

# Moredun Library

By Ali George

The scheme is being piloted in the Liberton/Gilmerton area of Edinburgh with a view to expanding it across the city. The City Council's Library Service is working together with the Children and Families Department to provide free information and advice for parents and carers of children aged 0-16, on topics such as diet, dyslexia, dealing with challenging behaviour and finding out about the nearest local family-friendly events.

Project coordinator Pat Southall was keen to stress that the scheme is aimed at supporting families in every way.

"This includes providing information on a range of areas, like local mother and toddler groups and books on everything from having a baby to dealing with difficult teenagers."

"But we also want to let people know there is outreach work going on too – they can get one to one support in their home if they need it. Being a parent can be tough, but there is help available and it can be discreet as well as being free."

Moredun Library is equipped with a manned information point including a PC with internet access, whilst nearby Gilmerton Library has a large number of new books and information relating to the project.

Several local groups who work with families attended the launch. These included The South Edinburgh Healthy Living Initiative, who provided fresh fruit which was then made into smoothies by teenage library users; Gracemount Leisure Centre who tested people's football skills with a mini set of goals; and the Community Health Partnership who breathalysed everyone in sight to find out whether they smoked or not.

Currently the project is focused on Liberton and Gilmerton, but staff are optimistic that other areas will be targeted soon. In the meantime parents and carers from other areas of the city are advised to contact their local nursery, school or

GP for support and advice.

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# Stevenson College

The celebrations were officially launched on 28th January when Robin Harper MSP gave a historical perspective of Robert Stevenson, the famous civil engineer, after whom the College is named. Among the events planned throughout the year is a fashion show with music and fashions from the 70's, 80's 90's and 00's, Stevenson's Got Talent for students with an earlier version of the talent show in the form of Opportunity Knocks featuring staff, a Global Week and events showing how sports and fitness has changed over the years.

Principal at Stevenson College Edinburgh, Brian Lister OBE, said:-“The College has come a long way since 1970. Then, we had three thousand students and today Stevenson is one of the largest further education Colleges in Scotland with over 18,000 students from a range of backgrounds, studying across a wide variety of subject areas.

“We are also very proud of the international dimension at Stevenson with over 1,000 EU and international students enrolling at the College every year, so we are keen to reflect the cultural diversity of the College as part of our celebrations. We also plan to showcase the work of our current students and reflect on our successes with former students and staff who we hope will join in our 40th anniversary events.”

David Dick OBE was the first Principal of Stevenson College Edinburgh and served from 1969 until his retirement in 1987. Mr Dick (80) was awarded a Fellowship of the College at Stevenson's Graduation Ceremony in November 2009 for his exceptional and outstanding service. Mr Dick said:-“There have

been many changes since the College opened in 1970. In my day there were very few women students and teachers with the exception of the health department. Today, many women are in senior management positions and female students study across a wide range of courses.

“To allow a wider range of people to study we were the first to introduce block study and distance learning. We were also the first college to have a computer and I recall sending one member of staff to train and show the rest of us how it worked. Today, even pre-school children know how to operate them and every desk has a PC.

“Education has improved for the better over the past 40 years and I hope it continues to adapt and improve for the benefit of future generations.”

Stevenson is interested to hear from any former students or staff who would like to join in on the 40th celebrations. Please contact Tammy McAllister or Joe West on 0131 535 4600 or by e-mail at [40years@stevenson.ac.uk](mailto:40years@stevenson.ac.uk)

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## **Scottish Power Reading Challenge**

To stand a chance of winning an exclusive visit by a popular children's author, all you need to do is register for the ScottishPower Story Swap Shop before the deadline of Friday May 14th.

Already schools across the country have signed up to take part in the initiative which encourages youngsters to recycle books with their friends.

This is the second year that ScottishPower has organised the joint venture with the Edinburgh International Book Festival and Friends of the Earth Scotland.

ScottishPower Group Sponsorships Manager, Heather McDonald said:

“Last year’s winners the Community School of Auchterarder really enjoyed taking part in this initiative. It’s a fun way for youngsters to swap their old books with their classmates and raise money for environmental projects at the same time.

“The pupils and their teachers had a great time taking part in the swap shop and also loved their visit from author Andy Stanton – it’s really a fantastic prize to have an author of someone like Andy’s calibre come and spend so much time with young fans.

“Taking part in the Swap Shop will give other young readers a chance to experience an opportunity like that and we really hope they don’t miss their chance.”

All schools have to do to take part in the competition is to hold a book swap before the end of summer term with pupils donating 50p for every book they want to swap.

The money raised will go to Friends of the Earth Scotland, which works to promote energy saving and waste reduction.

Every school which enters the ScottishPower Story Swap Shop will stand a chance of winning a visit from an author who will be part of the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

To register to take part in the book swap shop please contact Eva Swanson at The BIG Partnership on 0141 333 9585 / 07876021367 [eva.swanson@bigpartnership.co.uk](mailto:eva.swanson@bigpartnership.co.uk). Schools should register their interest before May 14th.

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# FIRST® LEGO® League



Through the 2010 Body Forward Challenge, 9 to 16 year olds will explore the cutting-edge world of Biomedical Engineering to discover innovative ways to repair injuries, overcome genetic predispositions, and maximise the body's potential, with the intended purpose of leading happier and healthier lives.

Registration for the 2010 challenge opens on 26th April 2010 on the First Hand Technology website [www.firsthandtechnology.org.uk](http://www.firsthandtechnology.org.uk).

It will be held in Edinburgh in December 2010 in the Informatics Forum at The University of Edinburgh. Register your school for the tournament by emailing [schools@inf.ed.ac.uk](mailto:schools@inf.ed.ac.uk) or visit the website to find out more.

FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL) is an exciting and innovative STEM Challenge for teams of young people, created by the FIRST® foundation (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) and the community arm of the LEGO® Company. At least 15,000 teams in over 50 countries around the world are expected to participate in the 2010 Body Forward challenge.

FLL is operated in the UK and Ireland by the not for profit company First Hand Technology whose aim is to encourage interest and STEM subjects through practical projects related to real world issues.

How does the challenge work?

Participating teams in the UK and Ireland have 8-10 weeks from the launch in September to prepare for one of the regional

final events. Teams comprise of up to ten children, aged between 9 and 16 years. Teams will:

Programme a robot to complete tasks using LEGO® MINDSTORMS® technology.

Research and prepare a presentation on the year's theme.

The challenge encourages a cross curricular approach using Programming and Control, Design and Technology, Maths, Web Research, PowerPoint, Strategic Thinking and Teamwork to achieve the aims of the challenge.

Winners of Regional tournaments will go through to the UK and Ireland FLL National Final where they compete for a place at the World Festival in St Louis, USA.

What happens on tournament day?

During the course of the tournament day teams will participate in the Robot Performance Challenge, present a Research Project, and be judged on the quality of their Robot Design and Teamwork.

The Champion's Award is given to the team with the highest overall score from each of the four equally weighted sections, each of which has an individual award winner.

Robot Performance – awarded to the winner of the robot challenge. For the robot performance itself there are three attempts to have a go on the robot challenge table, each lasting  $2\frac{1}{2}$  minutes. There are a number of different challenges on the table, ranging from low scoring easier ones to high scoring but more difficult ones.

Research Project – awarded to the team whose Research Presentation demonstrates an in-depth understanding of the issues involved. Presentations are limited to five minutes followed by a five minute question and answer with the judges. Teams can be as creative as they wish in their delivery method, some examples of which are song and dance, video and

news reports.

Robot Design – awarded to the team that demonstrates innovative robot design and programming. This technical judging usually takes place through a ten minute question and answer on the robot, how it was put together and how the programme works.

Teamwork – awarded to the team that demonstrates partnership with team members and respect for fellow teams. Judging may be completed through a question and answer session, observations throughout the day, or even a specific teamwork task.

For more information please visit the First Hand Technology website [www.firsthandtechnology.org.uk](http://www.firsthandtechnology.org.uk)

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# The Rebus Hidden Tour

by Ali George

Do not trust (unlike The Edinburgh Reporter) that 12:02 is time enough when a 12 noon start has been stipulated on the website, because it isn't. The Detective Inspector has already downed his pint with a whisky chaser and strode off –

‘down Infirmary Street and left,’

if the somewhat wobbly folk musician is to be believed (there's a folk festival on in The Royal Oak this weekend and the bar is being propped up by some very affable but rather inebriated chaps in matching t-shirts).

Running down the road after the tour,

– ‘you're looking for a big guy in a blue t-shirt. And there's

a load of people with him.' –

as The Reporter and another tardy couple did, WILL NOT HELP.

Down to the left in the Cowgate I can see nothing, not even tumbleweed. Did he mean round to the left a bit but then straight on to the Pleasance? Maybe, but there's nobody there either.



The walking tour has vanished. Rebus's Hidden Edinburgh is, if anything, too well hidden.

The tour is running again as part of The Edinburgh Science Festival on Saturday 17th at 12, starting at the Royal Oak Pub. Tickets are £10.

(Be prompt...)

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## Pedal It Pink!

This spring Breast Cancer Campaign's exclusive women-only cycle ride, Pedal it Pink, is coming to Edinburgh! On Sunday 16 May, Holyrood Park will host the event, which hopes to attract hundreds of ladies from across Scotland.

Pedal it Pink, sponsored by Santander, has three cycle routes for you to choose from: a full marathon (26.2miles), half marathon (13.1miles) or the family 5k lap, which is open to men and children. All routes are completely enclosed in the park, so it's safe, traffic-free and suitable for both beginners and experienced cyclists.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in Scottish women,



accounting for nearly a third of all cancers diagnosed. Every year over 4,000 Scottish women, 350 in Edinburgh alone, are diagnosed along with 20 Scottish men.

With the help of Breast Cancer Campaign, and events such as Pedal it Pink, funding vital research into treatments and a cure, survival rates have improved significantly over the last 20 years. In the early eighties five-year survival rates of women diagnosed in Scotland was around 64 per cent, however this figure has now increased to 84 per cent.

Originally from Edinburgh, Catriona Wright, Events Manager at Breast Cancer Campaign, said, "We're so pleased to launch Pedal it Pink in Scotland and my home town. We hope that lots of women in the city and beyond will take up this unique challenge and contribute to a great cause. Pedal it Pinks are now taking place all over the UK and so far we have raised over £100,000 to help fund vital research into breast cancer. So come on ladies, dig out your bike, find your pinkest outfit and take part in this fun cycling adventure while raising money for charity."

Entries for the first Scottish Pedal it Pink are now open on the website [www.breastcancercampaign.org](http://www.breastcancercampaign.org). Entry to the full marathon is £15, half marathon £10, and the family 5k lap just £5.

To join the pink revolution, visit [www.breastcancercampaign.org](http://www.breastcancercampaign.org), email [pedalitpink@breastcancercampaign.org](mailto:pedalitpink@breastcancercampaign.org) or call 020 7749 3700.

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# Show Scotland 30 April – 3 May

✖ The fifth annual Show Scotland will host a range of exciting, colourful and dramatic events over the May Day weekend offering something for all ages to enjoy.

Over forty venues are involved in this year's Show Scotland, with events taking place from Friday 30 April to Monday 3 May, from Orkney to Dumfries. Many of the events are free, taking place within museums and galleries across Scotland, and offer a chance to explore and celebrate some of the country's most important, engaging and exciting visitor attractions.

Highlights from this year's Show Scotland programme include stepping back in time with writer Fiona J Houston at Lauriston Castle as she transports visitors back to the 18th century; getting into the world of gardening with experts from Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum; an exclusive chance to view some of Vetriciano's latest paintings at Kirkcaldy Museum & Art Gallery; and a theatrical exploration of Burns and the women in his life at Robert Burns Birthplace Cottage.

Joanne Orr, Chief Executive of Museums Galleries Scotland, said: "Scotland's museums and galleries really know how to put on a show! Show Scotland has provided a fun programme of days out since 2006 and we are looking forward to our fifth event being even bigger and better! It is the perfect way to get out and about and enjoy something special over the May Day weekend.

"Museums Galleries Scotland represents over 350 museums and galleries all over the country and this is a chance for locals and tourists alike to enjoy the fantastic, great-value, year-round attractions on their doorstep and dig in deep to a bit of Scotland's culture – all with a little something extra."

Philip Riddle, VisitScotland Chief Executive, adds: "Scotland's museums and galleries are a vital part of the tourism industry, contributing more than 25.3 million visitors

per year and £800 million to the economy. Show Scotland is a great opportunity for people to embrace and explore the range of Scottish cultural attractions while having a great day out with family and friends.”

Show Scotland events run from Friday 30 April to Monday 3 May. Many events are FREE.

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## J M Barrie Exhibition

The exhibition, which will run throughout the month of May, features an impressive collection of items, including letters, first-edition books, plays and theatre programmes that help chart the amazing life and career of one of Scotland’s favourite literary sons.

Amongst the treasure trove of J M Barrie gems to be showcased is a rare booklet of one of his earliest short plays, ‘Caught napping’ (1883), penned whilst Barrie worked as a journalist, with only three copies recorded in publicly accessible collections; and also his first ever book, ‘Better dead’, which he published at his own expense in 1887, losing £25 in the process.

Items relating to his most famous creation, ‘Peter Pan’, include the first American edition of the novel ‘Peter and Wendy’ (1911), which later became ‘Peter Pan’ and a letter from Barrie to the play’s costume and set designer, William Nicholson, following the opening of the play in 1904 where he reports: ‘It is a huge success – biggest bookings they’ve ever known.’

The exhibition will also provide a fantastic insight into Peter Pan’s early admirers with some charming audience feedback in the form of letters from young fans, some declaring how often they had seen the play, others requesting autographs and even an offer of marriage to the fictional

Wendy from a 6-year-old boy.

Stephanie Breen, curator of the J M Barrie exhibition, said: 'It is wonderful to be able to celebrate J M Barrie's 150th anniversary by creating this special exhibition at the National Library of Scotland. The display will enable people to catch a real glimpse of the life and times of the man behind Peter Pan, seeing first-hand personally penned items alongside eye-catching literary rarities.

'The stories behind some of these items are fascinating too, such as the fact that "Caught napping" was drafted in an attempt to impress an actress, and for his first ever book, "Better dead", he enlisted the help of an old school friend to design the front cover.

'We hope that people, both young and old, will visit this enlightening exhibition throughout the month of May and won't miss out on the opportunity to get up close to a man who did indeed grow up but will never be forgotten.'

J M Barrie's memoir of his mother, an early edition of his book 'My Lady Nicotine' and two privately printed booklets for the amateur cricket club Allahakbarries, which Barrie founded in order to indulge his love of the game, will also form part of the display.

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## **Royal Society of Edinburgh 14 July 2010**

14 July 2010 at The Royal Society of Edinburgh, George Street at 6.00pm

Speakers will be :-

Professor Heinz Wanner, University of Bern

Professor John Haslett, Trinity College, Dublin

Professor Gabriele Hegerl, Chair of Climate System Science, School of GeoSciences, University of Edinburgh

Climate has changed substantially since the last Ice Age. Heinz Wanner will present the changes that have been deduced, and how these changes can be inferred from natural archives of past climate change. This indirect evidence records climate changes and other influences, and hence estimates of past climate change are uncertain. John Haslett will explain how this uncertainty can be explored and quantified. Each speaker will talk for 20 minutes, followed by a panel discussion, including Gabriele Hegerl, and audience questions.

Further details from [The Royal Society of Edinburgh](#)

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## China's Environment

China, with 1.33 billion people, is about the same size as Europe, with 738 million people, but has a much higher rate of economic growth, about 10% per year for the past 15 years. China's per capita GDP is about £4,000, Europe's about £17,000, but the gap is closing rapidly. Environmental damage in China is estimated at about 8–13% per year, about equal to economic growth. Strenuous efforts are being made to curtail this damage, which increasing levels of consumption are driving, but it is a very difficult job. International cooperation can help greatly, and avert the extinction of a large proportion of China's biota, which represents 8–9% of the world's total, over the coming decades. The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is linked with the Missouri Botanical Garden in producing a 50-volume revision of The Flora of China that will be completed within three years. It will constitute an improved basis for conserving the plants of China.

The lecture will take place on 12 MAY 2010 AT 6.00PM at The Royal Society of Edinburgh George Street Edinburgh. It is free and open to all although you need to reserve a place.

Further details from [The Royal Society of Edinburgh](#)

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## Tigerfest 2010

And this year's mini festival, which runs for three weeks, features indie legend Martin Stephenson and TV21 headlining in Edinburgh. Tigerfest 2010 also has gigs in Aberdeen and Dunfermline, with many established names appearing alongside local bands. This year the capital is hosting a total of seven shows and 20 acts who will be performing during the first two weeks of May.

Top of the bill is indie legend Martin Stephenson, who will be performing on May 14 at the Wee Red Bar with Alex Cornish and Riley Briggs of Aberfeldy, and fans of reformed '80s band TV21 can catch them in Cabaret Voltaire on May 11.

Scotland-based post punk pioneers TV21 have just released their second album – 28 years since their first LP. Critics believe 'Forever 22' was worth the wait.

Some of the best new talent playing at the festival include There Will Be Fireworks, Jesus H Foxx, X-Lion Tamer, The Gothenburg Address and Chris Bradley. Further afield, former Arab Strap man Malcolm Middleton is taking time out from recording and writing to play in Dunfermline, while King Creosote will also be taking to the stage in Fife.

In Aberdeen, a special one-off gig sees The Unwinding Hours perform, supported by Katerwaul. Tigerfest has run since 2004

as a regular independent festival of new music.

Bands such as Idlewild, King Creosote, Emma Pollock, Malcolm Middleton, Half Man Half Biscuit, Nouvelle Vague and Camera Obscura have performed as well as promoting early gigs by KT Tunstall and We Were Promised Jetpacks.

The mini-festival runs in conjunction with its affiliates Baby Tiger, the Carnegie Hall, Interesting Music Promotions, and online/media partner is this music?

There's also a clutch of co-promotions with partners such as Electric Circus and the Cabaret Voltaire, plus the Fence and 17seconds labels.

For more information, log on to [www.tigerfest.co.uk](http://www.tigerfest.co.uk).

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## Royal Blind Eggstravaganza

Top eggs up for grabs include a Pirates of the Caribbean creation from the movie's star, Johnny Depp; Lorraine Kelly's penguin egg, styled on her favourite creature – the Dundee Discovery Penguin; and a super sparkly Dancing on Ice design, inspired by the show's infamous costumes and signed by presenters Holly Willoughby and Philip Schofield.

The collection is on display at Edinburgh's luxury shopping boulevard, Multrees Walk, where it will remain over the Easter weekend until Tuesday 06 April.

Johnny Depp fans however, will have to wait just that extra bit longer to get a look at the sought after masterpiece. Arriving fashionably late, the Johnny Depp egg is currently on its way from his home in Paris and is due to make its debut appearance later this week at The Pen Shop.

Commenting on the Eggstravaganza fundraiser, Helen Forrest from Royal Blind said:

“This initiative has been one of the most exciting and eventful that we’ve ever worked on, and we can’t thank everyone enough for their support.

“The effort and personal detail that has gone into each egg is phenomenal. Lorraine Kelly’s piece is inspired by her fascination with the Dundee Discovery penguins from her home town, whilst Mark Heyes from GMTV has dubbed his chic creation the LBE – Little Black Egg – based on his favourite fashion item, the Little Black Dress. Jenni Falconer’s egg, modelled in her own image, even paid a visit to a top stylist at Vidal Sassoon to get its hair just right!”

Hosted via eBay, the online auction opens to bids on Wednesday 31 March and closes Friday 09 April.

For further information on the Easter Eggstravaganza fundraiser and to get bidding, visit [royalblind.org/eggstravaganza](http://royalblind.org/eggstravaganza) or pop into any participating designer outlet at Multrees Walk.

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## Poetry on the Rocks

“Look to the living, love them, and hold on” was projected onto the north face of Castle Rock from dusk on St Valentine’s Day to celebrate the importance of love in all its forms. The line is from ‘Disenchantments’, a poem by the award-winning Scottish poet, Douglas Dunn.

The projection took place from 5.30pm to 11.00pm today. The Edinburgh Reporter went up to have a look. The image was being



projected from the back of a pick-up in Castle Street where the Carry a Poem staff were handing out 'business cards' with a line from a poem on them, but were reluctant to be interviewed at length. Here are some of our images from this evening.....

Edinburgh was designated the first UNESCO City of Literature in late 2004 and as a result the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust charity was formed to promote reading in Edinburgh, encourage involvement with Scotland's literature and nurture literary partnerships around the world.

### Poetry Projections in Edinburgh

Ali Bowden, Director of the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust, said "We are delighted that Historic Scotland is supporting the Carry A Poem campaign, and joining us in bringing poetry to Edinburgh Castle, the iconic cultural image of Scotland's Capital City. This one-off projection joins 5 other poems shining throughout the city – 2 onto the City Chambers, the new extension of the Usher Hall, the National Library of Scotland and at the Foot of Leith Walk – all of which can be enjoyed until March."

Fiona Hyslop, Minister for Culture and External Affairs, said "Edinburgh Castle is a fitting choice to be one of the key focal points of this innovative campaign, which celebrates Edinburgh's status as a UNESCO City of Literature. As a city and as a country we are extremely proud of this and by celebrating it in this way I hope that it provides local people and visitors alike with a powerful and memorable symbol of our diverse and renowned literary heritage."

### The Poet

Robyn Marsack, Director of the Scottish Poetry Library, said "Douglas Dunn's lines are so appropriate: they say that love endures, like the Castle rock which they'll illuminate for a night."

Douglas Dunn commented “I’m really chuffed – it’s like having my name in lights above a theatre – and what a theatre! I’m so pleased to be involved.”

### Carry a Poem Campaign

Jenny Dawe, Leader of City of Edinburgh Council said “There can be few cities in the world as romantic or inspiring as Edinburgh, and what better focal point for this St Valentine’s Day poetry projection than our iconic Castle? Carry a Poem is proving to be a hugely thought-provoking campaign in this City of Literature, demonstrating the power of words to move, amuse and console us.”

Poems are being animated, raced in the Poetry Olympics, narrated, read and most of all carried around Edinburgh this month as part of the Carry A Poem citywide reading campaign. Co-ordinated by the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust and the Scottish Poetry Library, the campaign aims to encourage and inspire Edinburgh’s residents to carry poems they love with them. Thousands of free Carry A Poem books and pocket poetry cards have been distributed throughout Edinburgh and energetic poetry fans can take the Carry A Poem Olympic Challenge in Holyrood Park next weekend with poem and spoon races, sack races, toss the poem and much more athletic activity. Events and activities will be running throughout the remainder of the month.

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## Beltane Fire Festival

✖ The name comes from the old Irish for ‘bright fire’ and Edinburgh’s Beltane Fire Society has celebrated it every year on April 30th since the mid 1980s, on top of Calton Hill.

I would suggest having a look at the website (<http://www.beltane.org/>) before attending, as it clears up one or two things that might otherwise confuse.

Proceedings begin when the May Queen and the Green Man lead a procession of spirits (enthusiastic volunteers in a glorious array of face and body paint) to the top of the hill. The vast majority of spectators miss this, as they are gathered around the National Monument waiting for something to happen.

For these audience members, the event kicks off when the torchbearers, dressed in black robes, solemnly light their torches one by one. One audience member was heard to compare them to the cloaked ghouls who carried out the night-time execution of Aslan in *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* – but this inferred a sinister side not intended by the performers! The role of the torchbearers is to separate the boundary between ordinary space and the magical procession of spirits.

After the torches are lit, the May Queen and her entourage appear from somewhere behind the National Monument against a backdrop of flaming symbols and constant drumming. This prompts someone in the crowd to comment that the dramatic setting is what makes it, adding:- “It wouldn’t look nearly as impressive in a car park.”

Undoubtedly true, although in a car park the crowd might not be continually distracted by the pervasive scent of chips and cheese from a nearby fast food van. This, combined with cameras and mobile phones constantly held aloft like lighters at a rock gig, long periods waiting around for something to happen, and punters bearing 2 litre bottles of cider, lent the evening a modern day music festival ambience.

With the added bonus of various things being on fire.

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# National Vegetarian Week

This runs from 24-30 May 2010. There are some events organised in Edinburgh by Edinburgh Vegetarians and Vegans.

Wednesday 26th May, 19:00

Informal social meeting (no booking required) and meal at Hendersons (downstairs). Free sample cartons of non-dairy milk for everyone to try – non-curdling, non-dairy milk which also tastes great! Hendersons are also running various tastings, so this promises to be a very interesting meeting!

Saturday 29th May, 10:00-16:00

Stall in front of Register House, near St. James Centre, Princes Street. There will be lots for everyone – whether you're looking for recipes, general information or want to try growing your own veggie food with the free seeds on offer- if you're passing by take a break from the shopping and find out more!

Sunday 30th May, 13:00

Portobello Beach (East End). Veggieq. Bring your own vegetarian/vegan food/drink – the rest is provided!

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# New Drug ruling from Scottish Government

New guidance is being issued to health boards which will bring in a uniform national policy on introducing newly-licensed medicines.

The guidance to boards will mean clearer and easier to follow policies for patients wishing to have the benefit of new medicines. All boards will have to follow the same guidance when considering whether to make drugs available on the NHS.

The guidance covers all medicines, including drugs which have either not been approved or not yet considered by the Scottish Medicines Consortium – which approves drugs for general use on the NHS. The guidance will apply wherever a clinician makes an individual request to a board for a drug not approved by the SMC to be used for a patient. Health boards will also be expected to make their policies public and to help patients through the process on request.

It will ensure the same guidance is followed by health boards, regardless of where in Scotland a patient lives, thus abolishing any postcode lottery.

The guidance has been welcomed by the Scottish Parliament's Public Petitions Committee. It follows two years of collaboration between the Scottish Government and the Committee, taking forward the Committee's recommendations following a petition from Tina McGeever. Ms McGeever's husband, Mike Gray, lost his life to cancer in 2008.



Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon said:-“We already have a very fair, rigorous and quick system for appraising NHS drugs in

Scotland. The Scottish Medicines Consortium considers whether newly-licensed drugs should be used nationwide and recommends them for use where they are proved to be safe, clinically effective and cost-effective. Even where a medicine isn't recommended by the SMC for general use, patients in Scotland can still get it on the NHS if their clinician believes it is appropriate and obtains permission from their local health board.

"But what was clear from the extensive work we have done with Parliament's Petitions Committee is that navigating the system is not always easy – particularly when patients and their loved ones are dealing with very difficult circumstances.

"Today's new guidance should change that. It not only makes explicit to health boards all that we expect them to do, but makes clear that they must be open and transparent about their processes and decisions. All boards will be expected to follow the same guidance, which will be adapted to meet local circumstances.

"This new guidance follows extensive consultation and takes full account of the issues raised by the Petitions Committee. I hope it will benefit patients and families across Scotland."



Frank McAveety, Convener of the Public Petitions Committee, said:- "Tina McGeever's petition started this whole process. She and her late husband, Michael Gray, set out to improve the processes for accessing cancer treatment drugs and this welcome guidance from the Scottish Government is the latest in a number of improvements she has brought about which will bring benefits to many. It is testament to her commitment to their petition.

"The Public Petitions Committee has, since the petition was first considered, worked collaboratively and productively with the Scottish Government and we will continue to do so.

“We appreciated the openness and commitment to work together shown by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing. It is a true example of what the public petitions process is about and of how people, parliament and government can work closely and effectively to bring in improvements such as this.”

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## James Gillespie's School

A public meeting will be held on 17 June at James Gillespie's High School to discuss plans for relocating the school while a new school is being constructed.

The school has issued a paper on the proposed move and it can be read [here](#).

Is your child going to be affected by this? Do you have something you would like to say about it? Then go to the meeting – but if you wish then please get in touch by way of [The Editor's Blog](#) and raise any comments there.

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## National Museums Scotland



National Museums Scotland has been recognised as an Independent Research Organisation (IRO) by the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

Only 11 museums hold IRO status and National Museums Scotland is the only museum organisation in Scotland to have achieved

this status.

The status is granted by Research Councils UK to organisations which make a considerable contribution to research. This enables them to apply for funding to the research councils under the same terms as higher education institutions.

The Arts and Humanities Research Council exists to support world-class research that furthers the understanding of human culture and creativity, from ancient history to architecture and digital content. National Museums Scotland's new IRO status will create more opportunities for partnership work amongst academic and other research institutions.

Jane Carmichael, Director of Collections said;

*'We are delighted that our application has been successful. This opens up considerable opportunities for future research at National Museums Scotland and to share that knowledge widely.'*

Current research themes at National Museums Scotland range across national and international collections and encompass a wide range of subjects from biodiversity and climate change to analysis of archaeological finds, studies in Scottish engineering, and modern dress design. Research includes work on Scotland's military history, as well as Roman and native interaction, the aborigine collections from the Canadian Great Lakes and the ethnomusicology collection assembled by Jean Jenkins.

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## Caledonian Mercury

Scotland's first online national newspaper has finished second-equal with The Guardian in UK-wide awards celebrating the best of newspaper production.

Caledonian Mercury was shortlisted in the Digital News Service



of the Year category of the [Newspaper Awards](#), which have been on the go for 14 years and are held in association with trade title, Production Journal.

The Belfast Telegraph took the prize at the awards ceremony, which was held last night.

Said Stewart Kirkpatrick, editor of the [Caledonian Mercury](#): “This is a great endorsement of a everything we have set out to achieve for a truly global Scottish news service”.

Caledonian Mercury has been on the go for barely three months.

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## First Birthday Celebrations

Over 300 children have volunteered to take part in research supported by the Children’s Clinical Research Facility (CCRF) since it opened in April last year. The CCRF has participated in research to improve treatment for children with conditions such as leukaemia, asthma, cystic fibrosis, allergy and rheumatoid disease.

The CCRF is a purpose built, child friendly unit, which comprises a two bed clinical room, a consulting room, reception and play area. It is part of the University of Edinburgh accommodation within the hospital, with easy access to the main wards and emergency facilities to ensure patient safety.

It was made possible thanks to a donation of £67,000 from the Sick Kids Friends Foundation, a £50,000 investment from the University of Edinburgh and ongoing funding worth in excess of £20,000 a year from NHS Lothian’s Research and Development Fund.

The CCRF is jointly managed by the University and NHS Lothian, with a dedicated team of three paediatric research nurses who support clinicians from across Scotland to carry out studies

into a range of childhood illnesses.

Kay Riding, Lead Paediatric Research Nurse, said: "Our first year has been a great success with the number of projects we are working on increasing from four to 10. These facilities have also given us the opportunity to strengthen our partnership with the University of Edinburgh as we work together to advance the way we treat patients and manage diseases."

Prof. Jürgen Schwarze, Edward Clark Chair of Child Life and Health, University of Edinburgh, said: "We are delighted to celebrate the first anniversary of this fantastic research facility. Clinical research is pivotal for improving the way we treat patients and we would like to thank all of the children and families who have given their time, energy and support to help with our research over the past year. Together we are making a real difference to young people in Scotland and further afield."

Maureen Harrison, chief executive of the Sick Kids Friends Foundation, said: "The new Children's Clinical Research Facility has played a vital role in improving young lives by providing an area dedicated to researching children's illnesses. Without the ongoing support of the public we would not have been able to help fund this vital unit."

#### Project case study

The Royal Hospital for Sick Children is one of a small number of the UK's children's hospitals involved in large scale research into conditions such as cystic fibrosis and rheumatoid disease.

Eight children and young people aged between seven and 18 from the Edinburgh area have been recruited to take part in the Paediatric Osteopenia Study (POPS) trial over three years, funded by the medical research charity the Arthritis Research UK and run by paediatric rheumatologist Dr Joyce Davidson.

The study aims to reduce brittle bones (also known as osteopenia) associated with steroid medication in youngsters with arthritis and other related rheumatic diseases such as juvenile-onset lupus, juvenile dermatomyositis and

vasculitis. Many children develop osteopenia as a result of taking steroids to treat their diseases.

A further nine participating centres from around the UK are aiming to recruit a total of 270 patients. The trial is being co-ordinated from Belfast, and run on behalf of the British Society of Paediatric and Adolescent Rheumatology.

The team hope their research will lead to new guidelines on the treatment of steroid-induced osteopenia, which will improve the lives of the tens of thousands of children with arthritis who are affected throughout the world.

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## Hamnavoe to the rescue



The MV Hamnavoe, a ferry operated by NorthLink Ferries between Orkney and the Scottish mainland, was diverted to Bergen late on Tuesday to pick up passengers who had been advised to make their way to the Norwegian port from where they could be ensured safe passage back to Scotland.

Transport Minister Stewart Stevenson said:

“This has been a successful operation which was launched to alleviate the growing problem of airline passengers stranded by the ash cloud over Europe.

“The co-operation of NorthLink and Orkney Islands Council has resulted in 157 people returning safely back to Scotland to continue their onward journeys. I would like to thank the Master and crew of the MV Hamnavoe and NorthLink’s shore staff for their efforts over the past couple of days, along with all those who have helped with this operation. I would also like to extend those thanks to all our transport operators who have worked tirelessly over this difficult period in getting the

country moving again.”

The MV Hamnavoe will be leaving Aberdeen at 17.00 this afternoon to arrive at Stromness at midnight. It will then go back into normal service. Additional freight services have been scheduled while the ferry has been travelling to and from Bergen.

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## Coinye House Close

The close’s overgrown garden is being re-designed, to provide new facilities and celebrate its long history.

The first project involves designing a garden space, reflecting traditional Scottish orchards, parterres and kitchen gardens. Small plots will be available for residents to grow their own vegetables and herbs, along with workshops in gardening skills such as plant identification, soils, composting, weed control and planting design.

[READ MORE ON THE EDINBURGH WORLD HERITAGE WEBSITE](#)

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## Care Information Scotland

Care Information Scotland (CIS) offers a single point of information – through one phone number and web address – on the care available for older people throughout the country.

It offers detailed information for older people and their families on the range of community care services available from local authorities, the private and voluntary sector.

Councillor Paul Edie, Health and Social Care Leader for the City of Edinburgh Council, said:

“Here in Edinburgh we have great services for older people and this new Care Information Scotland service provides a simple, one-stop way of finding out all about that help. From now on, older people in the Capital, their friends and family, can easily get accurate information on what services are available and how they can get access to them.

“I’m sure Care Information Scotland will prove to be very useful for older people and their families across Edinburgh.”

Public Health Minister Shona Robison said: “Up and down Scotland there are fantastic care services for older people – helping older people to remain independent in their own homes where possible and providing quality residential care where necessary.

“But we know that until now it hasn’t always been easy to find out what your options are, where help is, what kind of care you can get or what costs might be involved. Care Information Scotland will change all that, providing clear information that is thorough and easy to understand.

“It will make life much easier for anyone seeking information – in what can often be a crisis situation for a family – on care and support for themselves or for older relatives.”

Councillor Ronnie McColl from Cosla said: “I am extremely impressed by the approach taken by Care Information Scotland, both in terms of their helpline and their first class website. I am particularly taken by the way in which this central information service links in with every council across Scotland.

“Their approach to working with older people is both sensitive and well-informed and would not hesitate to recommend the service to my own constituents.”

Gloria McLoughlin, deputy Chief Executive of Scottish Care, said: “The world of care services for older people can be extremely difficult to navigate and Scottish Care welcomes the launch of the Care Information Scotland website.

“As a member of the advisory group for Care Information

Scotland, Scottish Care has been involved in the development of this service – the first of its kind in Scotland – and I am confident it will help to signpost older people, their friends and family to the care information that is relevant to them.

“This centrally managed and up-to-date information about all aspects of care in Scotland will benefit users, their carers and families and has the potential to share national Scottish Government policy in a meaningful way. The new service communicates clearly eligibility for care, access to care, costs and the choices people have allowing them to make informed decisions.”

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## Merchant Navy Memorial

The Merchant Navy Memorial Trust (Scotland)(MNMTS), whose patron is HRH The Princess Royal, aims to create a lasting Memorial at the Shore, Leith, to commemorate the loss of more than 6,500 Scottish Merchant Navy personnel who gave their lives in the two World Wars, other theatres of conflict and, during peacetime, in service along the trading routes of the world.

The Shore has been chosen as the location for this new Memorial since Leith was Scotland’s premier port for more than 300 years, and served as Edinburgh’s trading port for more than 700 years.

In addition, the Memorial will recognise the 132 years of service dedicated to the Merchant Navy by Leith Nautical College (1855-1987) and its training ship, “Dolphin”.

The Memorial, which has been designed by the award-winning Scottish sculptor Jill Watson, will take the form of a 4.5m sandstone column featuring seafaring scenes in bronze relief. It is hoped that the Memorial will be unveiled in November 2010.

Lord Provost George Grubb said: "I am delighted to be launching this public appeal for funds to help create a lasting tribute to those who sacrificed their lives on our behalf. The Port of Leith has played a critical role in Scotland's seafaring past, so it is entirely fitting that the new monument should take pride of place here at the Shore. There are countless families here in Edinburgh, across Scotland and beyond whose forebears served this country at sea. I very much hope this call for support will be answered and allow us to erect this permanent memorial here in Scotland's capital. This monument will be of national and international importance and significance."

William R. E. Thomson, Chairman of the MNMTS, whose family owned the respected and world-renowned Ben line for 170 years until 1996, said: "Having spent my working life involved in the Merchant Navy, I am delighted that at last proper recognition is to be given to Merchant Navy seafarers, whose contribution to our nation's welfare has gone almost unnoticed. This is so deserved.

"We aim to raise £180,000 to achieve the objective of the Trust and so far have raised, mainly from shipping sources, just over £125,000. We still have some way to go and are appealing to the general public, particularly those with merchant seafaring connections, to support this very worthwhile charitable cause which is already attracting international interest."

Jill Watson said: "The design for such an important memorial and sculpture is to do justice to the skill, bravery and huge contribution made by Scottish merchant seamen. With this sculpture I would hope to inspire young people who, in Scotland, have luckily not known great wars. It may give them a sense of adventure and look out towards the rest of the world. In the past our nation had more awareness of the sea that surrounds us; this sculpture may also awaken the awe and romance of the sea."

Details of how to make donations are available at the new MNMTS website

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# New Skatepark

The facility, which will be officially opened later this Spring, brings to an end many years of campaigning by the Edinburgh Skatepark Project (ESP), which has been keeping future users of the skatepark up to date on progress via its website.

Images captured by the skatepark's designer, Dave Sowerby, show the facility's wide range of exciting ramps, jumps and bowls taking shape.

Councillor Deidre Brock, Sport Leader for the City of Edinburgh Council, said: "It's very exciting to see how well the new skatepark is taking shape down at Saughton Park. This brings to fruition years of tireless campaigning by the Edinburgh Skatepark Project, who I'm sure are champing at the bit now there are only a few weeks remaining before they can start using the new facility. The news that a leading skate hardware and clothing retailer is to set up shop in nearby Balgreen Road indicates, I think, just how popular the skatepark will be, before it's even open!"

Sam Paterson, spokesperson for the ESP, said: "After a long campaign with many disappointments along the way the ESP are delighted that with the Saughton skatepark, the people of Edinburgh will finally have a facility truly worthy of a capital city. We are very grateful for the support offered both by the local residents and the Council and really look forward to seeing a generation of young skaters, bmxers and bladers taking full advantage of the skatepark."

Ali Menzies, Chairman of Skateboard Scotland, said: "We at Skateboard Scotland are really happy for the city of Edinburgh. They have been in need of this facility for a very long time. We are glad that we were able to get involved at the design stage and help the ESP to produce a unique design



for the park. We are all looking forward to seeing the finished article when it is ready.”

The 2100m<sup>2</sup> facility incorporates beginner areas, intermediate ramps and challenging competition standard features and is intended for use by children and beginners as well as more expert riders.

The final design for the skatepark was developed by the skaters and riders in the ESP group in conjunction with architects Urban Design Futures and skatepark designer Dave Sowerby.

Saughton Park has several grass football pitches, an enclosed running track, a play area and a new all weather full size ‘third generation’ pitch and sevens area. The skatepark is located to the east of the existing play area next to Balgreen Road and will be suitable for use by BMX bikes and rollerblades, as well as skateboards.

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## The Urban Gym

From Monday 19 April 2010 Scotland’s capital becomes the ultimate outdoor exercise centre as fully qualified instructors guide participants of all fitness levels around a city street circuit using the natural and man-made environment to create an invigorating outdoor work out experience. Steep streets, sneaky alleyways and shiny plazas all feature as participants swap the monotony of the treadmill for the iconic sights and sounds of Britain’s most beautiful city.

The Rat Race Urban Gym employs a proven combination of aerobic, resistance and conditioning exercises, in a welcoming, social environment, to increase overall fitness and help achieve health targets, all at participants’ own pace.

Classes run on Monday and Wednesday evenings, starting and finishing at a central Hub on Castle Terrace. A typical hour-long session includes about 3km of running and jogging around the city sights, interspersed every few minutes with “Rat Stops”, where the urban landscape replaces gym equipment, for activities that will get the heart pumping and the muscles aching. In any given session athletes might find themselves running up the steps of Warriston Close, doing caterpillars on Princes Street, playing geckos on the Grassmarket or doing jail breakers in the New Town!

The Urban Gym concept has been engineered from the huge popularity of the annual multisport event – the Edinburgh Rat Race, the flagship of the international Rat Race Urban Adventure Series, and the ease at which Edinburgh’s cityscape can be transformed into the ultimate training ground for urban adventure sport.

Jim Mee, who runs the Rat Race Urban Adventure Series throughout the world, believes that the Urban Gym’s style of fitness training will become more popular as people develop a greater understanding of their surroundings. He commented: “Modern cities have a fantastic natural and man-made environment that’s perfect for creating a comprehensive all-round fitness workout. The Rat Race Urban Gym is aimed at people who have a passion for health and fitness as well as a love of the great outdoors.

“The classes are designed to teach people that they can create their own workouts in their own time and location without any restrictions. They are also a great opportunity to meet and train with like-minded people on their own doorstep and for those training for this year’s Rat Race Adventure you couldn’t ask for a better training plan.”

Anyone who has taken part in the Edinburgh Rat Race will be aware of the potential of the capital for turning a boring workout into an exercise adventure like no other and signing

up for the Rat Race Urban Gym will be the perfect opportunity to prep for this year's event.

Paul Bush OBE, Chief Operating Officer at EventScotland, said "The Edinburgh Rat Race was the UK's first urban adventure race and now this highly successful event is held internationally. The Rat Race brings hundreds of people from around the UK to participate and always draws a great crowd, showcasing Edinburgh as the perfect stage for urban adventure sports as well as a premier tourist destination. The Urban Gym is a fantastic addition to the Rat Race concept, that gives residents and visitors alike the opportunity to exercise in the heart of the city and the perfect training programme for competitors ahead of the race!"

Councillor Steve Cardownie, Festivals and Events Champion for the City of Edinburgh, said: "The Urban Gym is just the ticket for encouraging people to make more use of the city environment for getting fit. It's through initiatives like this that Edinburgh aspires to become the most physically active city in Europe by 2020. I'm sure lots of people will be inspired to sign up."

Now confirmed as taking place on the weekend of the 17 and 18 of July 2010 the Rat Race returns to its spiritual home for two days of tackling the city 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

Dean Macey, the Commonwealth Gold medal winning Decathlete, who retired last year from competitive athletics, has been appointed as a consultant for the nationwide 'Rat Race Urban Gym' Programme. He said: "This is all about pushing yourself in a challenging environment. There are few gym exercises that can't be done outside and training to a properly designed

outdoor fitness programme can really get the heart racing and help to achieve personal goals. I'm delighted to be on board this great project and I'm convinced that this is the future of personal fitness."

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## Monsoon and recycling

Would you like £10 off your next Monsoon purchase? The answer to questions like that is usually yes! To qualify for this one you have to take along an old Monsoon outfit which can then be recycled or go to charity, and you have to buy something over £50. This is an effort to help the environment as well as others who might be helped by a charity.



This scheme is not entirely new to The Reporter at least. In Boston last November we spotted a similar scheme called The Big Boston Warm Up. This was more directly related to the homeless of the city. The idea is that you take a second hand coat along, and you are given some money off a new coat at Land's End. There the visual promotion for the appeal was fabulous as well as sobering....so we share the scene with you here!



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# Waverley Station



Twenty-eight thousand clear glass panels will be installed over the next three years, which will flood the station with natural light and improve the environment for passengers.

Part of a five-year £3.25bn investment in Britain's railway stations, Network Rail's improvements to Waverley will also mean a new fully accessible entrances from Market Street and from Princes Street via Waverley Steps. The station concourse will be resurfaced, station furniture will be cleaned or removed and station building exteriors will get a welcome makeover.

Ron McAulay, Network Rail's director, Scotland, commented:

"Waverley is a vital rail hub for Scotland, with over two million people a month using the station facilities. Network Rail is committed to improving passenger experiences while using Britain's railway stations and we will be investing £3.25bn to make that a reality. At Waverley, our investment will allow for easier access to and from Market Street and Princes Street and it will improve the atmosphere of the station to make it cleaner, brighter and lighter.

"After months of planning and preparation, I'm pleased to see work beginning at the station. We will do all we can to keep passenger inconvenience to an absolute minimum. I look forward to seeing the gradual unveiling of the new roof as work progresses over the next three years."

The work begins with the assembly of scaffolding in the east end of the station. The scaffolding will support a crash-deck which will lie just below the station roof, providing a safe platform to work from and protecting the station environment from the worksite above. The construction will allow workers to begin removing old glass, strip old layers of paint from the metal framework, carry out any required repairs and apply a new paint. Only then will new glazing be installed.

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# Forth Replacement Crossing

Mr Climie, 48, brings over 25 years experience and has extensive expertise in leading major bridge-building projects throughout the world and, having been brought up and educated in Scotland, is returning home to deliver the biggest Scottish infrastructure project for a generation. He even worked on the current Forth Road Bridge as a graduate engineer in the 1980s. Currently a senior project manager at international engineering giant Bechtel, Mr Climie was previously project manager at Kvaerner Cleveland Bridge and contract manager at Smallman Construction. He has a strong track record in delivering world class projects and has worked on some of the most ambitious and demanding bridges constructed across the globe in recent years. He led the teams that successfully delivered the Tacoma Narrows Bridge project in the United States in 2007 and China's Jiangyin suspension bridge in 1999. He also worked on the successful construction of the Tsing Ma Bridge in Hong Kong and the Storebaelt Bridge in Denmark. Born in London in 1961 and moving to Perth in 1967, David attended Perth Academy and Heriot Watt University, is a Fellow of the Institute of Civil Engineers and currently lives in the south east of England. He will take over from John Howison, who has served as Interim Project Director since 2008, this summer. Mr Climie said:

"I am delighted to accept this opportunity to return to Scotland and deliver such a critical infrastructure project for the economy of Fife, the East Coast and Scotland as a whole. It is a hugely exciting project and I look forward to building on John Howison's excellent stewardship and leading Transport Scotland's world-class team who have done such an impressive job bringing the project to its current stage." Transport Scotland Chief Executive, David Middleton, said:

“This is the most significant Scottish transport infrastructure project for a generation and I am therefore very pleased we have managed to attract someone with David’s substantial skills and experience to lead it. I would also like to thank John Howison, the outgoing Interim Project Director, who has successfully led the project with a huge amount of skill and vigour through its formative phases. “We expect this to be a very smooth transition, allowing David to maintain the successful momentum that John has injected into in the ongoing procurement and Parliamentary processes and stay on schedule for completion in 2016.”

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## Old livery on the buses

LOTHIAN BUSES TO REVERT TO OLD LIVERY

31st March 2010



On their website they ask you to give your vote for or against the new (i.e old) colour scheme. Go to this link to vote!