

Four Lions

Hosted by Charlie Brooker, the interview took place at Brixton's Ritzy Picturehouse and was shown live at the Cameo and fifteen other cinemas across the UK. Members of the London audience asked questions directly, whilst those viewing from afar had the option to email from their phone or pass questions to ushers who emailed them to London. Very social media friendly!

For those who have not come across it, Four Lions is a comedy about jihadism from the controversial writer of Brass Eye and Jam. It has had mixed reviews, with some fans of Morris's visceral comedy style feeling that it was too much of a 'straight' comedy.

Asked why this was, Morris responded,

"Form creates a ceiling. The point here was not to make fun of a mechanism [eg the overly long credits to Brass Eye poked fun at over the top graphics being used by television news stations at the time] – that isn't any good, it limits what you can do."

He went on to explain that with this project he wanted to create believable characters, which is why he enlisted Peep Show writers Jesse Armstrong and Simon Bain to help write the script. He also conducted four years of research into the Muslim world.

Oddly he found that people he approached were happier to talk to him when they found out who he was.

"They seemed comforted by the idea that I would be mocking them, rather than making a very serious piece that would end up missing the point."

When asked, 'do you ever feel you've crossed the line?' he

said,

“The line is like, 100 miles thick. If you cross the line, you run out of material, that’s boring. What makes an interesting project is something that will go off in lots of different directions.”

The film does this admirably, following the five central characters through the minutiae of daily life, watching them bicker and getting glimpses into their hopes and fears. By the end it is impossible not to be completely on the side of the bombers, even though they are idiots and what they are planning to do is morally reprehensible.

The final audience question came from Anne in Edinburgh, who asked ‘what do you hope to achieve with this film?’

Morris, feeling he had already explained this pretty well via the film itself, handed this over to the cast.

Kayvan Novak (Waj, the daft one) replied “adoration,” Riz Ahmed (Omar, the leader) responded, “laughs,” and Adeel Akhtar (Fessel, the one who blows up a crow) said simply, “a date. Just to be held.”

Of Otaku and Nintendo

Less than a week after sending the Wii back to Nintendo it has been returned, with no charge required! Sadly I wasn’t able to plug it in straight away as I had taken my video cable to work as the one for the Wii there had broken.

Nonetheless I eagerly opened the parcel to find what I initially thought was a replacement console as the hinge for the cover to the controller ports was different (read:

damaged), but I noticed there was a tell-tale mark on the system that identified it as my own. I was a little saddened by the cover that would fall open now, but hey, hopefully this meant there was the possibility of some (all?) of my save games being intact. Something was troubling me though, and that was the speed of return. All that was enclosed was the letter I sent accompanying the console that explained how to repeat the fault if the console booted up, this had no indication that it had been acknowledged. I wondered if any repair work had actually been done, especially as I hadn't been contacted for payment details.

As I wouldn't be able to get my video cable back until the next day, this continued to bother me, so I decided to phone up Nintendo and see if they had any more information. The guy who answered my call assured me that all repairs will have been done unless I had specifically stated that I didn't want them to. This allayed my concern a little, but I was still not convinced, so I did what any other impatient geek would have done; I went and picked up a replacement cable!

Upon my return I plugged the Wii back in, booted it up and held my breath. It lived! However I had seen this reawakening before, hence why I included a note with how to reproduce the error. So, my next mission was to do just that. I booted up one of the games that causes the console to not want to reboot (Wii Fit Plus), hit the 'return to menu' option and...

It still crashed.

Disappointed that my concerns had not been misplaced I once again called Nintendo's helpline. This time I was told that no repair had been needed to my console (not sure why this wasn't said during my previous conversation) and what I should do is restore my system from the option screen, after all "that's probably all they would have done anyway" (again, why this hadn't been mentioned in my very first phone call I do not know).

Hanging up, I went to follow the guidance I had been given only to be thwarted at the first hurdle. A message popped up stating it was recommended that I close my Wii Shop Channel Account. So, loading up said channel I went to do just that, however the documentation implied that I would lose all the games I had purchased in doing this. Not wanting to lose all those titles, I decided against this course of action and threw in the towel. Perhaps Nintendo of Europe feel that only [otaku](#) would want a console that works, access to all their saves AND still be able to play games that have been purchased online.

For now, I quit. When I have time I'll contact Nintendo once more and find out how best to proceed, but at the moment I don't have time. At least the Wii has returned to life, until my girlfriend or I want to play Wii Fit or Raving Rabbids that is.

Nintendo, I'm disappointed. But credit where it's due, there is no sign of the Xbox 360 at work that got sent off for repair at the same time, so at least the return was speedier, and it didn't cost me anything.

UPDATE: 4 days after this the Xbox was returned, repaired at no cost and a free months pass to Xbox Live. I didn't think Microsoft had the ability to better any company, especially when it comes to customer support, but I have been proven wrong.

Edinburgh

Interactive

Festival

The Edinburgh International Film Festival is already into its second week and that can only mean one thing: festival season will soon be upon us! With this in mind let's take a sneak peek at what's in store for gamers at the 8th annual [Edinburgh Interactive Festival](#).

[Nintendo](#) have already announced their involvement for the 5th consecutive year and intend to be showing off the likes of Super Mario Galaxy 2 and Metroid: Other M. However, this was decided pre E3 so who knows what else might be on show.

[Michael Acton Smith](#) from [Mind Candy](#) will be delivering what appears to be a 'post mortem' presentation, talking about what his company learnt from creating their social online kids game Moshi Monsters; a mixture of Tamagotchi, Brain Training and Facebook.

This year the Interactive Festival will partner with the Television Festival bringing key figures from both mediums together for the first time. Hopefully this will bring out some interesting discussion, with the popularity of applications such as iPlayer and technologies like 3D beginning to hit both industries it should be a good time to bring these mediums into the same room.

Many other events are set to take place but have yet to be announced, but keynotes, demos and screenings are on the cards. The Edinburgh Interactive Festival will take place at The Filmhouse on the 26th and 27th of August, check back with us for all the announcements as they come in.

Ashtag

The week when all planes were grounded in the UK and above UK airspace was a peculiar one it must be said. The way that the matter was resolved by the government showed, in the Reporter's view, that there was commercial pressure exerted on those in charge.....

Here is the final word from NATS. It has taken them about two hours to get the wording right.....but here it is...



THIS IS A LIVE MAP OF THE UK SHOWING SOME PLANES (IN YELLOW) WHICH WERE CIRCLING AT ABOUT 35,000 FEET at 2030 on Tuesday 20 April

THEY ARE ALL BA PLANES, ALL HEADING FOR HEATHROW, WHICH WAS NOT DUE TO OPEN FOR ANOTHER 90 MINUTES.

The website is available here

So was this some kind of pincer movement by BA to force NATS to reopen the airport at Heathrow? These planes left at least 10 hours ago in some cases – one is from San Francisco for example.

The advice from NATS etc was that all UK airports (at least south of the border) were to be closed till 0100 Wednesday.

The CAA then suddenly advised that all UK airports would open at 2200 hours on Tuesday evening....but the BA planes had then been circling for about 2 hours....

What were the passengers told when they got on the planes?

The details for the plane on the left are BAW84

Callsign: BAW84
Flightnr: BA84
Reg: G-CIVT
Hex: 4006AA
Model: Boeing 747-436 (B744)
Airline: British Airways
Lat: 54.03095
Lon: -4.72178
Altitude: 34000 feet (10363 m)
Ground speed: 495 knots
(917 km/h / 570 mph)
Track: 151°
Radar: NET2
From : Vancouver, Vancouver (YVR)
To: London, Heathrow (LHR)



And – Here is the flightpath that the first plane to arrive at Heathrow – BA84 from Vancouver took...it seems that Dublin did not want them!



AFTER A NEW DIRECTION FROM CAA – NEWS FROM NATS

They said that they would issue another update on Tuesday at 2200 – by 2230 there was no such update



ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CAA

The CAA is the UK's specialist aviation regulator. Its activities include: making sure that the aviation industry meets the highest technical and operational safety standards; preventing holidaymakers from being stranded abroad or losing money because of tour operator insolvency; planning and regulating all UK airspace; and regulating airports, air traffic services and airlines and providing advice on aviation

policy from an economic standpoint.



Nintendo's Return To The 'Hardcore'

Ever since the launch of the Wii, commentators have been overly negative towards the system and the company. Critics felt that the simplification of controls and hardware that was rooted in the previous generation showed that Nintendo didn't have what it takes to be cutting edge, modern and move gaming in general and graphics in particular to the next plateau. This is an opinion that although I understand, feel is lazy and blinkered. But it is something Nintendo have been unable to shake and this has had a detrimental effect in the franchises that have been brought to the system.

This years Electronic Entertainment Expo, E3 is in full swing and Nintendo have just had their press conference, showing off their latest system; the 3DS and a slew of games. Some of the titles shown, may be seen as 'casual' if such a hideous term must be used, but many of the games announced show that Nintendo can still pull out all the stops when it comes to that equally hideous term, 'hardcore'.

Not only are there home grown titles from the company itself, such as Donkey Kong Country Returns, franchises from other developers like Metal Gear Solid, Resident Evil and Golden Eye among many others are making a return to Nintendo consoles. Nintendo themselves are adding to the list with a brand new Animal Crossing, a 3D remake of StarFox 64, a portable Paper Mario game and the long rumoured Kid Icarus. Even I must admit

that it has been a while since there has been such a varied and impressive lineup from Ninty and as the hours roll on since the announcements began things just seem to look increasingly better, with trailers online for games like The Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword and pictures hidden away of Super Street Fighter IV for the 3DS it looks like Nintendo will be calling home some fans that may have lost faith or strayed from the nest.

And I for one could not be happier.

This weekend only

Get to Gamestation for some fun....

Just a quick post to say that if you're umm-ing and ahh-ing over Super Mario Galaxy 2 and want to try it out before handing over your hard earned cash, then pop into Gamestation on Princes Street this weekend.

Upstairs Nintendo have a demo station for you to try your hand at Mario's latest adventure. That being said, if you're trying to save up for a holiday and feel you may not be able to resist the temptation, perhaps it's not the best place for you to be. But for everyone else, go try your hand at the game that looks to be, if such a thing is possible, even better than the first.

EIFF – new tickets!

Academy Award® nominated screenwriter and novelist Nick Hornby will be the subject of an In-Person onstage interview on Thursday 17 June. An award-winning author of five international best-selling books that have served as a rich stream of inspiration for filmmakers: *Fever Pitch*; *High Fidelity* and *About A Boy*, he has also written works of non-fiction and short stories. Nick adapted the screenplay to the original *FEVER PITCH* from his own memoir and was Oscar® and BAFTA nominated this year for his screenplay adaptation of Lynn Barber's memoir *An Education*. Nick will be discussing his craft and projects past, present and future at the In-Person event.

Fresh from its screening in Cannes, award-winning filmmaker Lucy Walker's hard-hitting documentary *COUNTDOWN TO ZERO*, examining the escalating global nuclear arms race, will have its UK premiere on Friday 18 June. Recently screened by Hillary Clinton to top White House staff, the film is produced by Laurence Bender (*AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH*).

The legendary musician and author Nick Cave will be joining the line-up for the previously announced *IRREGULAR* event on Thursday 24 June, in partnership with Canongate. Nick will be reading from the newly published paperback of his bestselling novel *The Death of Bunny Munro*, a brilliant, dark and provocative tale of one man's road to ruin. *IRREGULAR* will also see David Whitehouse giving a sneak preview of his debut novel *Bed*, an enchanting tale of two brothers and why one just won't get out of bed, and a screening of his award-winning short film *The Archivist* (Warp Films). *IRREGULAR* will also be the first to screen an exclusive interview with 'godfather of hip hop' Gil Scot-Heron from Ridley Scott's RSA Films. Music from Jed Milroy (*The Aliens*) will complete this stellar line up.

EIFF Artistic Director Hannah McGill said: “We’re thrilled by these late additions, all of which are very special. Nick Hornby’s event represents a great coming-together of literature and film, centred on one of Britain’s most respected and popular writers of both novels and screenplays. Lucy Walker is one of the UK’s most brilliant and ambitious filmmakers, and Countdown to Zero is incendiary work. As for Nick Cave – what can I say? He has been a hero of mine for a good half of my life, and I could not be more excited that he’s coming to Irregular.”

Tickets are available to buy from Box Office, online and by phone. IRREGULAR tickets are only available to purchase directly from the venue at www.roxyarthouse.org or in person.

IN PERSON: NICK HORNBY Thursday 17 June 13:30 Cineworld
COUNTDOWN TO ZERO Friday 18 June 17:30 Filmhouse
IRREGULAR Thursday 24 June 20:30 Roxy Art House

iPad

I’m typing this on a shiny, new iPad and despite what you might think or have heard to the contrary, it is a rather pleasing experience.

It certainly beats hauling about my rapidly disintegrating laptop and might even allow me to send e-mail unlike that old work horse. However even that will probably be best done at one of Edinburgh’s free WiFi hotspots due to my current appalling internet speed at home (I love paying for broadband and receiving poorer speeds than I did on dial-up during the 90’s), but I digress.

It seems fitting to make a review of the iPad the first thing

I type on its screen, so let's do just that.

One sentence review: it's a big iPod Touch. And I mean that in the best possible way. If you have used the Touch or an iPhone, then you're going to be right at home with this little machine. The user interface is similar, but not identical allowing for added features such as landscape and portrait orientation, even on the home screen, something I must confess to yearning for ever since picking up the first iPhone. Icons have more room to breath thanks to the larger display and make it far less likely to 'fat finger' the wrong app than on a handset. Some commentators have criticised the amount of bezel surrounding the iPad (the border around the screen) but I for one welcome it. Being a person who had to move the phone icon on my iPhone because my thumb kept hitting it, I appreciate the room this affords me in resting my hands whilst typing this very article.

Something I've been very impressed with, especially after some initial comments is how well apps that aren't specifically optimised for the iPad perform. There are some that don't translate as well as others, but most that I've tried out have worked great. Being a games blog though, let's stick with the game side of this.

If there is one genre that could really make a comeback on the iPad, it is that guilty pleasure of mine that is the interactive movie. Games such as Dragon's Lair and Space Ace look beautiful on the larger screen, and the touch controls feel better than even an old arcade stick. It even makes the largest control scheme make much more sense than it did on the smaller iDevices, feeling like a game of Simon especially in easy mode; hitting the right button as it lights up. Other laserdisc classics such as Cobra Command feel just as at home on the iPad, again the controls feeling much more responsive. However, some titles that are more reliant on tilt controls don't translate as successfully. When I loaded up the Atari classic, Adventure it was barely playable with the square you

control reacting way too sensitively to be playable.

Games that rely on pixel art look particularly nice when doubled up to be full screen on the iPad. Vay, one of the first RPGs released in the app store looks beautiful. Its pixel art looking very sharp. I would also argue that Flashback plays far better than the iPad optimised version of Prince of Persia.

Due to the aforementioned internet service provider at home, I haven't had a chance to download many iPad exclusive games, but expect some individual reviews coming in the not too distant future (ISP depending).

It has been a source of speculation since the announcement of the iPad, however I truly believe it is a valid gaming platform. There are already some great looking and playing titles out there, and some of them are playable on the smaller devices too. Does it make the iPod Touch et al. irrelevant? Not in the least. Going back to my iPhone after using the iPad makes me look at my 3G in a way I haven't since I first laid eyes on the original iPhone. The fact that so much can be done on such a small screen is astounding to me once more and with the iPhone 4 on the horizon, things are looking very bright for Apple's touch device market. However for anyone that found these smaller machines a little cluttered or too small to use easily, the iPad is certainly worth your consideration.

Success of solar water heating project

RESIDENTS of Central Edinburgh's World Heritage Site are 'getting into hot water' with the help of the ScottishPower

Energy People Trust and Lister Housing Co-operative.

The ScottishPower Energy People Trust donated £90,000 to the housing co-operative towards the cost of installing solar water heating renewable energy systems for its tenants. The funding provided Lister's low income tenants with hot water at a reduced cost, helping to alleviate them from fuel poverty.

✖ The Lister Housing Co-operative provides affordable housing for a range of vulnerable individuals who are on low incomes and suffer from fuel poverty. The housing organisation planned and implemented the renewable fuel initiative. Work on the project, which installed solar water heating to 49 households, started in February 2009 and is now fully complete allowing tenants to save on their fuel bills.

Solar panels on the roofs provide energy to heat the water and are completely hidden from street view which ensured the aesthetics of the World Heritage Site were not disturbed in any way.

The project won the Energy Action Scotland Energy Savers Award 2009 for its good work and guidance and is also establishing itself as a Best Practice guide for similar projects in the future. The best practice guide was written by project partner and Edinburgh-based sustainable development charity, Changeworks.

Ann Loughrey, ScottishPower's Head of Corporate Social Responsibility and the ScottishPower Energy People Trust's Company Secretary, said:

"ScottishPower Energy People Trust is delighted to have helped in such a worthwhile and interesting initiative. The project has helped a great deal in tackling fuel poverty by generating renewable energy to benefit those in need.

"Lister Housing Co-operative has completed an excellent job with the solar water heating panels and has shown that our

funding can be used in innovative ways – even to help install solar powered energy in hard-to-treat historic Listed Georgian tenements!”

Alistair Cant, Director of Lister Housing Cooperative, said: “We were thrilled that ScottishPower Energy People Trust donated such a substantial amount of money to our project. This funding helped us immensely and without the generosity of the Trust the project would not be started, let alone complete.

“Already we have seen a number of tenants achieving over 1000 kWh output from their solar panels. One tenant has been in to see us with a gas bill showing a reduction of 51% compared to the same period in the previous year. As she had not had her heating on much if at all in that period, she attributes the difference to the solar panels.”



Tiree to Tuscany

Beginning with Ian Fleming’s breezy watercolour Balemartin, Tiree through to Louis Rosenberg’s wonderfully detailed, sun-drenched drypoint San Gimignano, this exhibition features a wide range of twentieth century watercolours, drawings and original prints in various media in between. Approximately forty framed works are exhibited and a large number of unframed prints and drawings by British, French, American and Australian draughtsmen and printmakers.

Works depicting Venice in contrasting styles by artists including David Robertson and William Walcott are of particular interest, including a particularly fine and rare Walcott

etching entitled Palazzo Pesaro now housed in Venice's Gallery of Modern Art. An impression of Sir D. Y. Cameron's masterprint Ben Lomond recently featured in the National Galleries of Scotland's exhibition The Printmaker's Art is also shown.

Other highlights include a group of watercolours, drawings and drypoints by Sir Muirhead Bone, in particular a large drawing The Village of Guadalupe from the Royal Monastery reproduced in his publication Days in Old Spain. Sir Muirhead Bone's work was recently the subject of a major exhibition at the Fleming Collection in London coinciding with the publication of a biography by the artist's grandson Sylvester Bone. Watercolours of Spain and Venice by James Miller add colour, and a particularly strong Parisian street scene by Willie Wilson completes the journey from Tiree to Tuscany.

35 New Schools for Scotland

The first tranche of the £1.25 billion Scotland's Schools for the Future programme will see every local authority benefit. Funding will be made available for 14 secondary schools, 20 primary schools and one special school, with the Scottish Futures Trust working in partnership with the councils to deliver the new projects.

Keith Brown, Minister for Skills and Lifelong Learning, said: "Scotland's Schools for the Future represents much needed Government investment – over £300m through this first tranche – which will benefit pupils, teachers, families and communities the length and breadth of Scotland.

"We have already lifted over 110,000 pupils from schools in poor condition, reversing the trend of under-investment and neglect in Scotland's school estate. Today's announcement will

see a further 18,000 pupils and over 1,300 teachers move to fit-for-purpose, modern learning facilities that meets the needs of education in the 21st Century.

“The timescales agreed for the first tranche set out a way ahead that is affordable and realistic for both the Scottish Government and the councils, given the current economic climate. Of course, through councils own resources, they may be able to start procurement, design and – in some cases – building prior to Government funding coming on stream.

“Despite the prospect of a reduced budget from Westminster, our £1.25 billion school building programme demonstrates our overwhelming commitment to our young people and to Scotland’s communities. This investment will boost the local economy across the country, creating and maintaining employment in the years ahead.”

Barry White, Chief Executive, Scottish Futures Trust, said:

“Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) is working closely with councils to deliver Scotland’s Schools for the Future programme, which will build high quality, well designed and sustainable schools while ensuring best value for the taxpayer.

“Because of the huge scale of Scotland’s Schools for the Future programme, SFT will be able to make savings which will bring real benefits to taxpayers for many years to come.”

Building work on the first projects will commence in 2010. We would expect the first primary school to be completed in 2011, with the first secondary school completed in 2013.

The Scottish Government is funding the construction of secondary schools on a 67/33 basis with local authorities, while primary school projects are on a 50/50 basis, on like for like facilities. In total, the Scottish Government will contribute a £800 million share of the £1.25 billion provided through Scotland’s Schools for the Future.

The first tranche investment from the Scottish Government will be over £300 million – subject to inflationary increases based on when funding comes on-stream.

Musselburgh Races 5 June 2010

Derby followers can watch the action on the big screens at the East Lothian track during what is easily Musselburgh's richest race day with prize money just a whisker off £200,000.

General manager Bill Farnsworth has set his stall out by aiming to build up the feature race from its current £80,000 prize pot in to a £100,000 fixture and he hasn't been disappointed at the quality of entries for the Edinburgh Cup's first outing.



With a maximum field of 15 in the Class 2 Heritage Handicap, the top Newmarket stables are represented by John Gosden and William Haggas while Barry Hills and Mick Channon will be hoping for a share of the spoils.

Middleham's Mark Johnston is making a determined effort to keep the Edinburgh Cup in the north with the Kingsley House trainer running three of his original entry, headed by Corsica. Joe Fanning rides the top weight who completed his hat-trick with an all the way success in the listed Glasgow Stakes at Hamilton last month.

William Haggas relies on the progressive Harris Tweed, a promising runner-up to the Mark Johnston trained Green Lightning at Newmarket. But the choice is the lightly weighted Zuider Zee, a rare Musselburgh raider from the powerful John Gosden stable and the mount of Nicky Mackay. Last time out Zuider Zee was a cosy winner from Bowdler's Magic at Chester and this improving three year will be suited to Musselburgh's tight bends and quickish ground.



A quality field for the £50,000 totescop6 Scottish Sprint Cup sees the recent York winner Hamish McGonagall attempt to concede weight to the inform pair of Striking Spirit and Sea Of Leaves. The Dandy Nicholls trained Striking Spirit is the best drawn of the trio and his sound fourth to Rileyskeepingfaith at Newbury suggests that he will be hard to beat over this sharp five furlongs.

Channel 4 cover the first four races and the probable Royal Ascot contender Excel Bolt should be the star of the 2.35, the totepool Edinburgh Castle Conditions Stakes. An impressive winner over the course on his racecourse debut, the Bryan Smart trained juvenile has the Norfolk Stakes as his target at the Royal Meeting and as his name would suggest the son of Exceed And Excel is blessed with more than his fair share of explosive speed.

Gates open at Musselburgh at 11.30am and first race is at 2.05pm. For more information visit www.musselburgh-racecourse.co.uk

EIFF programme announced

Here are the numbers:- This is the 64th festival, there will be 22 premieres and 134 features from 34 countries between the 16th and 27th June.

Come back later today for a copy of the programme here....

Until the traffic on the Edinburgh Film Festival website dies down however it is impossible to get the online brochure! But when everyone else is asleep you can have a look [here](#)

Dogs on the Lash....

Do you ever wish you could find a doggy friendly website with all the best places to take your four legged friend in Edinburgh?

Look no further than the excellent www.dugsnpubs.com.

The site features reviews of some of the best walks, pubs and restaurants around the capital for your pooch.

It is easy to navigate, encourages comments and opinions from members of the public, and is helpful if you want to see if your favourite boozer welcomes dogs.

Dugs n Pubs is interspersed with gorgeous pictures of website creator Rhian Matthews' adorable little Lhasa Apsos, Bailie.

Rhian said: "It was like a baptism of fire getting a puppy and I looked everywhere for information, mostly from fellow dog owners.

"I soon realised that dog owners/lovers have a little community of their own.

"While the dogs have a sniff of each other us owners have a bit of a chat about this and that.

"Dog friendly activities and places often crops up in our little chats, where you can go with them, nice walks, how to get them to stop stealing your socks, that sort of thing.

"I just thought it would be useful if we all had somewhere that we could share these tidbits of information, and so the website was born.

"Bailie is a bit of a show-off too and loves having his picture taken!

This site is also worth a look for humans too.

Edinburgh Rat Run 16 July 2010

Runners of all fitness levels and abilities are invited to don their own office uniforms or fantasy work clothes ('what you want to be when you grow up'); from doctors and nurses; astronauts and jockeys to vicars, firemen and deep sea divers, for a bit of light running, jogging or walking from West Princes Street Gardens to the Castle Esplanade and back, taking in some of Edinburgh's most famous landmarks en route.

Those still bursting with energy after the fun and frolics of the latest 'team building works outing' can join in the mischief of a massive office party in the Rat Race Adventure Village at the Ross Bandstand, West Princes Street Gardens, with music and a live MC, food and drinks a plenty late in to the night.

Jim Mee of organisers Rat Race Events, said: 'With the stunning backdrop of Edinburgh Castle and the great hard working folk of Edinburgh I am confident that our new Edinburgh Rat Run, a winning formula of fresh air, exercise and office fancy dress, will create a party, full of camaraderie and bite, to launch the 2010 Rat Race weekend in style. What could be more appealing than a bit of a run and a few ice cold beers with friends and work mates on a Friday night after a hard weeks graft?'

Entry to the Edinburgh Rat Run is only £10 in advance (£15 on the day) and includes entry to the Edinburgh Rat Run and Office Party and a complimentary half pint from the event bar courtesy of Edinburgh's Local Independent brewery – Stewart Brewing.

So conference call your mates now and get that diary date synchronized!

Now confirmed as taking place on the weekend of the 17 and 18 of July 2010 the Rat Race Urban Adventure Series returns to its spiritual home for two days of tackling the capital head on with a combination of brawn, brains and gutsy determination. Teams of two and three of all abilities will hike, bike, abseil, climb, kayak and navigate their way around the streets, structures, waterways and the urban landscapes of Edinburgh over one or two days; combined with surreal sporting tests and obstacles.

Taking adventure sports out of the wilderness and putting them onto the streets of the world's coolest cities, the Rat Race Urban Adventure Series is a totally unique adventure challenge in which athletes take part in a multi-sport test of endurance, skills and guts on a course that is revealed only hours before the event begins.

For more information and to sign up for the first Edinburgh Rat Run – <http://www.ratraceadventure.com/ratrun/>

To learn more about the Edinburgh Rat Race 2010 go to: www.ratraceadventure.com

New Trophy!

The totesport Edinburgh Cup, which is run for the first time on Saturday (June 5) will net the winner £50,000 and a unique commemorative trophy.

Glass artist Craig Colquhoun has carved out a reputation for the eye-catching quality of his work with other major pieces,

including a replica of the Dubai Meydan racetrack which is now a permanent exhibit in the Royal Enclosure at the UAE course and the Kentucky Derby racetrack at Churchill Downs.

The Edinburgh Cup will incorporate a 15" crystal cup, enhanced with two sculpted horses running up the side of the cup and an etching of Edinburgh Castle.

Musselburgh Racecourse general manager, Bill Farnsworth, said: "This race day is the richest in Musselburgh's history and it was appropriate that we marked the launch of the Edinburgh Cup with a trophy which matches our ambitions to build this in to a £100,000 race.

"Craig's work is truly unique and we are sure that he will deliver something special which any winner would be proud to accept."

Craig Colquhoun, who trades under The House of C brand, added: "I am delighted to be working with one of Scotland's leading racecourses and can promise Musselburgh and the first winner of the Edinburgh Cup won't be disappointed."

The Edinburgh Cup meeting on Saturday (June 5 2010) has attracted entries from some of the UK's leading stables and with a total £200,000 in prize money on offer a large weekend gate is expected.

Bike Week Edinburgh 19-27 June 2010

The annual Spokes breakfast is on June 23rd from 8-10 outside the City Chambers on the High Street. Bacon rolls, scrambled

egg rolls, stalls and speeches are promised.

✖ This is all part of Bike Week which runs from 19th to 27th June 2010.

On the first day of Bike Week you can ride from Edinburgh to St Andrews to raise money for LEPRRA. You can download the application form [here](#). The cycle ride starts from Inverleith Park at 8.45am and buses will bring you and your bikes back.

Details of other organised bike rides can be found [here](#). It is amazing how many people like to cycle very long distances of an evening! There are also many competitive rides – for example the Bethany Sportive takes place on 5th June over 111 miles. You can get more details [here](#).

One of the other initiatives for Bike Week is to encourage people to make films about bikes... It can be about anything to do with bikes – from how to fix a puncture upwards.... There are prizes! More details [here](#).

Keeping your bike safe

The police in Lothian and Borders have launched a campaign to help you keep your bike safe.

They are offering [bikeregister](#) products to mark your bike and ensure you would know it is definitely yours if you are unlucky enough to have it stolen.

The police will mark the bike for you and will give you a discount on normal prices.

More details on the [Spokes](#) website of the times and locations of events where you can have your bike attended to, including

The Meadows Festival this weekend.

The Archery World Cup Final

You can find it at <http://www.archeryedinburgh.co.uk>

The Archery World Cup Final website is the event hub for both archery enthusiasts and local spectators offering a wide variety of information on the World Cup Final, competitive archery, UK and International archers, general news, seat reservations and Edinburgh tourist information.

The Archery World Cup Final, the biggest, most important archery competition ever to be staged in the UK, is the culmination of four World Cup qualifying events in the two disciplines of Compound and Recurve bows. It brings the skill and tension of knockout archery (two competitors going head to head) into the very heart of Scotland's capital city for two days of thrilling competition.

Edinburgh residents, visitors to the city and archery enthusiasts will have the perfect opportunity to watch the best thirty-two archers in the world showcasing their incredible skills of control, calmness, technique and concentration under pressure for the biggest prize money in the sport.

The event will be located in East Princes Street Gardens under The Scott Monument and is free for spectators. However seats in the Grandstand, offering the best views of the competition field, will be subject to availability. They can be reserved now through the website and cost £5.00 plus booking fee per seat.

Link

<http://www.archeryedinburgh.co.uk/the-event/reserving-seats>.

The 2010 Archery World Cup Final will not only be a fantastic demonstration of the sport in the UK, it will also showcase the city of Edinburgh and Scotland as the perfect destination for the world's biggest and best sporting events. It follows the World Duathlon Championships to be held in early September.

At the event there will also be a series of 'have a go' sessions organised by Scottish Archery. So for any budding Robin and Marions get yourself down to East Princes Street Gardens in September.

Partners of the Archery World Cup Final 2010 in Edinburgh include City of Edinburgh Council, EventScotland, UK Sport, Archery GB and The Scottish Archery Association.

World Potato Congress 2012 to be held in Edinburgh

At least 600 potato specialists from around the world will attend the event 417 years after Sir Walter Raleigh, the Elizabethan explorer, introduced the vegetable to England. Since then potato harvesting has grown into a major global industry with more than 325 million tonnes a year being produced. The three day World Potato Congress will be staged at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC) in June 2012 and is one of twenty new events won for the city with the assistance of the Edinburgh Convention Bureau. These events which were confirmed between 20 April and 19 May will be attended by up to 4,557 delegates in total and will inject an anticipated 6.4 million pounds Sterling into the Edinburgh economy. The largest of the news events is the conference of

the National Association of Pension Funds with 800 delegates and an economic value of 1.1 million pounds Sterling. The venue for the three day meeting in March 2011 is the EICC. Sue Stuart, Chief Executive of ECB, commented: "When you realise the contribution the potato makes to the diet of people around the world it's not so humble after all. We will be delighted to welcome the delegates and let them sample some of Scotland's best potato produce." She added: "It is important to see the return of the National Association of Pension Funds conference as it recognises the continued importance of Edinburgh as a financial centre particularly in these difficult economic times."

Gliterary Lunches

There may still be some tickets left if you hurry.

What is a Gliterary Lunch? It is a good lunch with authors, books and friends.

You can learn more at www.gliterarylunches.com

The Third Policeman at The Traverse 3-5 June 2010

Ireland's only full-time ensemble theatre company, Blue Raincoat, bring their acclaimed production of the Flann O'Brien classic novel The Third Policeman to Scotland in June.

First published over 40 years ago, *The Third Policeman* is a classic modern novel from one of the major figures of 20th century Irish literature. Set in an archetypal Irish village the book contains characters that range from a disembodied soul named Joe, village policemen with a machine for storing light until it is needed, a murderous rake called Finnucanne, a one legged gallows maker, walking corpses and the trickiest man in all of Ireland ... oh, and bicycles ... lots and lots of bicycles. The novel further abounds with the theories of De Selby, an eccentric philosopher who believes that the world is not round but shaped like a sausage and who's footnotes invade the book to a point where there's almost no room left on the page for the original story, or indeed for its purported author ... a man guilty of the vicious murder of an elderly neighbor who must wander the hideously surreal and darkly paradoxical realms of the afterlife as a consequence.

Adapted for the stage by Jocelyn Clarke *The Third Policeman* is a murder mystery, an hilarious comedy, a fable of eternal grief and – most importantly – the story of romantic love between one man and his bicycle.

Directed by Niall Henry with design by Jamie Vartan. Blue Raincoat Theatre Company ensemble cast is comprised of John Carty, Fiona McGeown, Sandra O'Malley, Kellie Hughes and Ciaran McCauley. Sound and multi-media design is by Joe Hunt with lighting design by Michael Cummins.

Walk for Water

The Soila Maasai Girls Rescue Centre situated in Kenya's Rift Valley, provides support and education to 100 Maasai girls between the ages of 8 to 16 years old. With the co-operation of

the local Chiefs, the Centre provides them with an alternative childhood, free from arranged marriages and female mutilation.

But the cost of providing water for the Centre has soared because of the prolonged drought in Kenya and so Walk for Water has been organised on Sunday 1st August 2010.

The challenge is to climb Glas Tualachan one of Scotland's 283 Munros, which is 1051m high and raise a minimum of £21 – the cost of water for one girl for half a year. Owners of the Dalmunzie Estate where the Munro is situated, Alex and Simon Winton, have kindly given their permission and help for the organised trek.

The aim is to raise enough money to provide water for all the girls and staff for the next 12 months, with any additional donations going towards finding a long-term solution for the provision of water at the Centre.

The options are;

To walk $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles to Glenlochsie Lodge via the old railway line, on the relative flat, and then return.

To climb to the summit via Glenlochsie Lodge (as marked on the map), $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

To race to the top, via Glenlochsie Lodge, the winner will receive a bottle of Famous Grouse kindly donated by the company.

The race will start at 11:30; you will need to carry a waterproof jacket and trousers in a bum bag. Please make sure you arrive by 11am with a bag of warm clothes that will be taken by vehicle to the top for your arrival.

The entry fees are £21 per adult and £10 per child, this being the minimum amount required. If possible everyone should try to raise £42 to cover the cost of water for each girl for a year.

There is parking available, 200 metres past the Dalmunzie

Hotel on the left – follow signs. For anyone coming from Perth, a free coach will leave Broxden Park and Ride at 08.30 returning at 16.30. There are only 50 places available on the bus and booking is required. The walk will start at 10.30am, so please arrive by 10.00am in time to register.

The walk will be lead by a competent mountaineer and a doctor will be present. Please bring walking boots or sturdy shoes plus waterproofs and warm clothing as it can be very cold, even in summer at the top of a mountain. Those climbing Glas Tualaichean are advised to carry plenty of water, a flask with a warm drink and a picnic. Dogs are welcome provided they are kept under control or on leads, please note, dogs will not be allowed on the bus. All participants will receive a certificate signed by Ann Gloag, handed out on finishing.

Great support has been offered for the event and the sponsors include Highland Spring who are providing the bottled water, Famous Grouse for the winner's whisky and Bookers cash and carry for the children's sweets. Stratstone Garage and Mr Douglas Parks are also providing support.

The Dalmunzie Hotel, owned by Mr and Mrs Scott Poole, has very kindly agreed to donate ten per cent of takings for anyone staying at the Hotel or buying refreshments. They will be serving Afternoon Tea with sandwiches and cakes at the hotel on the day at a cost of £5.50 per head, booking advised.

This should be a fun and challenging day for all. Application forms from [Judy Thomson](#)

The Ghost...again

It is worth seeing – even if it is only to ogle Pierce and Ewan! The fact that Roman Polanski edited this film on a laptop in prison is secondary but an important piece of the film story.

Details of the showings on 4 June can be found [here](#).

Out of the Blue Drill Hall

They have an open weekend on 28th and 29th May to showcase the work of resident artists. The venue has just undergone a major renovation and has a new look.

As well as studios, music practice room, creative events and workshops....there is a cafe!.

The Guardian Local have a slideshow of the launch on Thursday evening which you can watch [here](#).

Have you been there? What did you think of the new surroundings?

The City Car Club

If you are looking for other ways to be environmentally friendly then in Edinburgh you are inundated with choice. It is possible to walk most places, we have a very good bus

service, and if you do not own a car then you can always 'borrow' one...from the City Car Club



You register on line and get a card which allows you to unlock the car when you then book it online.

You can therefore book 24 hours a day 7 days a week. You pick up the car from several locations around the city and return it to one of those as well. According to the City Car Club website it is as cheap as under £5 per hour...

Edinburgh company short-listed for Observer ethical awards

Edinburgh renewable energy company [Aquamarine Power Limited](#) has been short-listed for the 2010 Observer Ethical Awards, organised by The Observer and Ecover.


The awards seek to recognise those who are busy thinking up practical solutions to ethical issues. The awards do not target environmental or energy issues alone, but have a wide scope for recognition of work in all significant areas where an issue of some importance is at stake. The awards themselves are viewed as a high accolade.

Previous winners include David Attenborough. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall is short-listed as campaigner of the year for his work with landshare.net where he marries up people seeking to grown food with those who have land to share, as is Joanna Lumley who campaigned successfully for Gurkha justice.

Aquamarine Power which has its head office in Edinburgh is the owner and developer of the Oyster device which seeks to generate electricity from wave power. Its first-generation Oyster device is already installed at the Emec centre in Orkney. It is a near-shore device which creates zero-emission electricity. You can see it in operation on Youtube.

Marchmont & Sciennes Gardening Awards

If you live in the Marchmont area then you can win a gardening award for your green-fingered efforts.

 The Community Council is reintroducing the prizes for best front gardens, hanging baskets and containers, wildlife friendly gardens and new gardens.

So if you are already in full swing then so long as your garden is visible from the street when the judges stage their walkabout in July you may be in with a chance!

There are more details on their website which you can access [here](#).

THE GENERAL ELECTION 2010

Here is a list of the candidates for each of the main parties in all constituencies in Edinburgh, with a note of which candidate won the seat when the result was announced.

For a list of all candidates including minority parties you may click [here](#)

Edinburgh North & Leith – MARK LAZAROWICZ WON THE SEAT FOR THE SCOTTISH LABOUR PARTY WITH A MAJORITY OF 1724

Kevin Lang is the LibDem Candidate
Mark Lazarowicz is the Labour Candidate.
Iain McGill is the Conservative candidate.
Calum Cashley is the SNP candidate

Edinburgh South – IAN MURRAY WON THE SEAT FOR THE SCOTTISH LABOUR PARTY WITH A MAJORITY OF 316

Fred Mackintosh is standing for the LibDems.
Ian Murray is standing for the Labour party.
Neil Hudson is standing for the Conservative party.
Sandy Howat is the SNP candidate

Edinburgh East – SHEILA GILMORE WON THE SEAT FOR THE SCOTTISH LABOUR PARTY WITH A MAJORITY OF 9181

Beverley Hope is the LibDem candidate.
Sheila Gilmore is contesting the seat for Labour.
Martin Donald is the Conservative candidate.
George Kerevan is standing for SNP

Edinburgh West – MIKE CROCKART WON THE SEAT FOR THE SCOTTISH LIBERAL DEMOCRATS WITH A MAJORITY OF 3803

Mike Crockart is the LibDem candidate
Cameron Day is the Labour candidate
Stewart Geddes is the candidate for the Conservative party.
Sheena Cleland is standing for the SNP party

Edinburgh South West – ALISTAIR DARLING WON THE SEAT FOR THE SCOTTISH LABOUR PARTY WITH A MAJORITY OF 8447

Tim McKay is the LibDem candidate although it is reported in The Scotsman that he has gone to Australia on a holiday during

the campaign period.

Alastair Darling is the Labour candidate and the current Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Jason Rust is standing for the Conservative party.

Kaukab Stewart is the SNP candidate

Midlothian – DAVID HAMILTON HAS RETAINED THE SEAT FOR SCOTTISH LABOUR PARTY WITH 47.01% OF THE TOTAL VOTE

Ross Laird is the LibDem candidate.

David Hamilton is the Labour candidate.

James Callander is the Conservative candidate.

Colin Beattie is the SNP candidate

COMMUNITY COUNCILS

These bodies made up of volunteers from all walks of life seek to influence any decisions made in relation to their particular geographical area.

They are formally constituted and are funded by The City of Edinburgh Council. There are 41 in the city area and they all meet regularly. There are details of some of the next meetings on our Events page. The newest will be in the Wester Hailes and Juniper Green areas. You can read more on the leaflet produced by The City of Edinburgh Council.

Neighbourhood Partnerships are a bit different! And we will be telling you all the stories we can find out about these very soon!