26 metres by 16 metres. Each flap will deliver 250 per cent more power than the original Oyster prototype, which was successfully deployed at EMEC in 2009.

The three devices will be linked to a single onshore 2.4 MW hydro-electric turbine. The new devices incorporate a number of design improvements, which means they will produce more energy, be simpler to install and easier to maintain. A small farm of 20 Oyster devices would provide enough energy for more than 12,000 homes.

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# Festival of Politics

The line-up has now been announced for this year's Festival of Politics in Edinburgh.

Now in its sixth year, the award winning festival will run from Tuesday 17 to Saturday 21 August and includes 47 events, many of which feature famous faces, such as journalist and campaigner Martin Bell, political commentator Peter Kellner, and political elder-statesman Sir Malcolm Rifkind QC MP.

This year's line up also features:

- Musician and campaigner Annie Lennox who will return to Holyrood in two supporting roles – as a special envoy to the Scottish Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and as a key speaker in the festival.
- A debate on the future of Scottish Football broadcast live on the Real Radio Football Phone-In.
- John Prescott, who was Britain's longest serving Deputy Prime Minister, discussing his 'Life in Politics'.
- Political campaigning comedian and Perrier award nominee Mark Thomas taking part in a discussion on the public's involvement in politics.

Presiding Officer Alex Fergusson MSP said:

"The dynamic nature of politics and the constantly developing relationship between politicians, political institutions, and the public will lie at the heart of the 2010 Festival of Politics, under the over-arching theme of Changing Politics.

"Over the last five years, the festival – together with the excellent World Press Photo exhibition – has welcomed more than 175,000 visitors to the Scottish Parliament. This proves that whilst politics may be changing, people remain keen to engage with it.

“The Parliament is looking forward to opening its doors once again and welcoming audiences to the 2010 Festival of Politics. We have another interesting, imaginative and thought provoking programme which I hope the public will enjoy.”

The BBC also carry a full report.

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## Good news...

According to a new survey by Knight Frank property prices in Edinburgh are leading the way – at least in prime property.

Read more about this on [The Property Wire](#).

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## Minimum Income Standard

A Minimum Income Standard for the UK in 2010 shows that people on low incomes face a much higher inflation rate than shown in the official Consumer Prices Index, which the Budget announced as the future basis for uprating benefits. This means that in real terms, people out of work, relying on these benefits, could become worse off. For people in work, the gap between the minimum wage and the wages needed for a minimum household budget has widened.

The Minimum Income Standard shows how much various households need in 2010 to reach a minimum standard of living, according to members of the public. A single person now needs to earn at least £14,400 a year to reach this standard, and a couple with two children £29,200. These have increased from £13,400 and



£26,900 in the past two years.

You can read the report for yourself on [The Joseph Rowntree website](#).

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## Make Poverty History – 5 years on

Exactly five years ago, 225,000 people marched through Edinburgh, tens of thousands attended the Live Eight concert in London and millions wore white bands to demand a better and fairer world.

The charity said five years on, the campaign had brought about many positive changes, and despite recent setbacks, had made campaigners out of many thousands of people who continued to support international development agencies. It believes this groundswell of support has added momentum to positive change in developing countries.

Jenny Ricks, head of campaigns at ActionAid, said: “By backing the campaign’s call for more and better aid, drop the debt and trade justice, the public showed they understood that tackling poverty means confronting its underlying causes.”

ActionAid pointed out that the developing world had reaped the benefit of Make Poverty History and that many people’s lives had been improved.

Since the launch of the campaign debt has been cancelled in more than 20 poor countries, most of which are in Africa. The charity also believed that the quality of aid had risen, benefiting individual countries.

It said that in Sierra Leone, British aid had helped the anti-corruption agency increase its power and recover £660,000 of government money. In Rwanda, aid had supported the tax authority. A total investment of £20 million had enabled Rwanda to collect this same amount every four weeks. Consequently poverty is decreasing and almost all children in the country now go to primary school.

ActionAid said Make Poverty History's emphasis on the importance of aid was also an important contributory factor in getting more children into school globally and that there were now 33 million more children in the classroom than a decade ago. Even more striking, it said, was the 10-fold rise in the availability of anti-Aids drugs over the past five years.

Ms Ricks added: "Global poverty cannot be ended by a single event, politician or country. But that was never the point of Make Poverty History.

"It was about building understanding, creating a movement for change and underlining the importance of fixing systems.

"Real change comes from local people demanding their rights – from a women's group in a village standing up against domestic violence, to thousands of farmers demanding better support from their governments.

"Above all, making poverty history is about supporting developing countries to make their own choices in the best interests of their people. It is about helping, not hindering."

ActionAid aims to increase partnership between people in rich and poor countries, to end poverty and injustice. It works with local people to fight hunger and disease, seek justice and education for women, hold companies and governments accountable and cope with emergencies in over 40 countries. For more information go to [www.actionaid.org.uk](http://www.actionaid.org.uk).

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# Golf promotion

First Minister Alex Salmond and VisitScotland Chairman Mike Cantlay were in Shanghai to help leading tour operator China Holidays launch their first ever dedicated Scottish golf brochure, which will make booking a holiday in Scotland easier than ever for Chinese golfers, business people and their families.

China has been identified as one of Scotland's most important emerging tourism markets, with an increase in visitors from 7,000 in 2005 to approximately 11,000 a year over the past three years – worth on average £7 million a year to the Scottish economy.

The new brochure features suggested golf packages to Scotland, provides information on a number of Scottish clubs, and offers a Scottish Prestige Golf Club trip, providing golfers with a year's membership of historic Musselburgh Old Course in East Lothian, one of the world's oldest courses.

The brochure also highlights key visitor attractions across Scotland aimed at encouraging visiting groups to extend their stay and explore Scotland beyond the confines of the golf course.

On Scottish Golf Day at Shanghai Expo, the FM said:

“Golf is one of Scotland's great tourist draws, and that's particularly true in China, where the game is one of the country's fastest growing sports with more than one million registered golfers, 200 courses in place and another 100 under construction.

“Chinese golfers are well aware of Scotland's status as the 'Home of Golf', not least due to the fact that 90 per-cent of China's green-keepers are trained by Fife's Elmwood College.

“I am therefore delighted that China Holidays, who in more than 10 years have already helped thousands of Chinese golfers

fulfil their ambitions of playing golf in Scotland, have decided to launch their first dedicated Scottish golf brochure.

“VisitScotland, and the trade mission they are leading to China this week, are determined to do all they can to increase Chinese visitor numbers, ensuring Scotland is well placed to benefit from the increase in outbound travel from China which has grown significantly in recent years – now the 5th largest market in the world in terms of spend on international travel.

“And we’ve made sure that a warm welcome awaits the thousands of visitors each year to Scotland with the recent launch of VisitScotland’s China Toolkit for Scottish businesses, providing useful tips and advice to help make sure Chinese visitors have as comfortable and memorable a stay as possible.”

VisitScotland Chairman Mike Cantlay said:

“Working together with partners and businesses internationally, we sell Scotland to the world bringing millions of visitors and billions of pounds to the economy, and golf has a crucial role to play in our marketing activity.

“Scotland delivers the most authentic and diverse golfing experience in the world, and with that comes huge opportunities to market the country as a visitor destination. It’s encouraging to see this level of investment from China Holidays – their dedicated golf brochure, plus the opportunity to experience one year’s membership with Scottish clubs, will enhance Scotland’s reputation as the home of golf, particularly to the business markets.”

Jun Li, Director China Holidays, said:

“It gives me great honour to launch our new brochure to Scotland, The Home of Golf, offering golfers from China the opportunity to travel to Scotland and become a member at Musselburgh Old Course as part of the Scottish Prestige Golf Club trips.”

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# Rowing is back!

There is a vibrant rowing club down at Portobello and they run hour long training sessions on Saturdays from 9.30. They have other training sessions at other times of the week.

Taster sessions from 1pm to 3pm on Sundays.

Find out more about this on their [website](#).

The club is also holding a regatta on 24th July when they expect boats to come from Port Seaton, North Berwick, Eyemouth, Anstruther and Ullapool. Unfortunately the Newhaven boat is not yet ready but their crews will be there and hope to take part as crew on other boats.

The Portobello Club is expecting the newly built Currach from Tollcross, a pre 1930's single man wooden rowing boat with moving seats and very long and shallow should be restored by that date. They hope to have the Royal West Coast Boat Club in attendance too as they have many of the boats that were in Portobello in the past.

There is an exhibition at the local library from the 22nd with much archival material and artefacts collected through this project.

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# Library scheme at Saughton

# Prison wins Award

A library for prisoners was opened at HMP Saughton, Edinburgh, in November 2008, with the aim of enhancing prisoners' lives, both as prisoners and on release. The results speak for themselves: just 18 months later, it is the only library in Scotland with a waiting list; it welcomed over 12,500 prisoners through the doors in its first year; and damage done to library books has reduced significantly from 80% to zero since the new library opened, demonstrating the new-found value the prisoners have for their library.

Housed in a purpose-built extension the library's purpose is to produce a library that can tackle social inclusion issues amongst the prison population and provide support opportunities for education and employment, thereby improving the transition from prison to outside community life.

With a bright and welcoming design, the library sits in contrast to the rest of the prison environment, and includes designs and fittings that were created and built by prisoners themselves. As well as providing numerous opportunities to improve literacy, the library has study desks and laptops for use in education and to support activities such as creating CVs.

One prisoner commented: "When I first came into jail I found it really hard to read because I wasn't good at concentrating and I would have to read the same paragraph over and over but after persisting with it and practising all the time, I find reading just as easy as breathing. I have to admit that reading is now a hobby for me. I love it and I would be lost without it as it's helped me through my sentence."

Commitment to the project was demonstrated by the decision to staff the library with an experienced and skilled local authority librarian – Kate King – which means that in addition to regular library services, prisoners can also learn

librarian skills. 10 prisoners have already been trained to deliver basic library skills, with one securing a recent interview with Edinburgh City Libraries.

Linda Constable, Senior Manager, Dorset Libraries, and chair of the judging committee, said: "This project demonstrates and evidences 'changing lives', and has made a huge impact on all the prisoners and the staff working in the prison. In addition, Kate's approach, empathy and passion have driven this life-changing work, not only in the prison, but on release by giving prisoners improved life-chances, which in turn have a wider impact on their families, communities and society in general. It is our hope that the partnership work that has taken place at HMP Edinburgh will be an inspiration for similar projects around the country."

Ian Kirkby, Library Development Officer at Edinburgh City Libraries, said: "Our work and focus is in making the prison library work to reduce re-offending and in supporting healthier local communities. None of us set out to seek awards – however it is delightful and uplifting to be acknowledged by our profession for our work in this project and a reaffirmation of the value of libraries in our communities."

Councillor Deidre Brock, Convenor of Culture and Leisure for the City of Edinburgh Council, said: "Winning this award is a tremendous honour for our Libraries service. Through their dedication, vision and hard work, they have achieved something quite remarkable at HMP Edinburgh (Saughton), and have unquestionably changed people's lives. It has been an enormous success in helping prisoners to improve their literacy and employability, reducing their risk of re-offending upon release. My heartfelt congratulations to all our superb staff."

Now in its 19th year and open to all UK libraries, the Libraries Change Lives Award, highlights and rewards partnership projects that bring people together, demonstrate innovation and creativity and which ultimately change lives.

The winning library service was announced today (6th July) by broadcaster Mark Lawson at the new Libraries Change Lives Conference in London. As well as celebrating the achievement of the winning project, the conference provides an opportunity for the library community to discuss the increasing pressures libraries are facing to deliver social benefits and core lending services during a time of deep spending cuts.

The winning library service will receive a trophy and prize money of £5,000, whilst the other two finalists will each receive prize money of £2,000.

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## Edinburgh Mela Festival

It runs from 6th to 8th August in Leith Links. It was first held in 1995 in Meadowbank Stadium and now attracts about 20,000 people.

This year in The Big Top on Saturday there will be live music from Ceol Mor, Rizwan and Muazzam Qawwali, Something Relevant, Northern Exposure, Bonafide, Patiala Pipe Band, Pulse of the Palace, Lothian & Borders Police Choir, Townhouse, Ask-I-Trio and will end with a jam session late on Saturday evening.

Sunday's entertainment will include Shiraz, Jaz Dhami, Taz, DJ Wax, Martin Aelred, Zawadi Women's Choir, G Band, Zagumba Andrew Kalyowa and the Jaipur Kawa Brass Band.

The Board of Directors is chaired by Councillor Steve Cardownie, but day to day business throughout the year is headed up by Liam Sinclair.

You can keep up to date with what will be happening on their website.



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# St Leonard's Nursery School is green!

St Leonard's Nursery School has become the first nursery or primary school to be awarded a fourth and permanent Green Flag in the Eco School programme.

Permanent Green Flag has been awarded because environmental education is now a central permanently part of life at St. Leonard's Nursery School.

City Education Leader Cllr Marilyne MacLaren said:

"This is a fantastic achievement for the pupils and for the staff at St Leonard's. Not only have pupils reduced their school's impact on the environment, they are setting a fine example for others to follow and they have learned good habits that will last them a lifetime."

Clare McCusker, Head Teacher at St Leonard's, said:

"Our children live the message of reduce, reuse and recycle in their daily routines and at the centre of all their learning is a caring attitude not only to one another but also to the environment. Good habits are established in these early years which will hopefully always stay with children and extend into their families and through the later stages of their education."

"All of our staff are totally committed to the programme of environmental education. It is their skilled interaction which makes these accessible to young children who begin to understand concepts such as the finite nature of resources and the fragility of our beautiful planet."

Children have produced award winning compost from leftover snacks, they make their own paper and create masterpieces from various items recycled. Vegetables and plants are grown in the greenhouse and water butts fill healthy pond full of frogs and insect life.

There has been an large increase in biodiversity in the richly planted garden. Bat boxes, bird boxes, insect homes and the pond create an ideal environment for many creatures and children have pond dipping nets, binoculars and magnifying glasses to study changes in the creatures.

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## Edinburgh Airport

The airport announced last week that they are to introduce a new charge from 1 October for motorists on the kiss and fly run.

Under the measure motorists will be charged £1 for 10 minutes and there may be a penalty imposed after that. Taxis may be subjected to the tariff too.



No surprise then that Ryanair supports the charge. The airline may yet introduce standing room only flights or charge you for using the bathroom facilities on the plane.

The charge is a worry for Age Concern and other airlines are against it.

Anyone who has gone to Edinburgh airport to pick someone up will know that it is already a near impossibility. The traffic wardens (quite rightly) keep the traffic moving so that there are few stationary cars at any one time. At least that is what

they are supposed to do. Of course they are a bit more lenient at some times than others. Part of the reason for this is the terrorism threat posed by cars near an airport building.

There are a few articles about the proposed charge on [The Scotsman](#) website. And some of the comments are quite amusing in themselves.

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## Al Megrahi lives

Following the controversial decision by The Scottish Government to release Abdel basset Al Megrahi, the Lockerbie bomber, on compassionate grounds, [The Scotsman](#) reports that he is expected to live for about another 20 years....

Of course in his case there is nothing that can now be done. He cannot be put back in prison.

There are calls for the full medical evidence to be released. There were allegations at the time of his release that the medical evidence was not made by a cancer specialist.

No matter what is discussed now it is a case of stable door and horse. So what do you think? Was The Scottish Government coerced by other factors into making the decision to release the convicted bomber and did they make the facts fit the circumstances?